

APPENDIX D: HIGH POTENTIAL SITES AND SEGMENTS

BRIEF DESCRIPTIONS AND MAPS

The process of selecting high potential sites and segments for El Camino Real de los Tejas National Historic Trail required the analysis of information for 40 Texas counties and two Louisiana parishes. The list of high potential sites and segments was developed following an analysis of more than 500 sites. The task involved a number of steps, two of which were not discussed in the main text of the document, but that are presented here.

The first step took place early in the planning process. Volunteers in the trail community and individuals serving on county historical commissions in Texas and experts in Louisiana were asked to submit sites and segments for the consideration of the planning team. The information received was voluminous and demonstrated widespread enthusiasm for this project. It included documentation on museums, visitor centers, community events, and festivals, as well as the description of numerous sites and segments.

The second step involved the development of inventories of resources. Two professional archeologists worked in Texas and Louisiana to identify historically significant sites and segments that would meet the criteria specified in the National Trail System Act. This research yielded a database of more than 500 sites for the 40 Texas counties and the two Louisiana parishes. Of these 500 sites, 250 sites were then tentatively selected for further examination. The criteria for selection included the following:

- site or segment association with the trail;
- its historic significance;
- the existing level of information about it;
- its confirmed location;
- its accessibility;
- its scenic quality;

- whether it is relatively free from intrusion; and
- whether it has the potential to be developed for visitor use.

The planning team also made an effort to explore potentially significant sites for which there was no confirmed location, and consulted trail experts to ensure that all resources were properly evaluated.

Maps at the end of this appendix indicate the geographical location of these sites and segments.



LOUISIANA

HIGH POTENTIAL SEGMENTS

Natchitoches Parish

Name: Camino de la Laguna (part of a series of trails located at Los Adaes State Historic Site)

Historic use type: Trail segment

Description: This is a road that goes north from Los Adaes to La Laguna de Los Adaes. This road is clearly labeled on a map prepared by José de Urrutia in 1767. Its location has been confirmed on the ground.

Time period: 1700s

Ownership: Public (Louisiana Office of State Parks)

Name: Camino de los Ais (part of a series of trails located at Los Adaes State Historic Site)

Historic use type: Trail segment

Description: This is a road that travels west-southwest from Los Adaes toward Mission Dolores de los Ais. The road is clearly labeled on a map prepared by José de Urrutia in 1767. Its location has been confirmed on the ground.

Time period: 1700s

Ownership: Public (Louisiana Office of State Parks)

Name: Camino del Baño (part of a series of trails located at Los Adaes State Historic Site)

Historic use type: Trail segment

Description: This is a road that travels south from Los Adaes to Rancho del Baño. This road is clearly labeled on a map prepared by José de Urrutia in 1767. Its location has been confirmed on the ground.

Time period: 1700s

Ownership: Public (Louisiana Office of State Parks)

Name: Camino del Bayuco (part of a series of trails located at Los Adaes State Historic Site)

Historic use type: Trail segment

Description: This is a road that travels south from Los Adaes, then turns east to a destination named El Bayuco. The road is clearly labeled on a map prepared by José de Urrutia in 1767. Its location has been confirmed on the ground.

Time period: 1700s

Ownership: Public (Louisiana Office of State Parks)

Name: Camino de Natchitouis

Historic use type: Trail segment

Description: This is a road that travels east-northeast from Los Adaes toward Natchitoches. This road is clearly labeled on a map prepared by José de Urrutia in 1767. Its location has been confirmed on the ground.

Time period: 1700s

Ownership: Public (Louisiana Office of State Parks)

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Natchitoches Parish

Name: American Cemetery

Historic use type: Cemetery/Second site of Fort St. Jean Baptiste

Description: This cemetery, established early in the 18th century, was the site of the relocated Fort St. Jean Baptiste. It is the oldest cemetery in Louisiana and includes graves from the middle of the 18th century. It was named the American Cemetery after the Louisiana Purchase in 1803.

Time period: 1700–1800s

Ownership: Public (City of Natchitoches)

Name: Los Adaes Village

Historic use type: Village

Description: This is the archeological site of a village established by some of the residents who left Los Adaes in the 1770s and returned to Louisiana after the unrest associated with the unsuccessful Gutiérrez-Magee Expedition of 1812–1813.

Time period: late 1700s–1800s

Ownership: Private

Name: Caddo Memorial Plaza

Historic use type: Sacred ground/Historic marker

Description: This is the site where more than 100 American Indian graves were unearthed in the 1930s, at the start of construction of the hatchery by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. At that time, the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act was not in effect, and many human remains, as well as funerary items, were crushed, stolen, looted, or destroyed. Some remains were transported to the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, DC, where they were kept in “The Nation’s Attic” at the National Museum of Natural History until 2007. In 2000, authorized by the Museum of the American Indian Act, and supported by the Caddo Nation’s Tribal Council and Repatriation Committee, the Caddo Nation Cultural Preservation Department began a long journey to return these remains to their ancestral home on Caddo Nation lands.

Time period: 1700–1800s

Ownership: Public (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service)

Name: Fort Clairborne

Historic use type: Fort

Description: Fort Claiborne was established in 1804. It was named after William C. C. Claiborne, then-governor of territorial Louisiana. The fort protected United States interests on the southwestern frontier. Troops were garrisoned here almost continuously until the establishment of Fort Jesup in 1822.

Time period: 1804–1822

Ownership: Public (City of Natchitoches)

Name: Fort Seldon

Historic use type: Fort

Description: This was an American fort first occupied in 1816, and then again between November 1820 and May 1822. The site covers a square mile; a kitchen is the one structure still standing. One of the Officer’s Quarters has been reconstructed and serves as a visitor center/museum.

