

H13 no 17m

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: TEXAS
COUNTY: BREWSTER
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE SEP 17 1974

1. NAME

COMMON:
Hot Springs

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Hot Springs, Texas

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
(see continuation sheet) W of Rio Grande Village

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 type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site <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 type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
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) _____ _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____ _____

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:
New Mexico

CODE:
35

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

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

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Alpine

STATE:
Texas

CODE:
48

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory

DATE OF SURVEY: **1964** Federal State

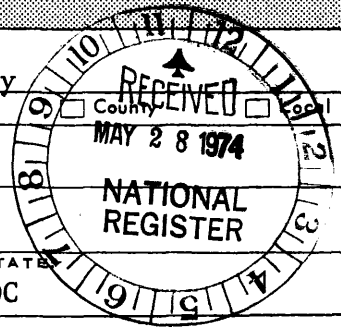
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Washington

STATE:
DC

CODE:
11



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: **Texas**

COUNTY: **Brewster**

ENTRY NUMBER: **SEP 17 1974**

DATE: _____

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Original Appearance: Perhaps the first structure at Hot Springs was a stone tub carved in a flat layer of rock which caught the waters from the spring and enabled man to use the waters for bathing purposes.

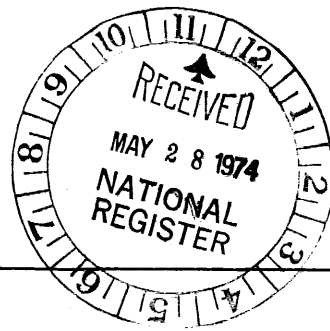
Some time prior to the arrival of the Langfords a dugout had been constructed and subsequently abandoned. This was rehabilitated and served as the Langfords' first home. Shortly thereafter Langford erected a one-room adobe house on a bench overlooking the site. A stone addition, roofed with river cane and corrugated metal and containing two more rooms, was added a year later. Langford also constructed a substantial stone bathhouse at the site of the springs, containing rock tubs plastered with cement. There were also a number of cane and brush bathing shelters at a second spring, downstream from the area. Due to bandit raids and general border unrest, the Langfords left Hot Springs in 1912. When they returned 14 years later in 1927 Langford apparently discovered that the bathhouse had either been destroyed or at least was badly disintegrated. He immediately rebuilt it, but of a somewhat smaller and less substantial construction, being roofed only with canvas. He also constructed at this time a store and a motor court. Only these last two structures remain today.

Present Appearance: Both the store and the motor court are currently being restored by the NPS to their original appearance.

The store is a one-story stone structure approximately 28 x 12 feet in dimension. The walls are constructed of native stone set in earth mortar and painted with a natural limestone mortar. The roof is trussed rafter construction with wood sheathing and corrugated metal roofing. The interior walls are plastered and pointed and, at least during Maggie Smith's occupancy, a celotex or similar material was used as a ceiling attached to the bottom chord of the roof trusses.

The cabins consist of a row of seven attached one-room units, each approximately 11 x 15 feet in size. Of stone construction, the one-story structure has a wood-framed roof with rolled mineral-surfaced roofing. A flagstone terrace along the south side and east and west ends was originally covered by a porch or ramada. The interior of the walls were plastered and the exposed wood joists and wood trim were painted. Four of the rooms contain hand-painted murals.

Two other structures still remain on a hillside across Tornillos Creek to the west. However, these structures were not part of the Langford operation. These are a frame and adobe shack constructed as temporary quarters for a postman, and a stone residence constructed by Charles Livingstone of Alpine, Texas. Both are now in a state of ruin.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

B. 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 type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1909-1952**

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | <u>Recreation-</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | <u>Tourism</u> |
| <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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

"Hot Springs" or "Boquillas Hot Springs," as they were at one time known, had apparently been known to the Indians and other inhabitants of the region for some time before J. O. Langford acquired the place in 1909. Reputed to have medicinal qualities, this was just the place Langford, a man of poor health, was seeking. He developed the area as a health and recreational resort, and continued to operate it as such until 1942 and the establishment of Big Bend National Park, with the exception of a 14-year period between 1912 and 1927 when border unrest made the area unsafe. The influx of tourists initially attracted to the Big Bend area by Langford's resort was to a great degree responsible for movement to establish the area as a National Park. Langford's establishment was the first such resort to attract visitors in sizeable numbers. As an early and important center of tourism for an area which soon became a major National Park, Hot Springs has local significance.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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.

Casey, Clifford B., The Boquillas-Hot Springs Area, Unpublished Manuscript, Big Bend National Park, 1970

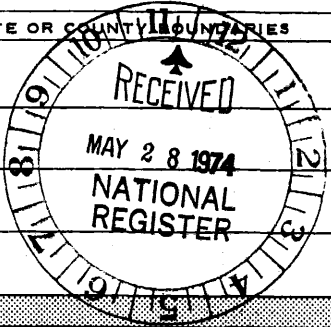
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

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° 11' 00"	103° 00' 00"				
NE	29° 11' 00"	102° 59' 23"				
SE	29° 10' 30"	102° 59' 23"				
SW	29° 10' 30"	103° 00' 00"				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **115**

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: Feb. 1974
BUSINESS ADDRESS: National Park Service, Department of Interior, 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

State Liaison Officer Recommendation:

Yes
 No
 None

Spelt Johnson
 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

Joseph Chamberlain
 Regional Representative Signature

5/20/74
 Date

REGIONAL DIRECTOR
 Title

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

A. B. Winters
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date **9/17/74**

ATTEST:

Wm. J. ...
 Keeper of The National Register

Date **9-16-74**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE		TEXAS
COUNTY		BREWSTER
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE	
	SEP 17 1974	

(Number all entries)

2. Location:

Hot Springs is located approximately two miles west of Rio Grande Village at the confluence of Tornillos Creek and the Rio Grande River. It is reached by about one mile of dirt road which joins Park Route 2 where it crosses Tornillos Creek.

7. Description:

Few traces of the original springs now remain, having been reclaimed by the meanderings of the river, and appearing only occasionally with the fluctuation of the stream.

9. Bibliography:

Koue, A. Lewis, Historic Structures Report, Part 1, Architectural Data Section, Hot Springs Complex, Big Bend National Park. National Park Service, Department of the Interior, 1969.

Langford, J. O., A Homesteader's Story

Levy, Benjamin, Historic Structures Report, Part 1, Historical Data Section, Hot Springs Complex, Big Bend National Park. National Park Service, Department of the Interior, 1968.

