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Archaeological Test Excavations at Site 41BZ89, Brazos County, Texas

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Archaeological Test Excavations at Site 41BZ89, Brazos County, Texas

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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL TEST EXCAVATIONS AT SITE 41BZ89,
BRAZOS COUNTY, TEXAS**

by

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**TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
DIVISION OF HIGHWAY DESIGN
AUSTIN, TEXAS**

ABSTRACT

Archaeological test excavations were performed by a crew from the Bryan District under the direction of John W. Clark, Jr., assisted by William Weaver, at the historical archaeological site 41BZ89 on the 12th of October 1992 and on the 10th of March, 1993. The excavations revealed a highly predictable horizontal distribution of artifacts over the site conforming to the Brunswick artifact pattern (South 1977: 47-80). They indicate an occupation apparently beginning in the late 1880s and extending into the 1950s (the 1950s occupation may represent reuse by hunters or a campsite for stock handlers). There could be a mid 19th century occupation west of the house ruin since ceramic shards from that period were found there, but no features or any other indicators from that period were found. At least two building phases are evident in the structures. The house was built in an unusual method using the plank frame technique first developed in New England in the 1830s and found rarely in other localities at later dates. However, various lines of evidence indicate that this structure was constructed in the late 1880s. Preliminary archival investigations suggest that the property was occupied by a family named Foster at the time of the construction of the residence. Ceramic shards excavated from the test units and three observed on the surface of the site west of the residence probably date to the mid-nineteenth century. Although further archival research would provide additional information, the site itself, due to the nature of the deposits and the ruin state of the structures within the right-of-way, does not meet the criteria of eligibility for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places and does not warrant designation as a State Archaeological Landmark.

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TEST EXCAVATIONS AT SITE 41BZ89

SITE DESCRIPTION

The historic archaeological site 41BZ89 is situated on a knoll of upland clay and sand overlooking Turkey Creek, an affluent of the Brazos River. It is on the left bank of the creek and has a complex of farm structures including a residence, a two-pen crib barn, two single-pen structures and a masonry cellar (Fig. 1, 2).

The residence, now in ruin, was a multi-room house set on limestone and sandstone masonry piers (fig. 3). The frame consisted of a four-by-four sill plate and similar top plate supported by vertical boards. The interior was sheathed in carboard siding and the exterior was sheathed in drop style horizontal wood board siding dating to the turn of this century (Pritchett 1993: 49). Mostly wire and some cut nails were used as fasteners in the construction of the house suggesting that the construction of the house occurred at the time cut nails were being phased out and replaced by wire nails. This took place in Texas in the late 1880s. Two-by-four vertical studs were not used (Fig. 4A). A porch extended across the south side or entrance side of the building, and was supported on piers of extruded high-fired brick made by Globe Brick Company of West Virginia between 1927 and 1930 (Gurcke 1987: 240-241). This no doubt is a later addition to the structure. The piers of the porch are constructed of different material from the house piers.

The earlier part of the residence consisted of two rooms with the door in the south wall of the west room. One door opened onto the porch. A false mantle was placed on the north side of the room and a stovepipe for a wood-burning stove was located in the roof near the west side of the room. It appears that the porch and one rear room may have been additions. Originally, the roof was made of wood shakes. This was later sheathed in corrugated sheet iron. The roof and all exterior walls have collapsed.

The house was constructed using the plank frame technique developed in New England in the 1830s and concentrated in the Vermont area (Lewandoski 1985, 1986). Other examples have been noted in North Carolina, and Kentucky with later versions in Illinois and still later examples in Washington, Oregon and British Columbia called "Box Houses" (Lewandoski, 1993 personal communication).

Northeast of the house was a two pen log crib barn (Fig. 4B). The log ends were square notched and sawn but the faces were adzed to square the sides. A central passage is bridged by a corrugated sheet iron roof and the pens are supported on large petrified wood piers. Two board-and-batten lean-tos were placed on the west side of the pens and the roof extended several feet beyond the north wall of the north pen. Cut and wire nails were observed in the construction of the barn suggesting that at least the core of the barn was built about the same time as the house. This structure is outside the right-of-way and is in current use.

To the northeast of the barn is a single-pen crib with a sheet iron roof. This covers an earlier shake roof. Concrete with imbedded petrified wood supports the structure. Notches in the unmodified logs are saddle notches and the ends are saw cut. This does not appear to be an early structure. Again, this feature is outside the right-of-way.

West of the residence is another crib structure which has largely collapsed. The logs making up the structure are unmodified with saddle notches and axe cut ends (Fig. 5A). It is supported on sandstone piers buried below the present surface. Corrugated sheet iron roofing lies near the now roofless

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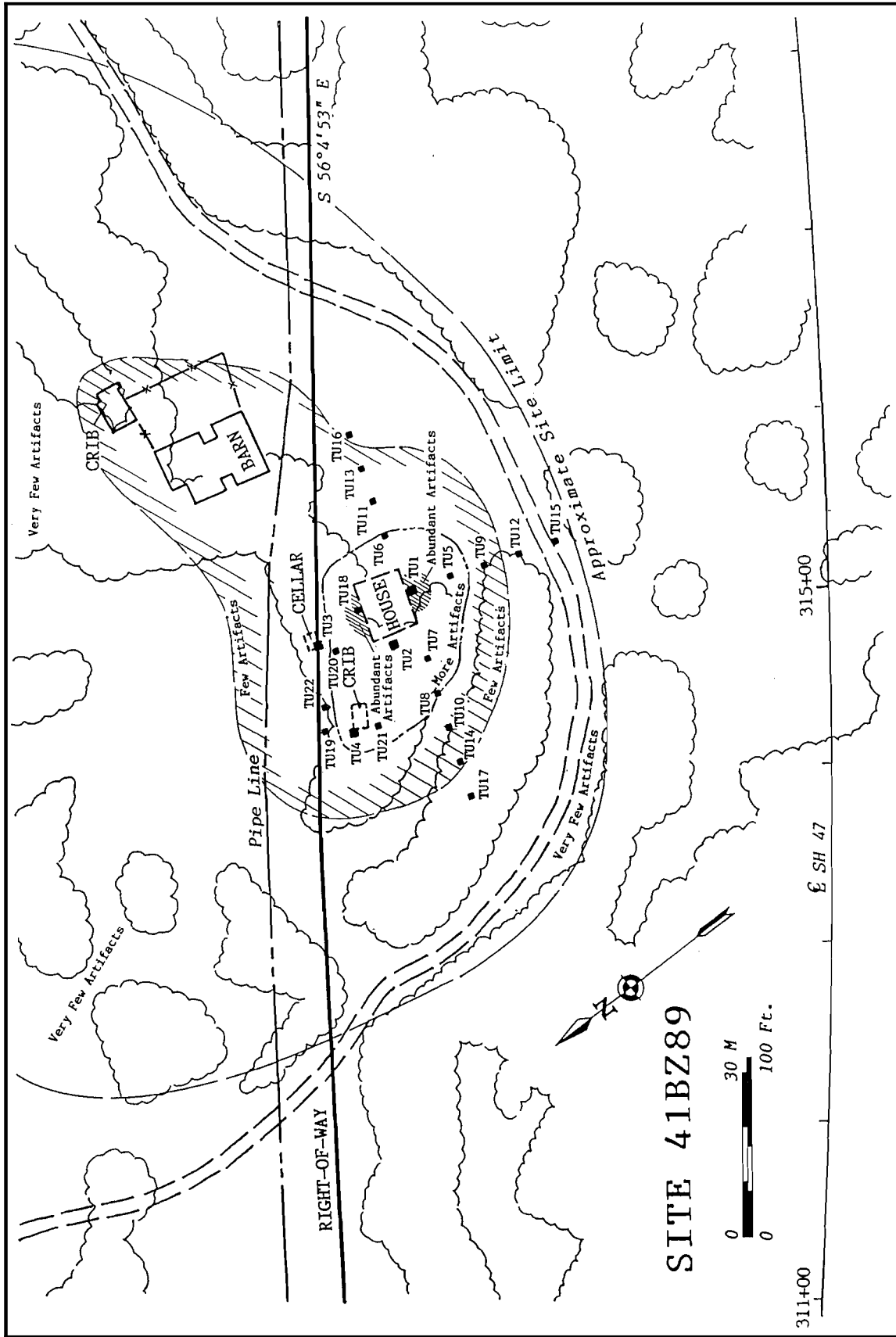


Figure 2. Test Units 1-22 were situated in the vicinity of the house, cellar and one of the log crib structures, all within the right-of-way of the project. Structures outside the right-of-way were not tested.