Time period: 1816–1822

Ownership: Public (City of Natchitoches)

Name: Fort St. Jean Baptiste State Historic Site

Historic use type: Fort (reconstructed)

Description: French-Canadian trader Louis Juchereau de St. Denis was on a mission to establish trading ties with Mexico. After traveling nearly 140 leagues up the Red River, he encountered an impenetrable logjam, which prevented further navigation. He hastily built two crude huts, which grew to become Fort St. Jean Baptiste and the town of Natchitoches, the oldest permanent settlement in the entire Louisiana Purchase territory. St. Denis was named the commandant of the fort in 1722, and the colony thrived until his death in 1744. In 1731, an attack by the Natchez Indians exposed the vulnerabilities of the small French fort, prompting French officials to send engineer François Broutin to oversee the construction of a larger and stronger fortification. Although the construction of the larger fort on the west bank of the river caused Spanish officials to charge it was an invasion of Spanish territory, St. Denis politely ignored their protests. The fort continued to be garrisoned by French marines until 1762, when France’s defeat in the French and Indian War forced it to cede Louisiana to Spain. Spanish authorities continued to operate the fort as a military outpost and trading center; however, the fort no longer protected a territorial boundary, so its strategic importance was diminished. Spain eventually abandoned the fort, and by the time the United States acquired the territory in 1803, it was in ruins and no longer usable. The U.S. Army built Fort Claiborne in Natchitoches to protect the western frontier.

Time period: 1700s

Ownership: Public (Louisiana Office of State Parks)

Name: Gorum Community

Historic use type: Community

Description: This area became the home of Adaeseños, the former settlers at Los Adaes, who moved here after El Presidio de Nuestra Señora del Pilar de Zaragoza de los Adaes was closed by Spanish authorities in 1773.

Time period: Post-1773

Ownership: Private

Name: Los Adaes State Historic Site**Historic use type:** Mission and presidio site**Description:** El Presidio de Nuestra Señora del Pilar de Zaragoza de los Adaes served as the capital of the province of Tejas from 1728 to 1773, when Spanish authorities decided to close it. Archeological excavations have found the remains of both the mission and presidio. The site is a National Historic Landmark.**Time period:** 1717–1773**Ownership:** Public (Louisiana Office of State Parks)**Name:** Francois Roquier House**Historic use type:** Trading post**Description:** This was a trading post where members of the Appalachee, Coushatta, and Biloxi tribes came to purchase and exchange supplies.**Time period:** 1700–1800s**Ownership:** Public (State of Louisiana, Northwestern State University)**Name:** Spanish Lake**Historic use type:** Community**Description:** This lakeside community was originally called Laguna de los Adaes, later Juan de Mora Lake, and finally Spanish Lake. Bison are reported to have watered at this site. In its report, the 1718 Alarcón Expedition provided a full description of the lake. The lake was about two leagues from El Presidio de Nuestra Señora del Pilar de Zaragoza de los Adaes, and the expedition camped about a league from the presidio. The report noted that the Cadodachos River flowed through the presidio and on to Natchitoches. The distance between presidios was 60 leagues. The nearest access point for the lake was four leagues from Natchitoches. Various kinds of fish are abundant year-round, along with many ducks of various sizes, which overwinter here.**Time period:** 1718–1800s**Ownership:** Private**HIGH POTENTIAL SEGMENTS****🗺️ Bexar County****Name:** Mission Road/Mission Trail and Villamain (Segment)**Historic use type:** Trail segment**Description:** This extensive national historic district includes 52 contributing buildings and 39 contributing sites. Mission Road follows part of the original route connecting the five main missions. The Mission Parkway study collected data on all of the local roads that connect to the main road system and documented the significance of these roads, which are mostly now city streets or National Park Service roads.**Time period:** 1718**Ownership:** Public (National Park Service/City of San Antonio)**🗺️ Houston County****Name:** Mission Tejas State Park Trail Segment**Historic use type:** Trail segment**Description:** This 1.5-mile-long trail segment crosses an area that has remarkable visual integrity. The trail segment runs roughly parallel to State Road 21 and at times crosses the highway. One of the Caddo Indian sites within the state park is adjacent to the trail.**Time period:** 1600s**Ownership:** Public (Texas Parks and Wildlife Department)**🗺️ Sabine County****Name:** Lobanillo Swales**Historic use type:** Trail segment**Description:** Two sets of deep and parallel swales extend about one-quarter mile through the forest. One set of swales has seven parallel ruts reaching a depth of 18 feet and 12 feet wide. A state historic marker in nearby Geneva says that the historic Spanish rancho known as El Lobanillo, was located nearby. The rancho included the pueblo of

Gil Y'Barbo (1729–1809), a refuge used by his ailing mother and other refugees in 1773, when Spain evacuated colonists from western Louisiana and East Texas. It was given as a land grant to Juan Ignacio Pifermo in 1794, and inherited in the early 1800s by John Maximillian (ca. 1778–1866).

Time period: 1700–1800s

Ownership: Private

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Bexar County

Name: Acequia Madre de Mission de Valero

Historic use type: Irrigation Structure

Description: This site was described by Spanish expedition leader Ramón de Alarcón in 1691. It was a visita, or satellite mission, of Mission de Valero.

Time period: 1690s

Ownership: Public (City of San Antonio/San Antonio River Authority)

Name: Comanche Lookout

Historic use type: Natural landmark

Description: Comanche Lookout Park is a 96-acre public park owned by the City of San Antonio. It is the fourth highest point in Bexar County, with an elevation of 1,340 feet. The Cibolo floodplain lies at the base of this escarpment, between the Gulf Coastal Plain and the Edwards Plateau. American Indians used this hill as a vantage point for warfare and hunting. Apache, and later, Comanche Indians dominated the area as they hunted along waterways, including nearby Cibolo Creek. The hill was also a prominent landmark for travelers in the 18th and 19th centuries. One of several routes of El Camino Real de los Tejas extended past the base of the hill. The road followed earlier American Indian travel routes.

Time period: 1700–1800s

Ownership: Public (City of San Antonio)

Name: Iglesia de Nuestra Señora de la Candelaria y Guadalupe/San Fernando Cathedral

Historic use type: Church

Description: Listed in the National Register of Historic Places, this was the parish church of the villa of San Fernando de Bexar, which was built between 1737 and 1749 and restored in 1839. The gothic Cathedral of San Fernando, built between 1868 and 1873, incorporated portions of the existing Spanish church.

Time period: 1737–present

Ownership: Archdiocese of San Antonio

Name: Loma Alta

Historic use type: Natural landmark

Description: Legal documents indicate that, in 1765, Loma Alta was used as a landmark in determining the boundaries of Rancho San Lucas of Mission San José in a dispute involving Fray Pedro Ramírez de Arellano.

Time period: 1700–1800s

Ownership: Private

Name: Mission Espada Aqueduct

Historic use type: Irrigation feature

Description: Listed in the National Register of Historic Places, this aqueduct is an important structure associated with Mission Espada.

