

STATE:
TEXAS

COUNTY:
BREWSTER

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY DATE
SEP 3 1974

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

H13 no utm

1. NAME

COMMON:
Sublett Farm, Stone Residence, Dorgan Residence

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Rancho Estelle use this

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
**on Rio Grande
(see continuation sheet)**

CITY OR TOWN:
Big Bend National Park

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
16th District - Texas

STATE: **Texas** CODE: **48** COUNTY: **Brewster** CODE: **043**

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" 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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes: <input 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 checked="" 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) _____ _____ _____
Comments _____ _____			

4. AGENCY

U. S. Government, National Park Service, Department of the Interior

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable)
Southwest Regional Office

CITY OR TOWN:
Santa Fe

STREET AND NUMBER:
P. O. Box 728

STATE:
New Mexico

CODE:
35

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
Courthouse, Brewster County

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Alpine,

STATE:
Texas

CODE:
48

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Historic American Buildings Inventory

DATE OF SURVEY: **10/64** Federal State

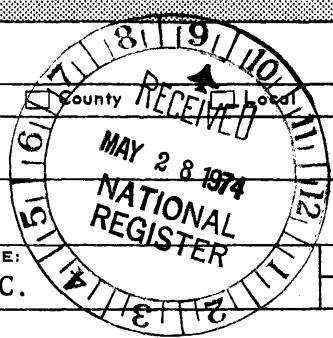
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Washington

STATE:
D. C.

CODE:
11



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: **Texas**

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7. DESCRIPTION

(Check One)

CONDITION

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 exact number, type, and location of structures at Rancho Estelle are unknown. Those structures that do remain are all in various states of ruin. Some stabilization work has been done, but all are presently endangered. They are as follows:

BBH-12, Sublett Farm House: This structure was a one-story adobe house having a cane and viga roof. It contained 2 rooms separated by a central hall, and a covered porch across the front of the structure.

BBH-13, Farm Hand's Casita: Typical Mexican farm worker's adobe home. One-story adobe structure, walls capped with stone. Cane and viga roof. Contained 2 rooms.

BBH-14, Adobe Shed: One-story, single room adobe structure which served variously as a warehouse and store. The roof is gone and the walls are deteriorating.

BBH-15, Stone Farm House: This stone structure consisted of 2 apartments separated by a day room, at the end of which was an outdoor cooking area and fireplace. Substantial stonework walls are still fairly intact, but the roof is now gone. The structure probably housed farm workers.

BBH-139, Dorgan Residence: One-story ranch home of adobe and stone wall construction. The core of the house is a 30' x 30' living room with 3 smaller rooms and a porch extending from the central square giving a total floor space of ca. 1,200 sq. ft. A unique feature of the construction is the large square main room with a 2-way fireplace in the center made of petrified wood and acting as a structural pier supporting huge log beams extending to the corners of the room forming a hipped, almost flat, roof with a large chimney at the apex. The house is now roofless and in ruins. Lintels over the main entrance are carefully selected cured logs forming segmental arches. Floors are concrete slab. Floor plan consists of the large main room and smaller rooms on the northeast and southwest sides. The southeast side opened to a covered terrace or ramada overlooking the flood plain of the Rio Grande and Mexico to the south. Walls plastered exterior and interior. Mr. Dorgan was said to be the son-in-law of James Sublett and an associate in the enterprise.

Proposed level of treatment: Preservation.

Estimated cost of treatment: \$15,000 initially, \$1,000 P/A thereafter based on 1973 costs.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



B. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian
- 15th Century
- 16th Century
- 17th Century
- 18th Century
- 19th Century
- 20th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **Early 1900's**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|---|--|---|---|
| <p>Aboriginal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric <input type="checkbox"/> Historic <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agriculture <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture <input type="checkbox"/> Art <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce <input type="checkbox"/> Communications <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Education <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering <input type="checkbox"/> Industry <input type="checkbox"/> Invention <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture <input type="checkbox"/> Literature <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Music | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Political <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy <input type="checkbox"/> Science <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian <input type="checkbox"/> Theater <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> |
|---|--|---|---|

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

James Sublett was one of the first settlers in the Big Bend area to actively farm the Rio Grande flood plain on a large scale. In partnership with Clyde Buttrill, he farmed the area and operated the store at what came to be known as Castalon or La Harmonia Farm, several miles downstream.

When the Buttrill-Sublett partnership broke up, Sublett purchased 4 sections of land at the present location and under the name of Grand Canyon Farms, Sublett and his associates operated what came to be known as Rancho Estelle.

Rancho Estelle derives its primary significance from its importance in depicting the flood plain farming activity along the Rio Grande, and is a good and representative example of such. Additionally, the Dorgan House has outstanding architectural merit among remaining structures of its time, type, and place.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Casey, Clifford B. Soldiers, Ranchers, and Miners in the Big Bend. National Park Service, U. S. Department of the Interior, 1969.

Brown, William E. and Wauer, Roland H. Historic Resources Management Plan, Big Bend National Park. National Park Service, U. S. Department of the Interior, 1968.

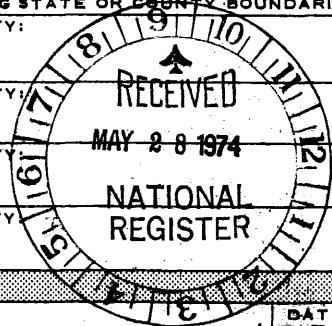
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

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		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	29° 09' 30"	130° 35' 00"				
NE	29° 09' 30"	130° 34' 27"				
SE	29° 09' 03"	130° 34' 27"				
SW	29° 09' 03"	130° 35' 00"				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 135

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: **David G. Battle, Historical Architect** DATE: **February, 1974**

BUSINESS ADDRESS: **National Park Service, Southwest Regional Office**

STREET AND NUMBER: **P. O. Box 728** PHONE: **(505) 988-6501**

CITY OR TOWN: **Santa Fe** STATE: **New Mexico** CODE: **35**

12. CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

State Liaison Officer recommendation:
 Yes
 No
 None

Quell Salinas
 State Liaison Officer Signature

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

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

David G. Battle 5/20/74
 Regional Representative Signature Date

REGIONAL DIRECTOR
 Title

J.R. Winters
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date *9/23/74*

ATTEST:
Charles H. ...
 Keeper of The National Register

Date *8-30-74*

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE TEXAS	
COUNTY BREWSTER	
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SEP 3	1974

(Number all entries)

2. LOCATION

Rancho Estelle is located near the Rio Grande River between Castalon and Santa Elena Canyon. The structures are situated on the north side of Park Route 9 approximately 4.5 miles from the Castalon junction.