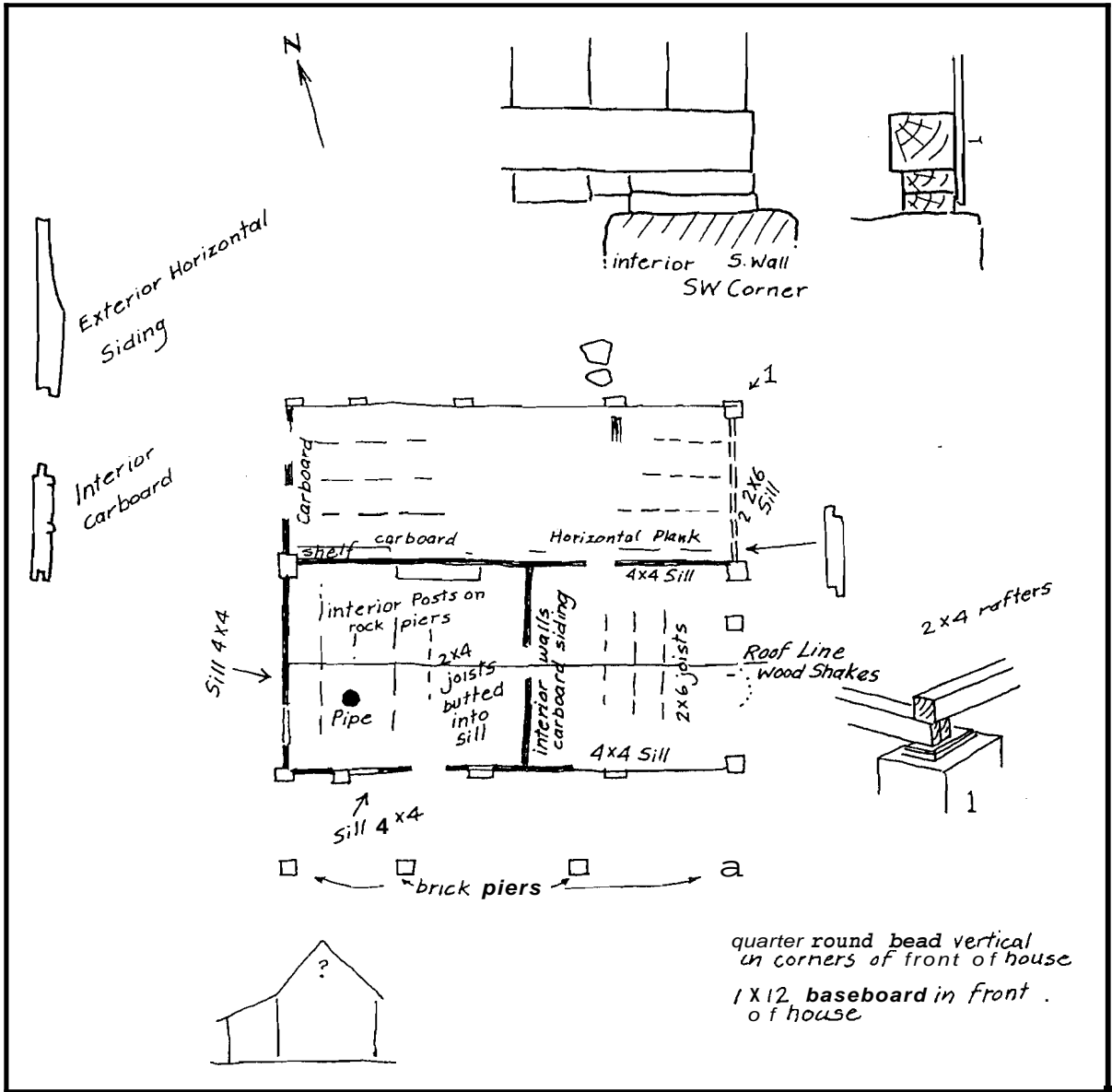


Figure 3. Sketch plan of the house prior to the collapse of all outer walls.

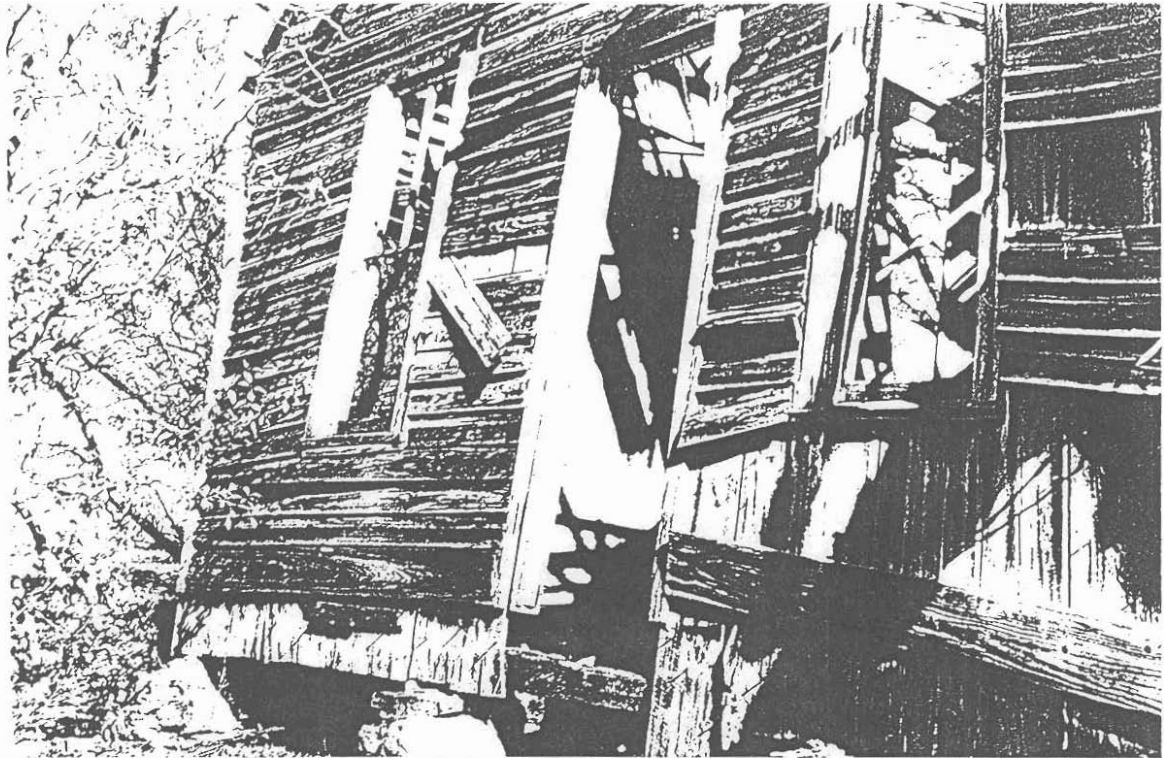


Figure 4A. The house structure was built on sandstone masonry piers and had no stud framework in the walls. The walls are three boards thick; vertical structural boards, carboard interior veneer and exterior horizontal siding.