Time period: 1700s

Ownership: Public (National Park Service)

Name: Mission Espada Dam

Historic use type: San Antonio River crossing/Irrigation feature

Description: Listed in the National Register of Historic Places, this dam is a Spanish Colonial irrigation feature, which served as a river crossing, connecting the local network of roads between missions on both banks of the San Antonio River.

Time period: 1700s

Ownership: Public (National Park Service/San Antonio River Authority)

Name: Mission Nuestra Señora de la Purísima Concepción de Acuña

Historic use type: Mission

Description: Listed in the National Register of Historic Places, this site includes a Spanish Colonial mission and associated grounds. The church has exceptional architectural preservation (including intact frescos) and is the oldest unrestored stone church in the

United States. The mission was originally founded in 1716 in East Texas as Concepción de los Ais. It was temporarily relocated to the area of present-day Austin in 1730 before being reestablished at its final location in Bexar County. The mission is still in use.

Time period: 1731–1824

Ownership: Public (National Park Service)

Name: Mission San Antonio de Valero, third site (the Alamo)

Historic use type: Mission

Description: Listed in the National Register of Historic Places, this mission is the final site of Mission San Antonio de Valero and the site of the Battle of the Alamo. It is now interpreted by the Daughters of the Republic of Texas.

Time period: 1724–1793

Ownership: Public (Daughters of the Republic of Texas)

Name: Mission San Francisco de la Espada

Historic use type: Mission

Description: Listed in the National Register of Historic Places, this mission was originally founded in 1690 as San Francisco de los Tejas near present-day Weches in Houston County. It was reestablished in San Antonio in 1731 and changed its name. The original buildings at Espada, the farthest south of the five missions near San Antonio, were undoubtedly of adobe. A wall surrounded the church (usually called a chapel), friary, granary, and workshops. Extensive farms and pastures lay nearby. By 1745, the Indians produced grain and beans, and the mission owned 1,150 head of cattle and 750 sheep. One of the few remaining early structures is the southeast bastion (fortified round tower), the only mission fort structure left intact in San Antonio. Its three-foot-thick rock walls, which contain holes for cannons and muskets, support a vaulted roof. Encompassing Espada's once-vital waterworks are a dam (one mile north), an irrigation ditch, and the only extant Spanish aqueduct in the United States.

Time period: 1731–1824

Ownership: Public (National Park Service)

Name: Mission San José Acequia

Historic use type: Irrigation feature

Description: Listed in the National Register of Historic Places, this is an acequia, or irrigation ditch, constructed to serve the original location of Mission San José. It may have been in use until early in the 20th century.

Time period: 1722–present

Ownership: Multiple (National Park Service, private and City of San Antonio)

Name: Mission San José y San Miguel de Aguayo, third site

Historic use type: Mission

Description: Listed in the National Register of Historic Places, this was the final site of Mission San José y San Miguel de Aguayo.

Time period: 1739–1824

Ownership: Public (National Park Service)

Name: Mission San Juan Acequia

Historic use type: Irrigation feature

Description: Listed in the National Register of Historic Places, this acequia is associated with Mission San Juan.

Time period: 1700s

Ownership: Public (National Park Service)

Name: Mission San Juan Capistrano

Historic use type: Mission

Description: Listed in the National Register of Historic Places, this Spanish Colonial mission was previously called San José de los Nazonis and was relocated from East Texas.

Time period: 1731–1824

Ownership: Public (National Park Service)

Name: Mission San Juan Dam

Historic use type: Irrigation feature/River crossing

Description: Listed in the National Register of Historic Places, this Spanish Colonial irrigation feature served as a river crossing, connecting the local network of roads between missions on both banks of the San Antonio River. The feature was excavated in 1970s by the National Park Service.

Time period: 1700s

Ownership: Public (National Park Service)

Name: Nogales Crossing**Historic use type:** River Crossing**Description:** This ford is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Ivey notes that the boundaries of the mission lands of Nuestra Señora de la Purísima de la Concepción extended to a point called the Nogales Crossing, which he states is at the San Juan Dam on the San Antonio River, and that this spot marks one of the boundaries for Mission San Juan.**Time period:** 1700s**Ownership:** Public (Multiple management agencies)**Name: Padre Navarro House****Historic use type:** Residence**Description:** Listed in the National Register of Historic Places, this was a residence constructed by the Mission Concepción parish priest, Padre Navarro.**Time period:** early 1800s**Ownership:** Private**Name: Pérez Cemetery/Rancho de Pérez****Historic use type:** Ranch/Cemetery**Description:** This is a state archeological landmark that is likely part of the ranch headquarters of Rancho de Pérez, part of the Ignacio Pérez land grant. The site is located north of the Medina River and has been preserved and protected by the Pérez family for more than a century. There is a chapel at the cemetery, which was constructed on top of the foundation of the original Spanish Colonial period chapel. Some elements of the original chapel remain.**Time period:** late 1700s/early 1800s**Ownership:** Private**Name: Presidio San Antonio de Bexar, first site (San Pedro Springs)****Historic use type:** Presidio/village/paraje**Description:** Listed in the National Register of Historic Places, San Pedro Springs was an American Indian village named Yanaguana and probably began to be used as a paraje as early as 1692. It is also mentioned in the 1709 expedition. Clark and McGraw (1991) noted that the paraje known as “Ojo de Agua de San Pedro” was referenced in multiple

historic documents. In 1718, the first presidio and villa of San Fernando de Bexar were founded here (both later moved). In 1729, a royal charter rededicated the area as an ejido, or public lands.

Time period: 1692**Ownership:** Public (City of San Antonio)**Name: Presidio San Antonio de Bexar, second site/Governor’s Palace/Casa del Capitán****Historic use type:** Presidio**Description:** This national historic landmark was the final site of the Presidio San Antonio de Bexar. The building is primarily a 19th-century reconstruction on the foundation of the original building. The site, known popularly as the Governor’s Palace, was actually the residence of the captain of the presidio until 1773, followed by the senior officer. Marqués de Aguayo began construction in 1722, but there is a date of 1749 over the doorway. Construction may never have been completed during the Spanish period. The present building is a reconstruction completed in 1930.**Time period:** 1722**Ownership:** Public (City of San Antonio).**Name: Sabinitas/Jett/Palo Alto Crossing****Historic use type:** Connecting side trail/Medina River Crossing**Description:** This ford is a state archeological landmark. It crossed the Medina for the Camino de los Palos Altos known to the Spanish as Paso Sabinitas.**Time period:** 1700s**Ownership:** Private**Name: La Villita Historic District/Villa de San Fernando/El Pueblo de San José y Santiago del Alamo /Las Islitas****Historic use type:** Village/town**Description:** Listed in the National Register of Historic Places, these four settlements are essentially contiguous and therefore are counted together as a complex. The historic district includes 27 contributing buildings, structures, and archeological remains dating to the Spanish period and later, with influ-

ences from later German settlements. La Villita was the civil settlement that grew up as a barrio around the Presidio San Antonio de Bexar.