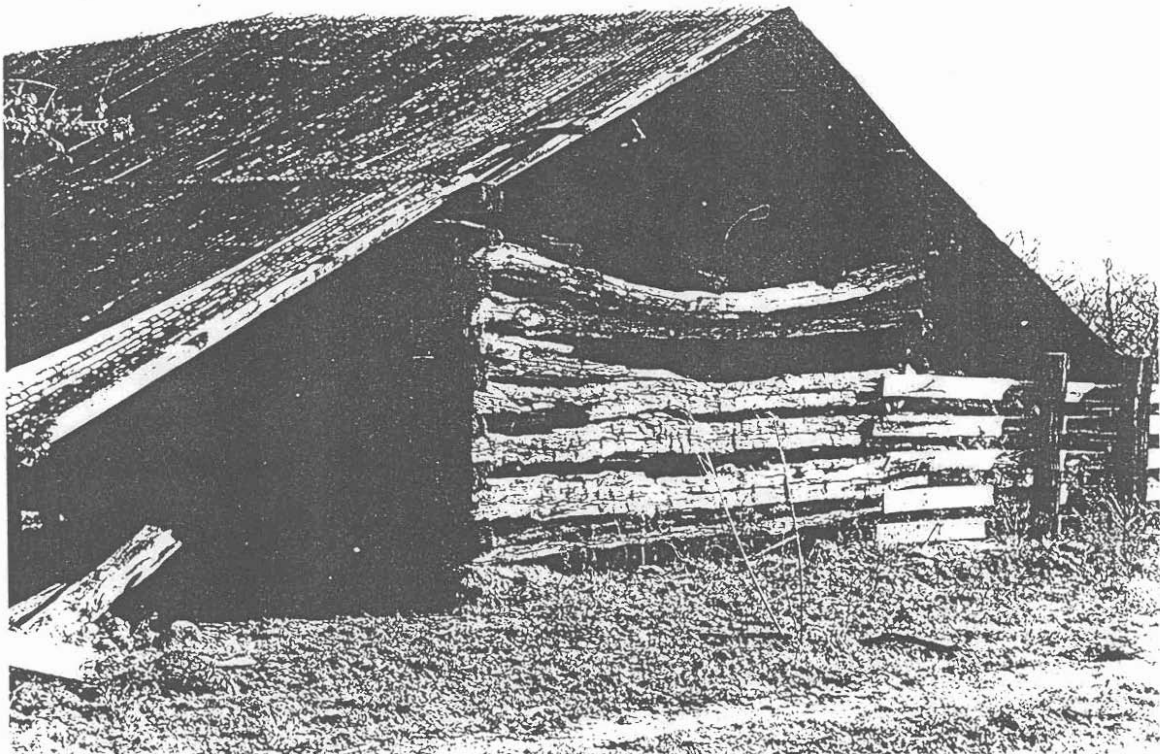


Figure 4B. East northeast of the house is the log pen barn with square notched and adzed logs built on petrified wood piers.



Figure 5A. The log crib structure northwest of the house was made of axe cut logs with saddle notches.



Figure 5B. Much of the stone and brick masonry cellar lies outside the right-of-way. The test revealed a shallow fill over a plaster or concrete floor.

structure. Only the lower few courses of logs remain. Partly buried sandstone blocks lie about this structure and may represent additional structural elements. The early artifacts from the site are located in this general area.

Situated north of the house, between it and the barn, is a sandstone and brick masonry basement that evidently supported a frame above-ground structure. The upper courses of masonry are brick made by Globe Brick Company to a level surface. There is some distortion of the south wall of the structure due to pressure from the surrounding earth (Fig. 5B). The bricks used here indicate this feature may have been built at the same time as the porch addition to the house.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

A preliminary search of deeds was done by Bryan District right-of-way personnel extending the ownership of the property from the present to 1900. Because of the complex nature of a law suit at that time, the district personnel did not pursue the chain of title. We have been able to determine, however, that the property was granted by the Mexican government to Dr. Thomas J. Wootton in February of 1834 in the then larger county of Washington (Brazos County was created from Washington at a later date). Dr. Wootton immigrated to Texas with Sterling C. Robertson, agent for the Texas Association, in 1830. Robertson and Wootton presented themselves at the newly completed Fort Tenoxtitlan where Wootton made a good impression on Col. Francisco Ruiz, commander of the garrison charged with the duty of keeping out American immigrants. Dr. Wootton performed cures on several of the soldiers at the post where he and the heads of the forty nine other families with Robertson were able to avoid deportation until Mexican immigration laws were changed (McLean 1966:27, 29).

In the current research there is a gap in the deed record until 1900 when F. E. Geiscke acquired the property through a sheriff's sale of property involved in a series of law suits against the estate of Eliza Foster. It is assumed that Eliza Foster was the widow of a husband named Foster. The Fosters evidently were large land holders having several tracts of land including some in Hudspeth County. There were several prominent Foster families in the area, some descendent from families settling the area with Stephen F. Austin's Old Three Hundred. At this point, a connection between Eliza Foster and any of the early settlers has not been made.

Geiscke sold the property to August Dockal in 1904. From 1900 to 1904 the property was in litigation. At his death in May 1958, Dockel conveyed his property to his daughter, Lucy Hudetts. It was then conveyed to Milton Lightsey, trustee for George, Elva, Oliver and Lucille Lightsey, grand children of Lucy and Steve Hudetts. It was then acquired by Gateway One, Ltd. in May 1985, and was foreclosed upon in July 1989, returning ownership to George and Elva Lightsey (Brazos County Courthouse, Deed Records, Vol H: 99. Vol. 28: 276, Vol. 27: 468, Vol. 189: 77, Vol. 798:191 and Vol. 1128: 225).

ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

Previous historical archaeological work in Brazos County includes work on site 41BZ74 (Carlson, 1983) and two surveys which included historic sites (Kotter 1982 and Sorrow and Cox 1973). The Carlson report deals with a nineteenth century ranch and farm site in the county. Nineteenth Century farm site excavations have been well reviewed by Fox (1983: 215-238). He discusses the excavations by Tunnell and Jensen (1969) at the LBJ State Park where German Hill Country farms were investigated. Another German farm site was investigated in 1971 in Mason County (Dragonwagon, n.d.). Several farm sites were investigated near LaGrange at Biegel Settlement (Carter and Ragsdale 1976). Occupants here initially were Anglo-Americans who were supplanted by immigrants from eastern Europe. Several of these sites were log houses. Near Victoria the Steiner farm, another German immigrant site, was investigated in 1977 (Fox and Livingston 1979). The most extensive general investigation of late nineteenth and early twentieth century farm sites was performed by Moir and others as reported in Rabb et al (1982). This project involved survey and testing of a variety of farm sites in Navarro and Freestone Counties. Much was done with "sheet refuse." Site architecture was discussed but none of these sites are very similar to 41BZ89. Texas Department of Transportation investigations have included a late nineteenth and early twentieth century African-American farm site in north Austin and an Hispanic-American tenant farm in Bastrop County. Neither is comparable to this site.

Although the literature search for this report has not been exhaustive, it is evident that historic archaeological investigations in the Brazos County area have been few in number, mostly confined to reconnaissance surveys. A copy of Carlson's report on 41BZ74 was not available to TxDOT at this time so it is difficult to evaluate the cogency of a comparison of that site to 41BZ89. The scarcity of late nineteenth century Anglo-American farm sites investigated in the region is noted, and it is evident that ethnic studies have concentrated on German farmers in central and south central Texas.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL TESTING

Prior to testing, the initial site survey located the major structural features. The unique construction techniques used in the building of the residence were also noted. It was assumed that the site represented a late nineteenth century occupation based on the style of the construction materials (carboard siding, foundation construction, lack of a chimney but the presence of a stovepipe for a wood-burning stove and the presence of both wire and cut nails in the construction). Therefore, since a certain horizontal artifact distribution pattern was expected based on the Brunswick artifact pattern (South 1977:47-80), four test excavation units were placed so as to establish the presence or absence of this pattern on the site. After this pattern was recognized, an additional eighteen units were excavated which confirmed the initial evaluation. A crew was provided by the Bryan District under the direction of John W. Clark, Jr. assisted by William Weaver, both from the Austin office. Excavations were conducted by hand and screened through 1/4 inch hardware cloth with specimens placed in labeled bags.

Test Unit 1: This 5-by-5 ft. square was placed at the south edge of the former porch location with one unit corner coterminous with a corner of the central porch pier. It was expected that a large volume of artifacts would be found in this location since it was opposite the front doors. The soil in this test unit was a very dry sandy clay, dark gray in color (10YR 4/1, dry; 10YR 3/1, wet). The excavation of this unit was very difficult because the clay tended to make large clods difficult and time consuming to break up. The unit was excavated to a depth of 6 in. Although a fairly large number of artifacts was observed in this unit, only a percentage was recovered because many artifacts remained in compacted unbroken clods. It was noted that the area had been heavily compacted due to the location of the unit at the residence entrance and trampling by cattle presently occupying the site. The deposit contained numerous brick fragments to a depth of about 1 ft. as a result of construction of the porch. The unit contained the following items:

ITEM	
hard paste earthenware (plain)	2
porcelain door knob fragments	2
green bottle glass	1
amber bottle glass	19
window glass	358
wire window screen	5
wire nails	12
cut nails	6
unidentified nails	18
twisted wire	3
chrome plated brass sheet	3
brass washer	1
shotgun cartridge case	1
iron pot lid lifter fragments	2
plastic comb back	1
flint flake	1
TOTAL	435.00

The green and amber bottle glass specimens represent more recent reuse of the area, possibly in the 1950s or early 1960s. They represent two bottles, one a soft drink bottle and the second, a beer bottle. The shotgun cartridge case is labeled:

FEDERAL
No. 12
MONAPV

Numerous brick fragments were noted but not counted.

Test Unit 2: Again, because of an expected artifact pattern, this unit was excavated on the west side of the house 5 ft. away from the wall and midway down the length of the wall with the expectation of finding few artifacts. It should be noted that a window was present between this unit and the southwest corner of the house. The deposit was sandier and less compact than that in Test Unit 1. It was lighter in color (10YR 4/2 dry and 10YR 3/3 wet) and did not tend to break into dense clods. This unit was also a 5-by-5 ft. square unit excavated to a depth below 6 in., the maximum depth of cultural deposits. It contained the following items:

ITEM	
porcelain colander fragment	1
amber bottle glass	7
manganese bleached bottle glass	1
window glass	21
wire nails	4
cut nails	16
unidentified nails	5
wire spring	1
TOTAL	56

None of the artifacts appeared to be of recent origin.

Test Unit 3: The cellar appeared, based on its position on the right-of-way map, to be only partially within the right-of-way. Consequently, a 2-by-2 ft. square unit was dug. This was excavated to the plaster floor about 6 in. below the top of the fill. It contained 16 wire nails and one amber bottle glass shard. It also contained brick, mortar and sandstone fragments from the breakdown of the wall. The color of the deposit was a dark gray brown (10YR 5/2, dry; 10YR 3/2, wet).

Test Unit 4: This unit was placed adjacent to the partially buried and largely collapsed log crib structure west of the house. It will be recalled that the log ends on this structure were finished with an axe. This appears to be the earlier of the two log cribs and the only one within the right-of-way. A 2 by 2 ft. square unit was placed on the west side of the structure at the north corner. The placement of the unit was designed to expose the foundation and determine what artifacts might be located adjacent to a storage structure. Soil consisted of sand and sandy loam of a dark gray color (10YR 4/1, dry; 10YR 3/1, wet). Excavation was continued to a depth of slightly more than 1 ft. where cultural material ceased to be present. The following items were found in the unit:

ITEM	
hard paste earthenware (hand painted)	2
hard paste earthenware (stamped)	1
unbleached bottle glass	2
manganese bleached bottle glass	1
selenium bleached bottle glass	4
amber bottle glass	2
window glass	11
lamp chimney	2
wire nails	17
cut nails	13
unidentified nails	6
fence staples	6
sheet iron	7
barbed wire	4
wire	5
sheet brass	2
slate	1
flint flakes	21

TOTAL 107

The ceramic shards seem early for the site. Both types are mid nineteenth century often found at sites dating in the 1850s. Obviously late items include the selenium bleached bottle glass, the wire nails, fence staples and barbed wire. In addition, 21 nondescript flint flakes were found mixed with the historic artifacts.

Test Unit 5: This unit was 2 x 2 ft. square and placed 20 ft. south of Unit 1. The deposit consisted of a dark brown clay (10YR2/2) to a depth of almost one foot containing artifacts and brick rubble. This overlay a dense yellow orange clay (10YR7/4). Two 6 in. levels were excavated, the lower one into the clay base. The following items were found in the unit:

ITEM	
hard paste earthenware plain	3
yellow ware embossed	1
amber snuff bottle frags	2
selenium bleached bottle glass	10
amber bottle glass	19
window glass	13
cut nails & fragments	7
wire nails	2
fence staple	1
iron strap	1
brass clock gear	1
bone	1

TOTAL 61

Test Unit 6: The unit (2 x 2 ft. square) was placed twenty ft. east of the southeast corner of the house. The area had been thoroughly trampled by cattle. The deposit consisted of yellow brown clay (10YR7/6) mixed with a medium brown loam (10YR3/4) over the yellow brown clay. The depth of the mixed deposit was 9 in. The following items were found:

ITEM	
hard paste earthenware (plain)	2
selenium bleached bottle	2
cut nail fragments	3
TOTAL	7

Test Unit 7: This unit was placed 20 ft. west of the southwest corner of the standing house and was 2 x 2 ft. square and excavated in two levels. The deposit was 6 in. of medium brown clay loam (10YR3/3) over yellow orange clay (5YR5/8). The following items were encountered:

ITEM	
hard paste earthenware (plain)	1
unbleached bottle glass	1
amber bottle glass	4
olive green bottle glass	2
cut nails	5
wire nail	1
iron strap	1
bone	4
TOTAL	19

Test Unit 8: This 2 x 2 ft. square unit was placed 20 ft. west of Test Unit 7 or 40 ft. west of the southwest corner of the house. It was excavated in three levels, the upper two consisting of dark brown loam (10YR2/1) with charcoal and artifacts overlying light brown loam (10YR5/3) with no artifacts. The following materials were encountered:

ITEM	
porcelain (plain)	1
porcelain (hand painted)	1
hard paste earthenware (plain)	3
hard paste earthenware (early transfer)	3
hard paste earthenware (hand painted)	1
hard paste earthenware (banded slip)	1
stoneware	2
unbleached bottle glass	10
selenium bleached bottle glass	16
selenium bleached glass dish	1
amber bottle glass	17
amber snuff bottle fragment	1
olive green bottle glass	1
manganese bleached bowl lid	1

ITEM: CONTINUED

milk glass mason jar lid	1
window glass	12
cut nails and fragments	27
wire nails and fragments	18
fence staples	5
machine bolt	1
iron wire	1
knife blade fragment	1
black glass bead	1
bone	17
tooth	1

TOTAL 144

Test Unit 9: The unit was placed 40 ft. south of the first unit and measured 2 x 2 ft. and was excavated in two levels. The deposit consisted of dark brown loamy clay (10YR3/1) over medium brown clay (10YR4/1). No artifacts were found in the second level. The artifacts recovered were:

ITEM

hard paste earthenware (plain)	1
cut nail fragment	1
roofing nail	1
fine finish wire nail	1
cast iron furniture leg fragment	1

TOTAL 5

Test Unit 10: This 2 x 2 ft. square unit was placed 60 ft. west of the southwest corner of the house and was excavated in two levels. The lower level contained no artifacts. The upper 9 in. consisted of medium brown loam (10YR4/4) over yellow clay (10YR7/6) The following items were excavated:

ITEM

hard paste earthenware (Gaudy Dutch)	3
hard paste earthenware (Spongeware)	3
hard paste earthenware (banded slip)	1
hard paste earthenware (early transfer)	1
hard paste earthenware (embossed)	1
hard paste earthenware (plain)	9
selenium bleached bottle glass	6
amber bottle glass	5
window glass	3
lamp chimney	4
cut nails and fragments	14
wire nails	6
iron petticoat fastener	1
bone	3

TOTAL 60

Test Unit 11: Placed 40 ft. east of the southeast corner of the house, this 2 x 2 ft. unit produced no artifacts. It was excavated in two 6 in. levels. The upper level consisted of medium brown loamy clay deeply trampled by cattle (10YR3/4) over sterile yellow orange clay (5YR6/8).

Test Unit 12: Placed 60 ft. south of the south side of the house, this 2 x 2 ft. square unit was excavated in two 6 in. levels. Both levels consisted of medium brown clay loam (10YR3/3). The recovery consisted of one artifact:

ITEM	
hard paste earthenware (plain)	1
TOTAL	1

Test Unit 13: This unit was placed 60 ft. east of the southeast corner of the house structure and measured 2 x 2 ft. square. It was dug in two 6 in. levels. Because of trampling by cattle, the upper deposit was mixed medium brown clay loam (10YR4/3) and yellow clay (10YR6/6) over red orange clay (5YR6/6). The following items were recovered:

ITEM	
item	
cut nail fragments	2
iron wire	1
TOTAL	3

Test Unit 14: This unit was placed 80 ft. west of the southwest corner of the residence and was a 2 x 2 ft. square excavated in two 6 in. levels. The deposit consisted of dark brown loam (10YR3/2) over basal yellow orange clay (5YR6/6). Artifacts recovered were:

ITEM	
porcelain (plain) - 2	
hard paste earthenware (plain) - 1	
manganese bleached bottle glass - 1	
olive green bottle glass - 1	
amber bottle glass - 4	
plate glass - 1	
window glass - 2	
cut nails and fragments - 9	
iron wire - 4	
iron strap - 2	
cast iron shaft - 1	
bone - 1	
TOTAL	29

Test Unit 15: The unit was excavated 80 ft. south of Test Unit 1 in two 6 in. levels. It was a 2 x 2 ft. square. The deposit was a dark brown clay (10YR2/2) and contained no artifacts.