Time period: 1700s

Ownership: Private

Name: Yturri-Edmunds Mill

Historic use type: Mill

Description: Part of the Mission Parkway Historic and Archeological District, this structure was originally a mill that was later converted to a residence. The mill was built in 1820 by Manuel Yturri Castillo. It is part of a site with several 19th-century buildings and is open to the public. The site is located on former lands of Mission Concepción.

Time period: 1820

Ownership: Public (City of San Antonio)

Brazos County

Name: Rye School Loop Swale

Historic use type: Trail segment

Description: American explorer Zebulon Pike made references to camping in the area in his diary.

Time period: 1800s

Ownership: Public (City of College Station)

Cherokee County

Name: Caddo Mounds Trace No. 1

Historic use type: Road segment

Description: Both the magnetometer data of existing subsurface swales and the 1806–1807 Juan Pedro Walker map clearly indicate the relationship of El Camino Real de los Tejas National Historic Trail to the three Caddo Mounds. A preliminary survey of the surrounding landscape during a National Park Service evaluation field trip confirmed that there is only one possible route for the trail to take north of the mounds. The mounds and the trail's relationship to them is also discussed in primary Spanish documents. For example, in 1767, La Fora records passing just north of the mounds, stating: "We forded this river [the Neches] in shallow water and one league beyond we climbed a hill. On the summit is a mound which appears to

be hand-made."

Time period: pre-1700–1800s

Ownership: Public (Texas Historical Commission)

Name: Caddo Mounds Trace No. 2

Historic use type: Road segment

Description: Both the magnetometer data of existing subsurface swales and the 1806–1807 Juan Pedro Walker map clearly indicate the relationship of the trail to the three Caddo Mounds. A preliminary survey of the surrounding landscape during a National Park Service evaluation field trip confirmed that there is only one possible route for the trail to take north of the mounds. The mounds and the trail's relationship to them is also discussed in primary Spanish documents. For example, Nicolás La Fora writes in 1767 of passing just north of the mounds by stating "We forded this river [the Neches] in shallow water and one league beyond we climbed a hill. On the summit is a mound which appears to be hand-made."

Time period: pre-1700–1800s

Ownership: Public (Texas Historical Commission)

Name: George C. Davis Site/Indian Mounds

Historic use type: American Indian village/paraje

Description: This is a primarily Caddo Indian multicomponent site. Some portions of the village, or a related site, may extend beyond the state park boundaries. It is listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

Time period: Pre-1700s

Ownership: Public (Texas Historical Commission)

Dimmit County

Name: Crossing/Paraje at San Pedro Creek

Historic use type: American Indian village/Crossing/Paraje

Description: This is a site with petroglyphs. It is referenced as "Campo de Cuervo" in the Texas Historic Sites Atlas, but the location is more consistent with the San Pedro paraje

on the Lower Presidio Road. The site is a well-preserved late-period American Indian site. The owners appear to be very committed to preserving and researching the site.

Time period: 1600–1700s

Ownership: Private

Frio County

Name: Frio Town Crossing

Historic use type: River crossing

Description: This Frio River ford is north of Old Frio Town, which was built primarily to serve as a station along the Upper Presidio Road.

Time period: 1691–1827

Ownership: Private

Goliad County

Name: Cabeza Creek Crossing on La Bahía-Bexar Road and Trail Segment

Historic use type: Creek crossing and swales

Description: Part of a national register historic district, this is a gravel-bar ford on the Cabeza Creek associated with La Bahía-Bexar Road. Artifacts recorded for the site are American Indian; they are likely prehistoric, but could also be protohistoric or historic. Swales stretch on both sides of the crossing.

Time period: ca. 1700s

Ownership: Private

Name: Confluence of Cabeza Creek & San Antonio River

Historic use type: Natural landmark

Description: A component of a national register historic district, this confluence site was described by explorer Jean Louis Berlandier, who mentioned that Indians were camped on the banks of the river.

Time period: ca. 1700–early 1800s

Ownership: Private

Name: Mission Nuestra Señora del Espíritu Santo de Zuñiga (La Bahía), third site

Historic use type: Mission

Description: Listed in the National Register

of Historic Places, this mission the final location of Mission Nuestra Señora del Espíritu Santo de Zuñiga.

Time period: 1749–1830

Ownership: Public (Goliad State Historic Park – Texas Historical Commission)

Name: Mission Nuestra Señora del Rosario de los Cujanes

Historic use type: Mission

Description: Listed in the National Register of Historic Places, this is an important Spanish Colonial mission.

Time period: 1764–1826

Ownership: Private (By appointment only)

Name: Presidio Nuestra Señora de Loreto de la Bahía, third site

Historic use type: Presidio

Description: This presidio is a national historic landmark. It was partially reconstructed in the 1960s.

Time period: 1749–1830

Ownership: Catholic Diocese

Name: Rancho Señor San José/Rancho de Capitán Piscina

Historic use type: Ranch headquarters

Description: Part of a national register historic district, sites at this ranch headquarters were recorded as archeological site numbers 41GD84, 41GD85, and 41GD86. Another site that may be associated with this ranch is No. 41GD49, which is a burial site containing both prehistoric and historic artifacts. The description of the historic artifacts suggests they may be from an early period.

Time period: 1700s

Ownership: Private

Hays County

Name: Comal Spring

Historic use type: Springs/paraje

Description: Spanish explorers discovered Comal Springs in 1691. The many American Indian tribes they found living there referred to it as Conaqueyadesta, translated as “where the river has its source.” In an excerpt from his diary, Espinosa, who accompanied Domingo Ramon’s expedi-

tion in 1716, described it this way: “Groves of inexpressible beauty are found in this vicinity. The waters of the Guadalupe are clear, crystal and so abundant that it seemed almost incredible to us that its source arose so near. It makes a delightful grove for recreation.” Comal is the Spanish word for “basin,” which somewhat describes the local geography. In 1764, the springs were visited by French explorer Louis Juchereau de St. Denis. They eventually became a paraje, or resting place, on the El Camino Real de los Tejas.

Time period: 1691–1800s

Ownership: Public (city of New Braunfels)

Name: McGehee Crossing

Historic use type: River Crossing

Description: This is a ford of the San Marcos River, located on the Old Bastrop Road. There is a state historic marker that indicates that Louis Juchereau de St. Denis traveled this route to establish trade between the French in Louisiana and the Spanish of Coahuila Province on the Rio Grande in 1714. The first settlement at the San Marcos River crossing along the trail route was Villa San Marcos de Neve, established by Spanish authorities in 1808. It was abandoned just four years later, as the Mexican Revolution began to brew. In 1820 and 1821, Texas colonists Moses Austin (1761–1821) and his son, Stephen F. Austin (1793–1836), very likely crossed the San Marcos River near this point. About 1846, Thomas Gilmer McGehee (1810–1890) settled on a Mexican land grant on the east side of the river. In 1859, Charles L. McGehee, Jr. (1837–1929), Thomas’s nephew, acquired 1,200 acres of land bordered by El Camino Real de los Tejas and the river.

Time period: 1690s

Ownership: Private

Name: Old Bastrop Road/County Line Road Trail Segment

Historic use type: Trail swales

Description: A series of trail swales located on either side of the Old Bastrop Road/County Line Road, this is the route followed by the Old San Antonio Road from the York Creek Cemetery in Comal County past the

San Marcos River, where its name becomes County Line Road. Swales were recorded along this stretch of road at various points. McGraw et al cite numerous primary and secondary sources used to track the road. The road is also known as County Road 266 in Hays County.

Time period: 1600s

Ownership: Private

Name: San Marcos de Neve

Historic use type: Village/town

Description: A 1951 aerial photo shows intact road segments at this former townsite, which is located in an agricultural field atop a hill. A study conducted in the 1990s indicates that the site is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under criteria A, C, and D.

Time period: 1808–1812

Ownership: Private

Name: San Marcos Spring

Historic use type: Paraje

Description: This paraje was repeatedly referenced in multiple historic documents. Immense springs rise at the Balcones Escarpment, a geologic fault that slices across the state, separating upland from lowland Texas. The abundance of freshwater attracted American Indians of the Central Texas region, and later European explorers and settlers. The name “San Marcos” first appears in the records of the Alonso de León Expedition of April 26, 1689 (Saint Mark’s Day), marking another Texas river; it was first applied to this river in 1709. Following later explorations, several Spanish missions were temporarily located here in 1755.

Time period: 1700s

Ownership: Public (Texas State University)

Name: Willow Springs Creek Crossing

Historic use type: River Crossing

Description: This archeological site yielded lithic scatter near a ford of El Camino Real de los Tejas, and includes a well-preserved segment of the trail.

Time period: 1690s

Ownership: Public (Texas Department of Transportation)

Karnes County

Name: Carvajal Crossing

Historic use type: Creek Crossing

Description: This rock-bottomed ford across Cibolo Creek in north central Karnes County was the best-known ford along the old cart road that traveled from the Texas coast to San Antonio. Situated halfway between Goliad and San Antonio, the crossing was close to the old Fuerte del Santa Cruz and the ranch headquarters of Andrés Hernandez, who may have owned the first ranch in Texas. According to old maps and journals, at different times the crossing was called Tawakoni Crossing, the Crossing of the Tehuacanas, or Cibolo Crossing. About 1830, José Luis Carvajal, scion of a Canary Island family from San Antonio, acquired the ranch property adjoining the crossing; since that time the ford has been called Carvajal Crossing. The crossing is located south of the Farm to Market Road 887 bridge over Cibolo Creek.

Time period: 1700s

Ownership: Private

Name: Fuerte del Cíbolo

Historic use type: Fort

Description: This fort was not a formally designated presidio; however, it played an important role in protecting San Antonio and La Bahía at a time of increasing Spanish settlement in this area, following the decommission of missions and presidios in East Texas, including Orcoquisac/Anahuac, San Sabá, and Cañón. The original fort may have been established in 1735 and abandoned in 1737, but it is not clear if it was reestablished on the same site. Fuerte del Cíbolo was located at a natural ford of Cibolo Creek known as Carvajal Crossing (see above entry). This fort likely had more than one location and has been confirmed archeologically.

Time period: 1770s–1780s

Ownership: Private

Maverick County

Name: Paso de Francia/Paso de los Pacuaches

Historic use type: River crossing

Description: This ford of the Río Grande may have been used by de León in 1689 or 1690; it was well known throughout the Spanish period and later. Explorer Jean Louis Berlandier called the crossing “Paso de los Pacuaches.” According to Pressler’s 1867 map, the ford is just south of the confluence of Indio Creek and the Río Grande.

Time period: 1700s

Ownership: Private

Note: The team responsible for evaluating high potential sites and segments was not able to visit these sites during the evaluation period due to hunting activities on this privately owned property; however, other National Park Service staff from the National Trails Intermountain Region office in Santa Fe have previously visited the river crossing site and confirm its integrity.

Milam County

Name: Apache Pass

Historic use type: River crossing

Description: This ford is located between archeological site No. 41MM10 (a possible presidio) and No. 41MM18 (probably Mission Candelaria). There are no recorded sites in the immediate vicinity of the crossing. The visual integrity of this site has been compromised by the construction of a bridge across the creek. The ford is located within the San Xavier Mission Complex Archeological District, listed in the National Register of Historic Places, which protects three missions and a presidio.

Time period: Unclear

Ownership: Private

Name: Mission Nuestra Señora de la Candelaria

Historic use type: Mission

Description: This mission is listed in the National Register of Historic Places as part of the San Xavier Mission Complex Archeological District.