Test Unit 16: Placed 80 ft. east of the southeast corner of the house, this 2 x 2 ft. square unit was excavated in two 6 in. levels. The deposit consisted of 3 in. of dark brown clay loam (10YR2/2) over red orange Clay (5YR6/6). The following items were collected:

ITEM

semi-porcelain (plain) - 3
unbleached bottle glass - 1
window glass - 1

TOTAL 5

Test Unit 17: This unit was excavated 100 ft. west of the southwest corner of the house as a 2 x 2 ft. square unit. It was dug in two 6 in. levels. The deposit consisted of light brown loam (10YR4/4). There was no recovery in the second level. The following items were collected in the unit:

ITEM

hard paste earthenware (plain) 1
cut nail fragments 2
iron wire 1

TOTAL 4

Test Unit 18: This 2 x 2 ft. square excavation was placed on the north side of the structure opposite an interior door. This was done because wall collapse did not allow for a determination of the location of a rear door. It was excavated in two 6 in. levels. The deposit consisted of dark brown and yellow mottled clay (10YR2/2 and 10YR6/6) over red orange clay (5YR6/6). The following items were recovered:

ITEM

window glass - 1
chrome plated brass locket frame - 1

TOTAL 2

Test Unit 19: The unit was placed 20 ft. north of the northwest corner of the crib structure situated west of the house. It was a 2 x 2 ft. square unit excavated in three 6 in. levels. The deposit consisted of 1.5 ft. of dark brown loam (10YR3/2) over yellow clay (10YR6/6). The following items were recovered:

ITEM

hard paste earthenware (plain) - 1
hard paste earthenware (early transfer) - 1
amber bottle glass - 1
cut nail fragment - 1
copper strap - 1

TOTAL 5

Test Unit 20: This square was placed 20 ft. north of the northwest corner of the house. It was a 2 x 2 ft. square unit excavated in two 6 in. levels. The deposit was medium brown sandy loam (10YR4/3) over yellow clay (10YR6/6). The recovery consisted of:

- ITEM
- hard paste earthenware (plain) - 3
- selenium bleached bottle glass - 6
- amber bottle glass - 2
- olive green bottle glass - 1
- lamp chimney - 1
- window glass - 2
- cut nail and fragments - 4
- fine finish wire nail - 1
- iron wire - 1

TOTAL 21

Test Unit 21: The unit was situated 5 ft. south of the southwest corner of the log crib structure west of the house. It was a 2 x 2 ft. square excavated in two 6 in. levels. The deposit was dark brown loam (10YR3/2) over yellow clay (10YR6/6). Several artifacts were encountered:

- ITEM
- hard paste earthenware (plain) - 3
- pressed glass selenium bleached - 1
- unbleached bottle glass embossed lettering - 1
- selenium bleached bottle glass - 2
- window pane - 3
- cut nails and fragments - 12
- wire nails and fragments - 10
- roofing nails - 3
- iron belt buckle - 1
- iron strap - 1

TOTAL 37

Test Unit 22: This excavation was placed 15 ft. north of the northeast corner of the log crib structure west of the residential ruin. Like most of the other units, this was a 2 x 2 ft. square unit excavated in two 6 in. levels. The deposit was dark brown loam (10YR3/2) over yellow clay (10YR6/6). The artifacts collected from the unit were:

- ITEM
- semi-porcelain (plain) - 2
- hard paste earthenware - 1
- amber bottle glass - 1
- window glass - 2
- wire nails - 3
- horseshoe nail - 1
- fence staple - 1
- iron wire - 1
- rubber sheet - 1

TOTAL 13

WINDOW GLASS THICKNESS STUDY

At the suggestion of the Texas Historical Commission, the window glass shards from the test excavations were measured for thickness and the mean thickness applied to the formula created by Randall W. Moir (1988) in order to determine a date for construction of the house structure. All window glass shards were measured in the sample of 427 specimens. Of this total, 341 were from Test Unit 1, adjacent to the midline of the front porch of the house. The following table presents the metric data:

TABLE 1

THICKNESS IN MM	NUMBER OF SPECIMENS	PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL
3.4	004	00.94
2.9	030	07.02
2.6	060	14.05
2.4	082	18.97
2.2	114	26.70
2.1	078	18.26
1.8	045	10.54
1.6	011	02.58
1.4	004	00.94
MEAN THICKNESS 2.26	TOTAL 427	100.00%

The mean thickness applied to Moir's formula and regression tables gives a date of about 1900. Moir (1988: 78) states that this formula gives an accurate date about 60% of the time with a standard deviation of 7 years.

We believe that the examination of construction techniques as a whole and the use of both cut and wire nails in the construction provide a more accurate date of approximately 1888 for the house.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Site 41BZ89 appears typical of late nineteenth century farmsteads in north American. Although distributional studies of artifacts excavated in association with this type of site can provide socio-economic and other information, because of the high level of predictability of the horizontal distribution of artifacts at this site, additional data collection necessary for these studies is not recommended. An examination of the site map and a comparison of the numbers of artifacts found in the test units indicate a high concentration of artifacts on the south side of the house as expected from the Brunswick artifact distribution pattern. The site does have intact deposits containing a variety of artifacts. South and east of the house the artifact counts rapidly diminish. They increase again near the log crib structure west of the house reflecting use of the structure during the occupancy of the house. There is a similar tendency toward increased artifact counts east of the house toward the barn. These are the expected frequencies typical of the Brunswick pattern.

The major structures are at least partially standing and those within the right-of-way, although now in ruin, were among the more important to the site. The area between the cellar and the barn outside the right-of-way has been disturbed by pipeline construction, but all areas within the right-of-way appear to be free of artificial disturbances. The construction of the buildings within the right-of-way appears to date from the late 1880s. Because mid-nineteenth century ceramics were found west of the house structure, an occupation relating to that time period, may have been present, although no other evidence was found. The shards dating from that earlier period may have been discarded at the site at a later date. In any case, it was impossible to isolate evidence of an early or mid-nineteenth century occupation. Archival data demonstrate an association of the property with Dr. Thomas J. Wootton, one of Sterling Robertson's colonists, and with the Foster family, a family with possible, but as yet undemonstrated, association with Austin's Old Three Hundred. No data were recovered indicating whether any sort of construction or occupation took place on the site during the period of early ownership.

The few artifacts of mid to late twentieth century origin found and included with the Test Unit 1 materials were encountered on the surface. Additional fragments of these items lie on the top of the brick porch pier adjacent to that unit. Fence staples and barbed wire fragments in other units likewise are found at or very near the present surface and do not represent a major problem in interpreting the deposits.

In summary, archivally site can be related to a Mexican land grant and to occupation by a family named Foster in the late nineteenth century. Archaeological evidence appears to represent occupation by the Foster family. The site has structural ruins that are related to the archaeological deposits on the site. The house structure was highly unusual representing a late example of a type originating in New England in the 1830s, but is now in a totally ruined state. The structural remains at the site have been thoroughly photo-documented (see Appendix). Archaeological deposits indicate that the Brunswick pattern describes artifact distribution pattern observed at the site. The material recovered from the site could potentially provide information on market and consumer practices, but such a study does not appear warranted at this site..

Based on the results of the test excavations and preliminary deed research, we feel the artifact sample from the site, combined with the written and photo-documentation of the ruined structures, represents adequate documentation and recordation of that portion of site 41 BZ89 within the SH 47 right-of-way. No further investigation is recommended. Because of the shallow and predictable nature of the archaeological deposits, the common site-type represented by the remains at 41BZ89, and the ruined state of the structures, we do not consider that the site meets the criteria of eligibility for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places nor is it worthy of designation as a State Archaeological Landmark.