Time period: 1749–1755

Ownership: Private

Name: Mission San Francisco Xavier de Horcasitas**Historic use type:** Mission**Description:** This mission is listed in the National Register of Historic Places as part of the San Xavier Mission Complex Archeological District.**Time period:** 1746–1756**Ownership:** Private**Name: Mission San Ildefonso****Historic use type:** Mission.**Description:** This mission is listed in the National Register of Historic Places as part of the San Xavier Mission Complex Archeological District.**Time period:** 1749–1755**Ownership:** Private**Name: Presidio San Francisco Xavier de Gigedo****Historic use type:** Presidio**Description:** This presidio is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Based on its location relative to the other sites, this presidio is thought to be part of the San Xavier Mission Complex Archeological District. Documents referencing this presidio were discovered in the archives in Seville, Spain, in 2007 and 2008, and a study of this and other presidios in Texas is ongoing. A professional archeologist is currently trying to verify the location of the presidio.**Time period:** 1750–1757**Ownership:** Private**Name: Sugarloaf Mountain****Historic use type:** Natural landmark**Description:** References to this landscape feature date from the 1750s.**Time period:** 1700s**Ownership:** Private**🗺️ Nacogdoches County****Name: Acosta-Durst-Taylor House****Historic use type:** House**Description:** Archeological investigations have shown that the 1820s-era Durst-Taylor House was built upon the dirt floor belonging to the 1790s-era Acosta House that

preceded it.

Time period: 1790s**Ownership:** Public (City of Nacogdoches).**Name: Adolphus Stern House****Historic use type:** House**Description:** This state historic landmark is listed in the National Register Historic Properties. It consists of a 19th-century house that belonged to Adolphus Stern, a prolific writer who took part in the Fredonia Rebellion. Archeological investigations verify the authenticity of the structure. It is now a private museum, open to the public.**Time period:** 1820s**Ownership:** Private, but open to the public**Name: Old Stone Fort/La Casa de Piedra****Historic use type:** Trading post**Description:** Built by Antonio Gil Y'Barbo as a market or storage area for the town of Nacogdoches, the trading post is located on Old San Antonio Road and La Calle del Norte. This location may have also been associated with the Barr and Davenport Trading Post. The original post was torn down in 1902. The Stone Fort Museum is a replica constructed on the grounds of Stephen F. Austin State University.**Time period:** 1779–1902**Ownership:** Public (Stephen F. Austin State University)**Name: Pocket Park Site****Historic use type:** possible house site**Description:** This is a site with Spanish Colonial-period artifacts.**Time period:** 1700–1800s**Ownership:** Public (City of Nacogdoches)**Name: Washington Square Moundsite****Historic use type:** Burial and temple site**Description:** This Caddo Indian templesite and associated burial mounds is located near the center of Hasinai Culture in the area of Mission Concepción.**Time period:** Pre-1700s**Ownership:** Public (Nacogdoches Independent School District)

✚ *Nacogdoches/Rusk Counties*

Name: Mission San José de los Nazonis.

Historic use type: Mission

Description: This mission was founded by the Domingo Ramón Expedition in 1716. It served the Nazoni Indians, on a branch of Shawnee Creek, in what became northwestern Nacogdoches County. The mission was abandoned in 1719, following French incursions from Louisiana, but was restored by the Marqués de Aguayo in 1721. In 1730, it was removed to the Colorado River in Texas, near the site of Austin's Zilker Park, where it stood alongside the San Francisco de los Neches and Nuestra Señora de la Purísima Concepción de los Hasinai missions. The following year, all three Austin missions were moved to the San Antonio River and reestablished as San Juan Capistrano Mission.

Time period: 18th century

Ownership: Private

✚ *Sabine County*

Name: Gaines-Oliphant House

Historic use type: residence of ferry operator

Description: This 1818 log house was built by James Gaines, owner of the Gaines Ferry, for his in-laws. It is listed in the National Register of Historic Place and is being restored by the Daughters of the Republic of Texas.

Time period: 1800s

Ownership: Private (Daughters of the Republic of Texas)

✚ *San Augustine County*

Name: Garrett Trace

Historic use type: Trail swale

Description: The trail swale is located in front of a two-story house belonging to William Garrett (1808–1884) that is now a state historic landmark. Garrett purchased this land soon after coming to Texas in 1830. In 1861, he erected the house using pine boards from his nearby sawmill. Built by slave labor, the structure had unusual

free-standing columns in front and carved mantels over its six fireplaces. Garrett's home was often a stop for travelers on the Old San Antonio Road.

Time period: 1700–1800s

Ownership: Private

Name: Mission Nuestra Señora de los Dolores de los Ais, second site

Historic use type: Mission

Description: This mission is a state historic landmark and is listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

Time period: 1717–1773

Ownership: Public

✚ *Travis County*

Name: McKinney Falls State Park/
Onion Creek Crossing

Historic use type: Road swale

Description: Although the ford for Onion Creek was probably located elsewhere, this site offers the opportunity to experience a setting similar to that of the actual creek crossing during the historic period.

Time period: 1700–1800s

Ownership: Public (Texas Parks and Wildlife Department)

✚ *Victoria County*

Name: Guadalupe River Dam

Historic use type: Irrigation Feature

Description: This irrigation feature is associated with a significant mission site and is part of a property listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

Time period: ca. 1726–1749

Ownership: Private

Name: Mission Creek Dam and Acequia Site

Historic use type: Irrigation Feature

Description: This is a dam reportedly constructed by Araname Indian converts from the nearby mission. It is listed in National Register of Historic Places.

Time period: ca. 1726–1749

Ownership: Private

Name: Mission Espíritu Santo de Zúñiga Quarry**Historic use type:** Quarry**Description:** This Spanish quarry is associated with important local missions closely tied to the early history of the trail.**Time period:** ca. 1722–1749.**Ownership:** Private**Name:** Mission Nuestra Señora del Espíritu Santo de Zúñiga (La Bahía), second site**Historic use type:** Mission**Description:** Unlike most Spanish missions excavated during the Work Progress Administration era, this mission's extensive ruins have not been reconstructed. It is an excellent example of unaltered early Spanish Colonial architecture.**Time period:** ca. 1726–1749**Ownership:** Private**Name:** Presidio Nuestra Señora de Loreto de la Bahía, first site/Fort Saint Louis site**Historic use type:** Presidio**Description:** Originally this site listed in National Register of Historic Places was the location of French Fort St Louis established by La Salle in 1685. When the Spanish finally discovered the remains of the French settlement in 1689, they buried the cannons and burned the buildings. The Spanish established a presidio on the site in 1721. The original mission site of Nuestra Señora del Espíritu Santo de Zúñiga (La Bahía) is nearby.**Time period:** 1685–1726**Ownership:** Private**Name:** Presidio Nuestra Señora de Loreto de la Bahía, second site**Historic use type:** Presidio**Description:** This is the second site of the Presidio Nuestra Señora de Loreto de la Bahía.**Time period:** 1726–1749**Ownership:** Private**Name:** Tonkawa Bank Site – a submission of Mission Nuestra Señora del Espíritu Santo de Zúñiga (La Bahía), second site**Historic use type:** Visita, or satellite mission/possibly second site of primary mission**Description:** This mission site is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Based on evidence from an archeological study, this mission is contemporaneous with the Mission Valley site of Mission Nuestra Señora del Espíritu Santo de Zúñiga, and may be the mission's second location or its visita (satellite parish). According to maps of the area, the mission was probably located near the ford for the Guadalupe River on the trail route that went west and northwest through Victoria County.**Time period:** 1726–1749**Ownership:** Private **Webb County****Name:** Los Corralitos**Historic use type:** Residence**Description:** This windowless structure has two rows of troneras (gunports)—one at roof level to defend against Indian attacks. It is made out of rejoneado, the locally quarried sandstone. This site is a good example of the type of structure that was developed to fend off attacks from American Indian groups.**Time period:** Post-1750**Ownership:** Private**Name:** El Paso de Jacinto/Paso de los Indios**Historic use:** River crossing**Description:** Around 1746, explorer Jacinto de León discovered a ford that allowed safe passage across the Río Grande in this vicinity; it had probably been used for centuries by American Indians. The ford came to be known as Paso de Jacinto; the Laredo community, which began as a ranch established by Tomás Tadeo Sánchez de la Barrera, grew up around it. In 1754, colonizer Jose de Escandón asked Sánchez to find a place for a settlement along the Nueces River. Sanchez failed to identify a suitable location on the

Nueces, and instead, in May 1755, settled along the Río Grande, downstream of Paso de Jacinto. Two years later, Agustín López de la Cámara Alta reported that the settlement at the crossing was important in sustaining what had become a major business and military route across the Río Grande. He also stated that the settlers' pursuits mainly involved breeding cattle and gathering salt from regional salt lakes. Most of the residents' more than 10,000 animals recorded in a census that year were smaller livestock, such as sheep and goats. By the turn of the 19th century, the crossing was marked on maps as Paso de los Indios; a century later, the Old Indian Crossing, as it was known in English, was a well-known landmark near the northern edge of Fort McIntosh. The significance of the ford to the history of Laredo is underscored by the presence of a nearby ranch known as Rancho Paso de los Indios. Historic features like these in Laredo offer a reminder of the impact of the trail and need for routes across the river. In 1757, this ford was recorded by Tienda de Cuervo [Bolton translation] as being the river crossing used by people with horses.

Time period: 1740s

Ownership: Private

Name: Jesús Treviño Fort and Ranch at San Ignacio

Historic use type: Fort and ranch

Description: This site is a national historic landmark.

Time period: 1830s

Ownership: Private

Note: River Pierce Foundation bought a one-half interest in the building.

Name: Rancho los Ojuelos National Historic District

Historic use type: Ranch

Description: This national historic district and state historic landmark was the ranch headquarters for the Ysidro Gutiérrez land grant established in 1830. The location of the ranch headquarters in this case was located near a large natural spring (ojuelos). This site is a good example of the type of multipurpose hacienda (socio-economic- agricultural-religious) that evolved close to Dolores in

South Texas, adjacent to the Río Grande.

Time period: Post-1750s

Ownership: Private.

Name: Republic of the Río Grande Museum/Villa Antigua Border Heritage Museum

Historic use type: Residences

Description: Casa Ortiz, a component of this complex, is a state historic landmark

Time period: 1800s

Ownership: Webb County Heritage Foundation

Name: San José de Palafox Historic and Archeological District

Historic use type: Village/town/paraje

Description: This village/town/paraje is a national historic register district with one contributing sites and 12 contributing structures (No. 41WB87). San José de Palafox was a Spanish Colonial town located on a branch of the designated trail, approximately 30 miles from Laredo. Jean Louis Berlandier visited the ruins in 1828.

Time period: 1700s

Ownership: Private

Note: The evaluating team was not granted permission to access this site.

 **Wilson County**

Name: Rancho de las Cabras

Historic use type: Ranch

Description: This ranch is listed in the National Register of Historic Places and is associated with Mission San Francisco de la Espada, whose ruins include standing walls. It was located on the west bank route of the Bexar-La Bahía Road.

Time period: 1700s

Ownership: Public (National Park Service)

 **Zapata County**

Name: [El Rancho] Nuestra Señora de los Dolores Hacienda/Rancho Viejo/Dolores Viejo