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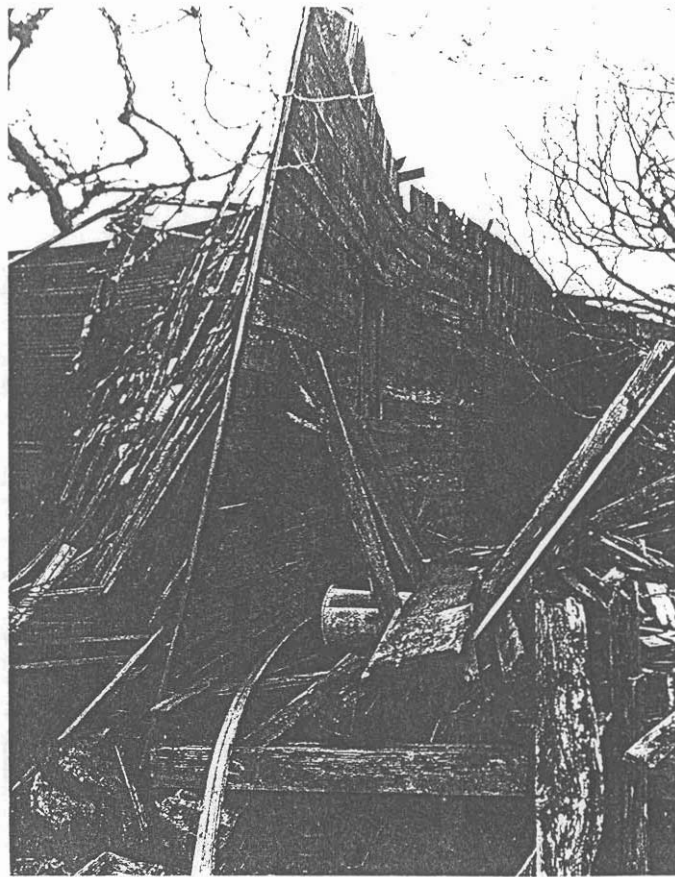
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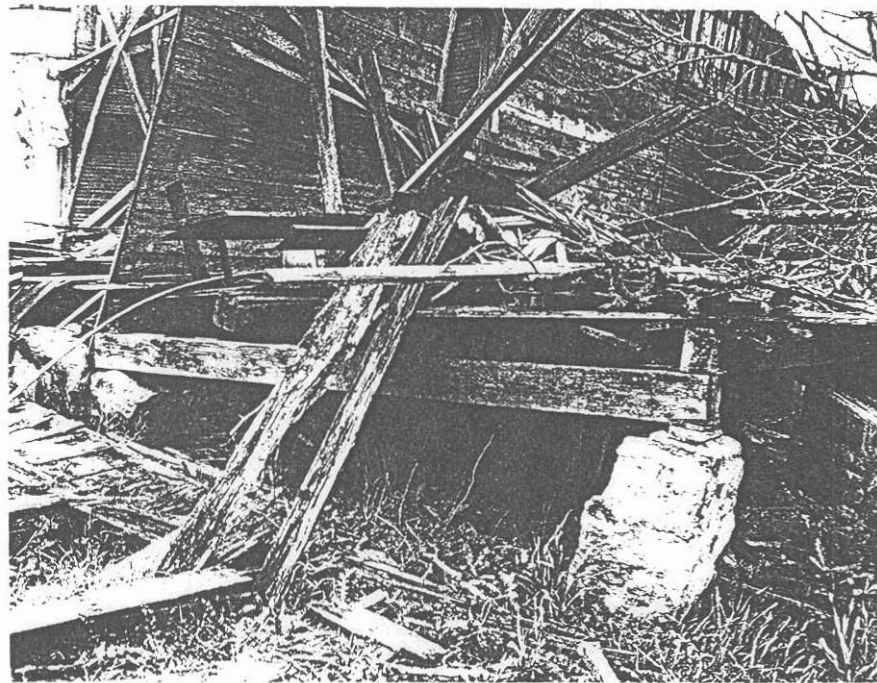
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APPENDIX

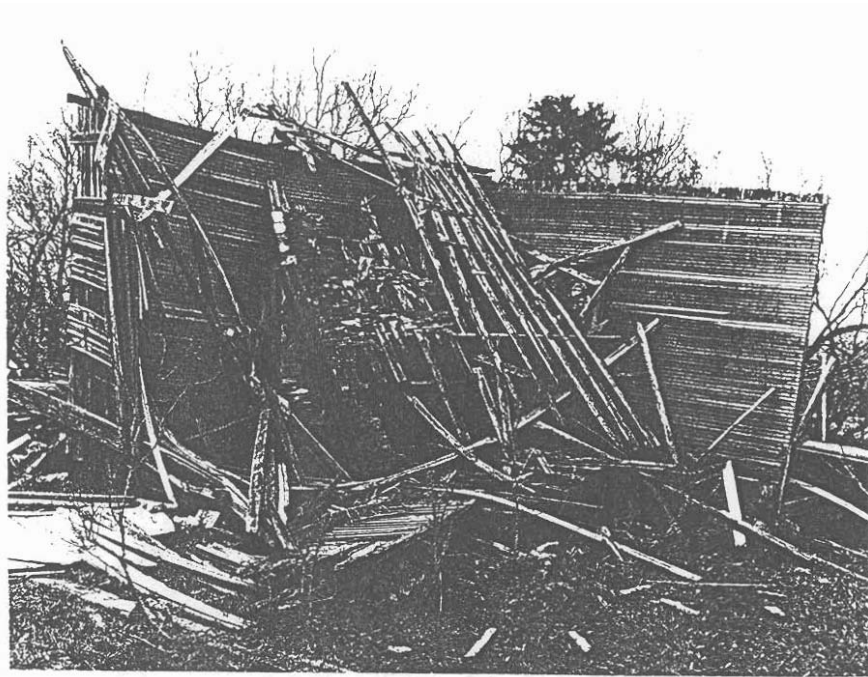
**PHOTO-DOCUMENTATION OF STRUCTURES
AT SITE 41BZ89
BRAZOS COUNTY, TEXAS**



Looking west down lean-to addition to right.



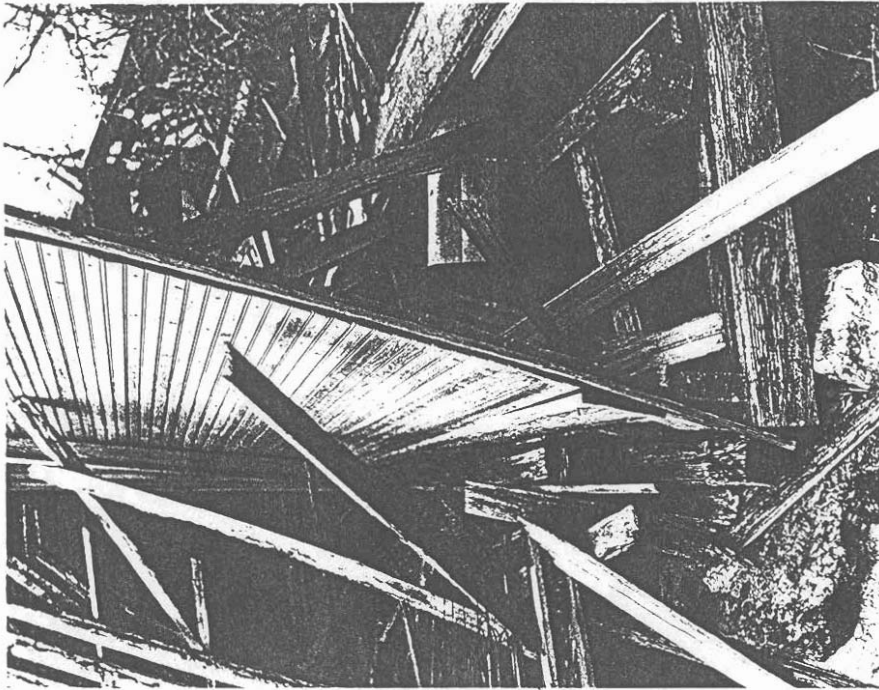
NE corner foundation of house, lean-to addition showing lack of carboard siding in this portion.



SE corner of residence, looking NW. Carboard interior siding exposed by collapsed walls and roof.



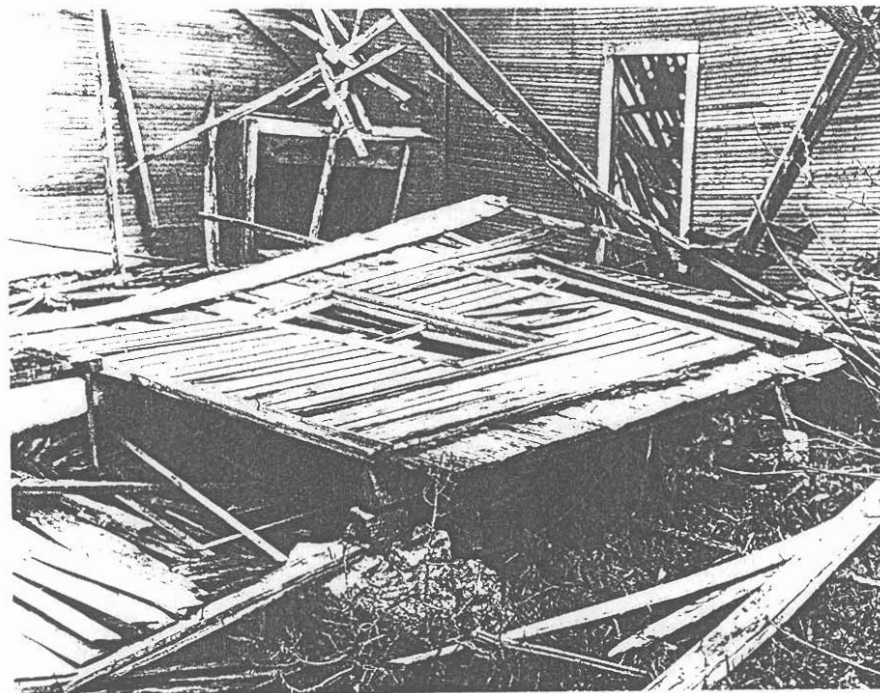
View of house with basement/cellar in foreground looking south.



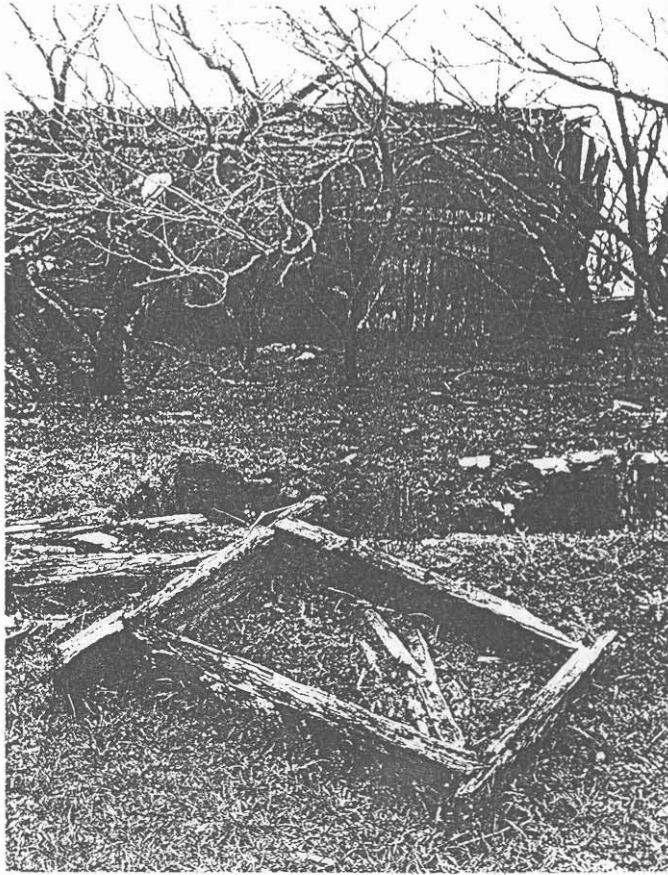
Lt. - Corboard siding in SE corner of house, looking NW.
Rt. - Detail of interior wall and sills, NW corner of house next



Collapsed roof and wall, west end of house, looking east. Note metal stovepipe and roof ridge.



Collapsed exterior wall with window with SW corner of house in foreground. Looking NE.



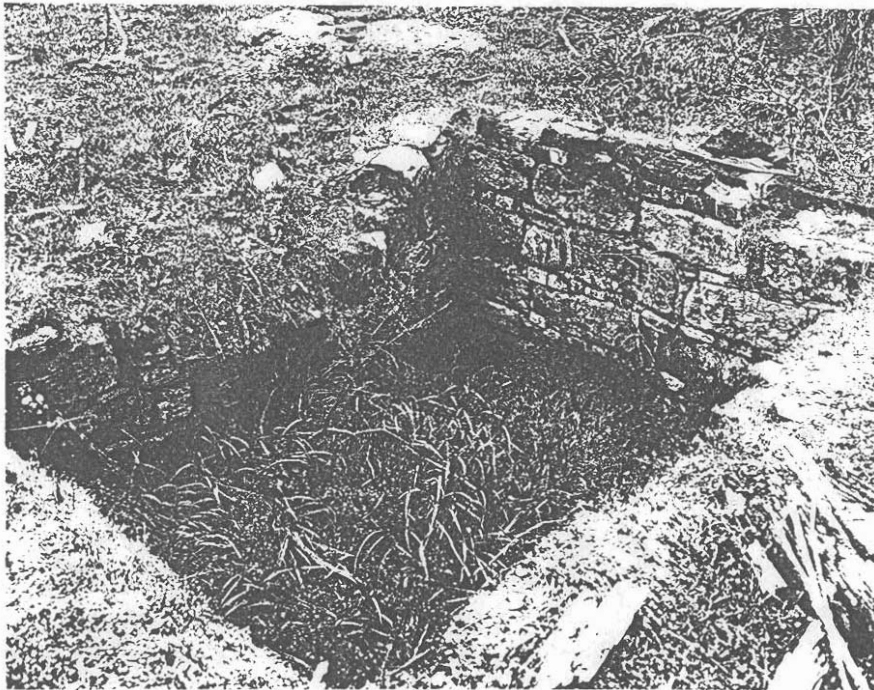
Looking south over cellar/basement to house.



View of west end of house.



The basement after excavation showing limestone construction, looking west.



The basement looking SW, with partially collapsed wall at left.



The crib with associated corrugated metal roofing. Looking east with house in background.



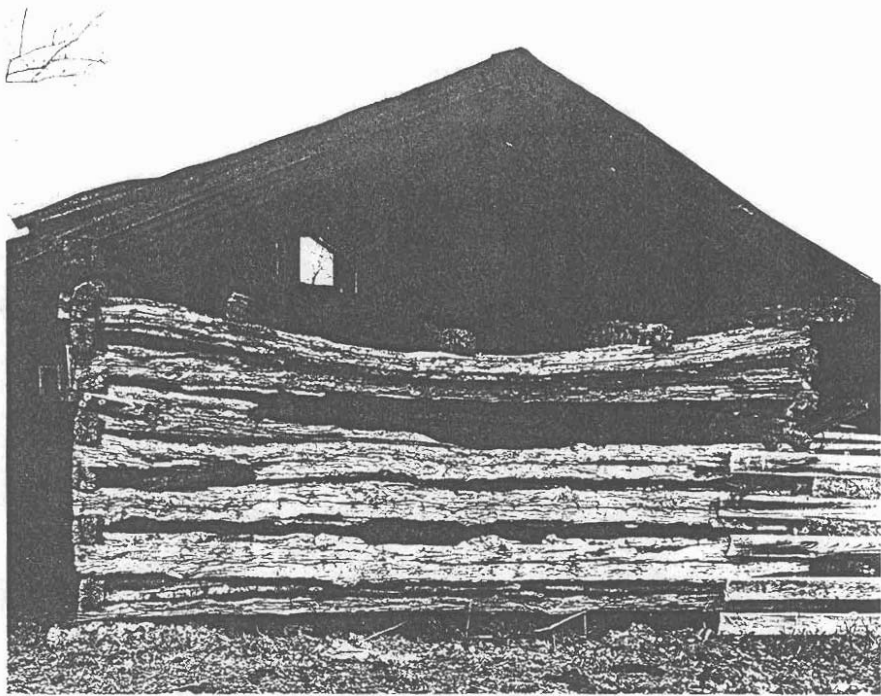
Looking west at the log crib.



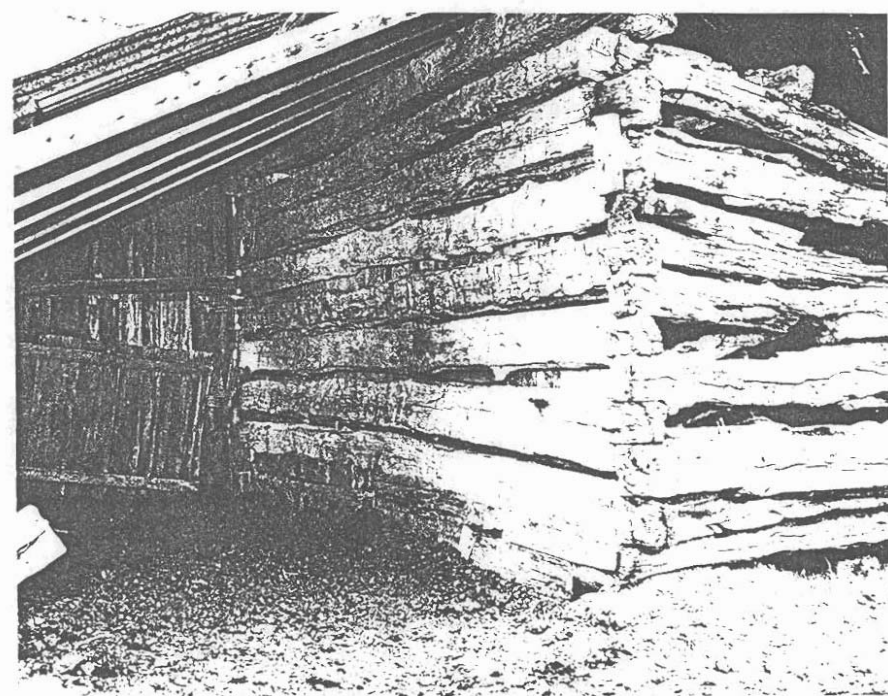
The large barn, located east of the house outside the SH 47 right-of-way. Looking east.



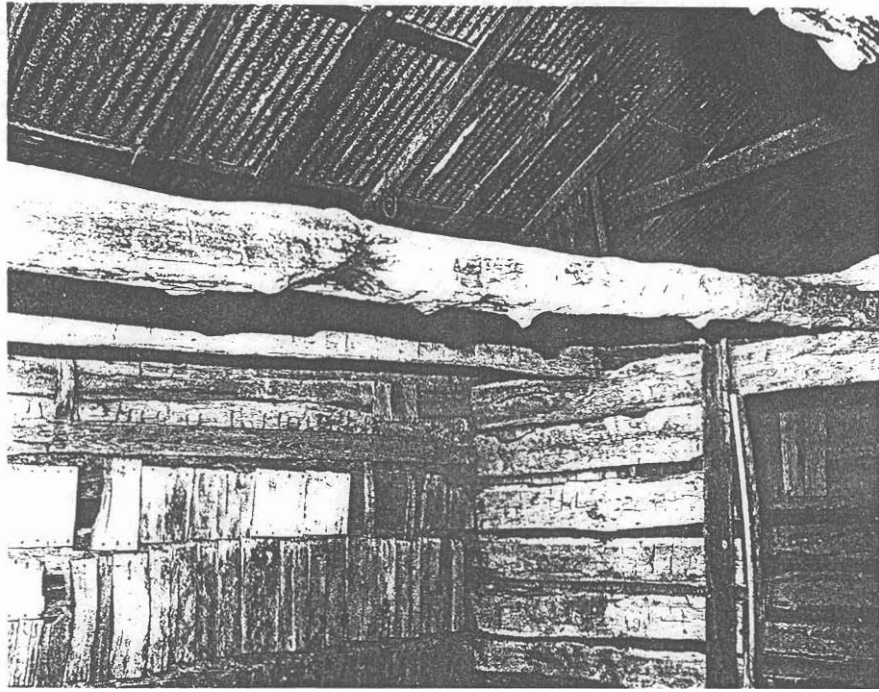
The south end of the large barn showing the original log construction and recent corrugated metal fence.



Original construction, south end of barn, looking north.



SW corner of barn showing notching detail and wall under shed roof.



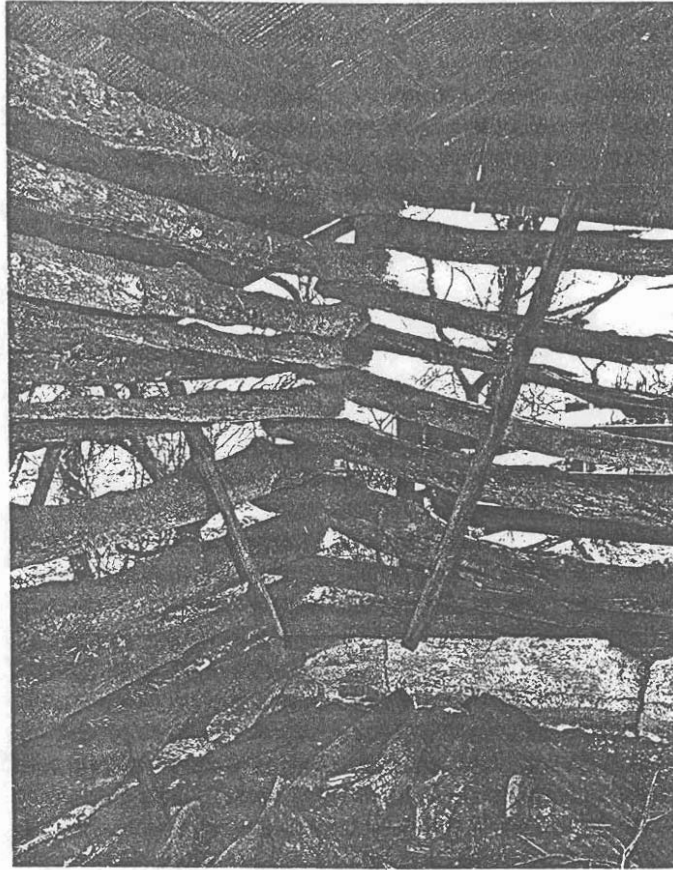
Interior of barn showing loft beam and corrugated metal roof, south pen of structure, looking NW.



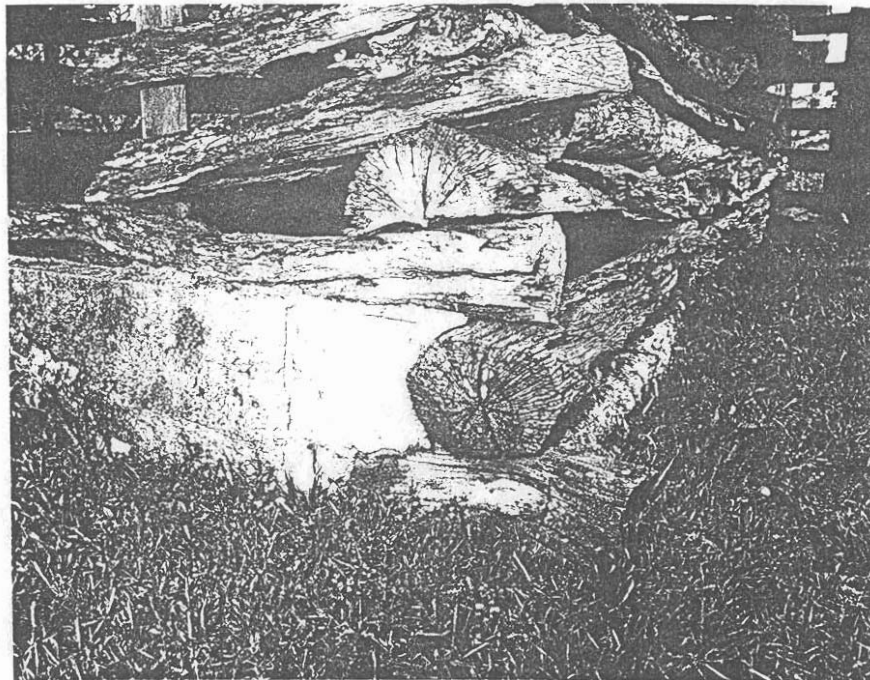
Log crib northeast of barn, looking west.



Front of log crib showing concrete "sill."



Interior of log crib showing southeast corner. Note concrete at bottom of south (back) wall.



Detail view of NW corner showing fossilized wood "foundation log."