Historic use type: Village/town

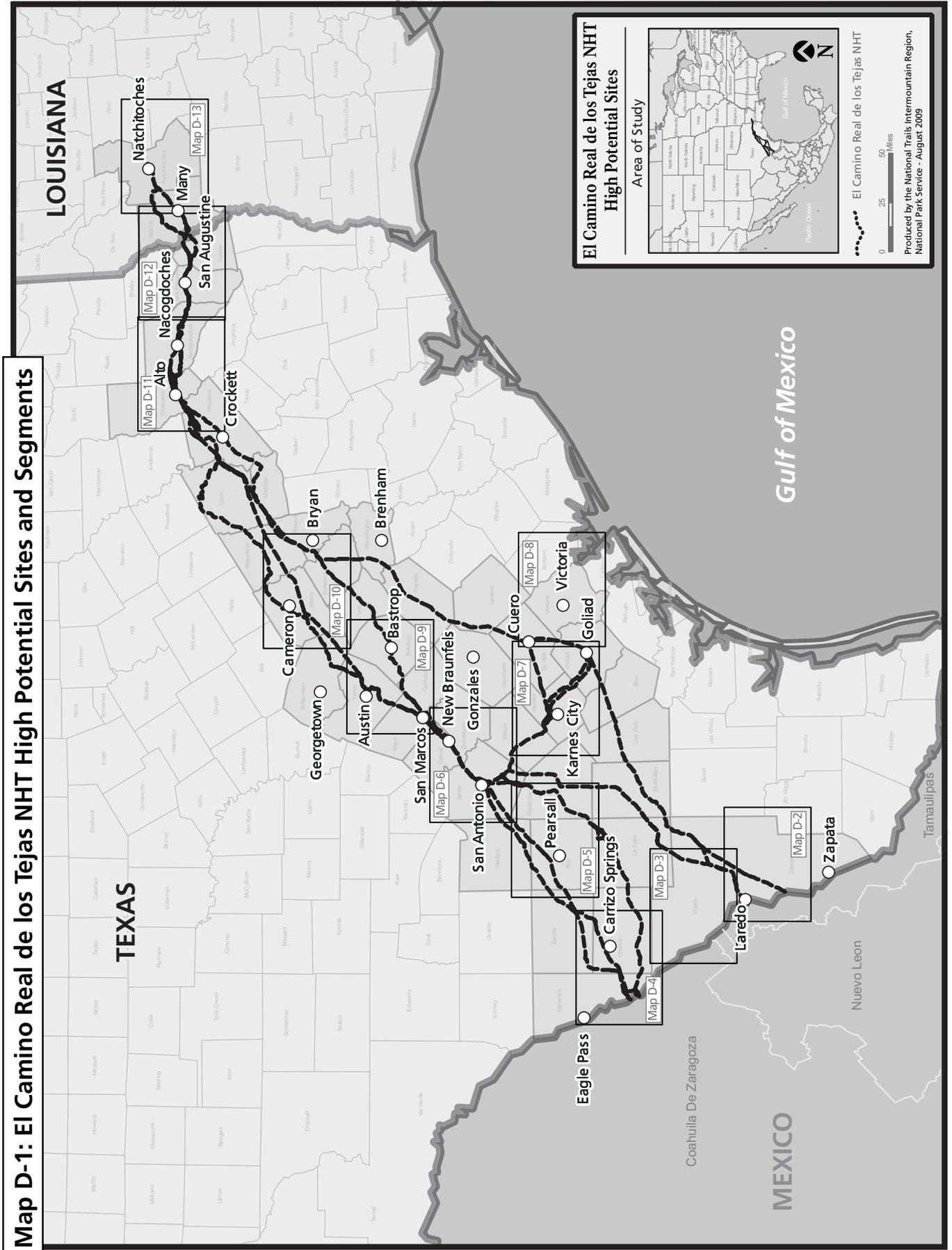
Description: This rancho is listed in the

National Register of Historic Places. It belonged to José Vasquez de Borrego and was the first of the Nuevo Santander ranches north of the Río Grande. It may have had the only ferry across the Río Grande in the early 1750s and was one of the destinations along the San Antonio–Laredo Road.

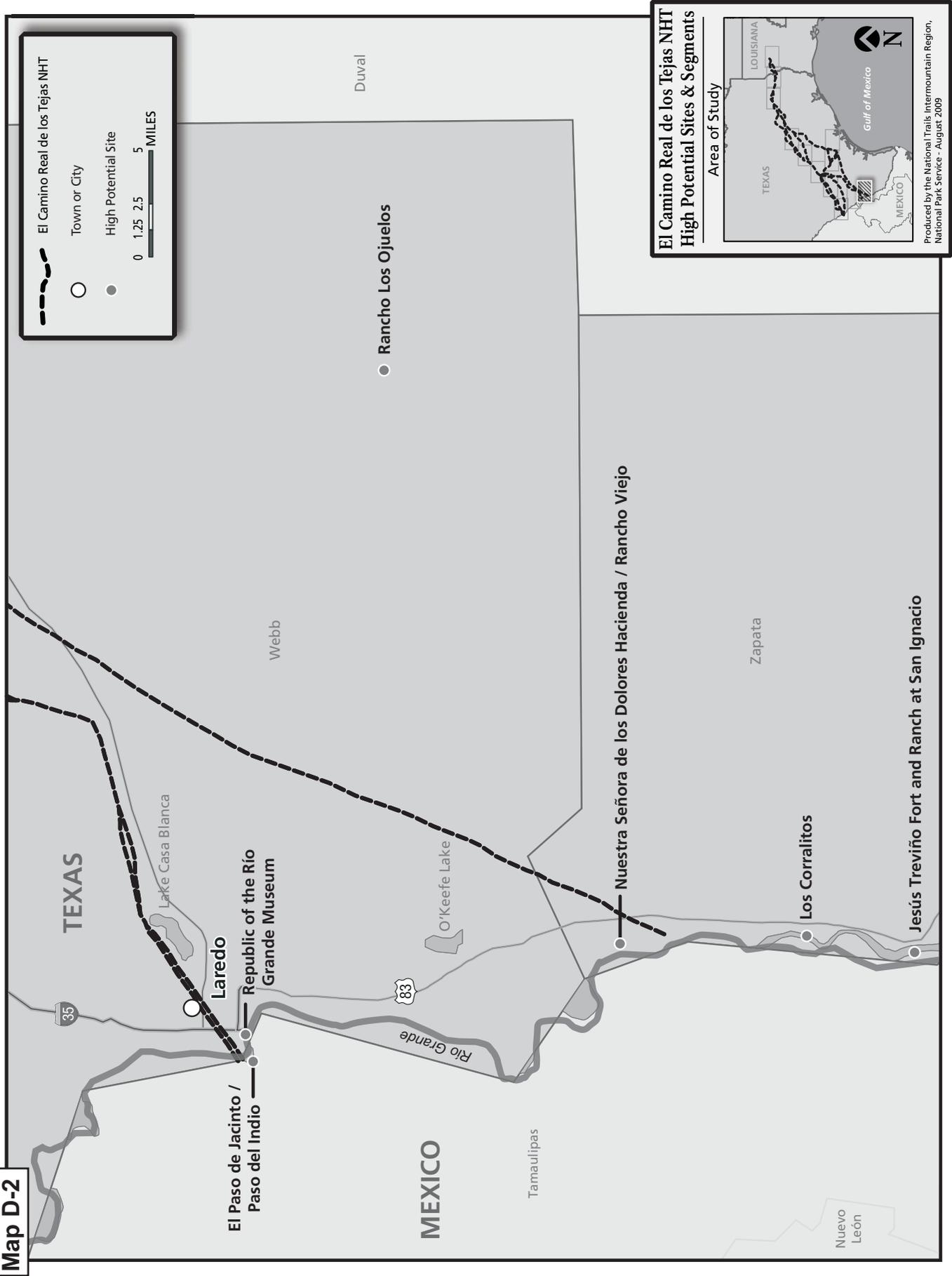
Time period: 1750–1851

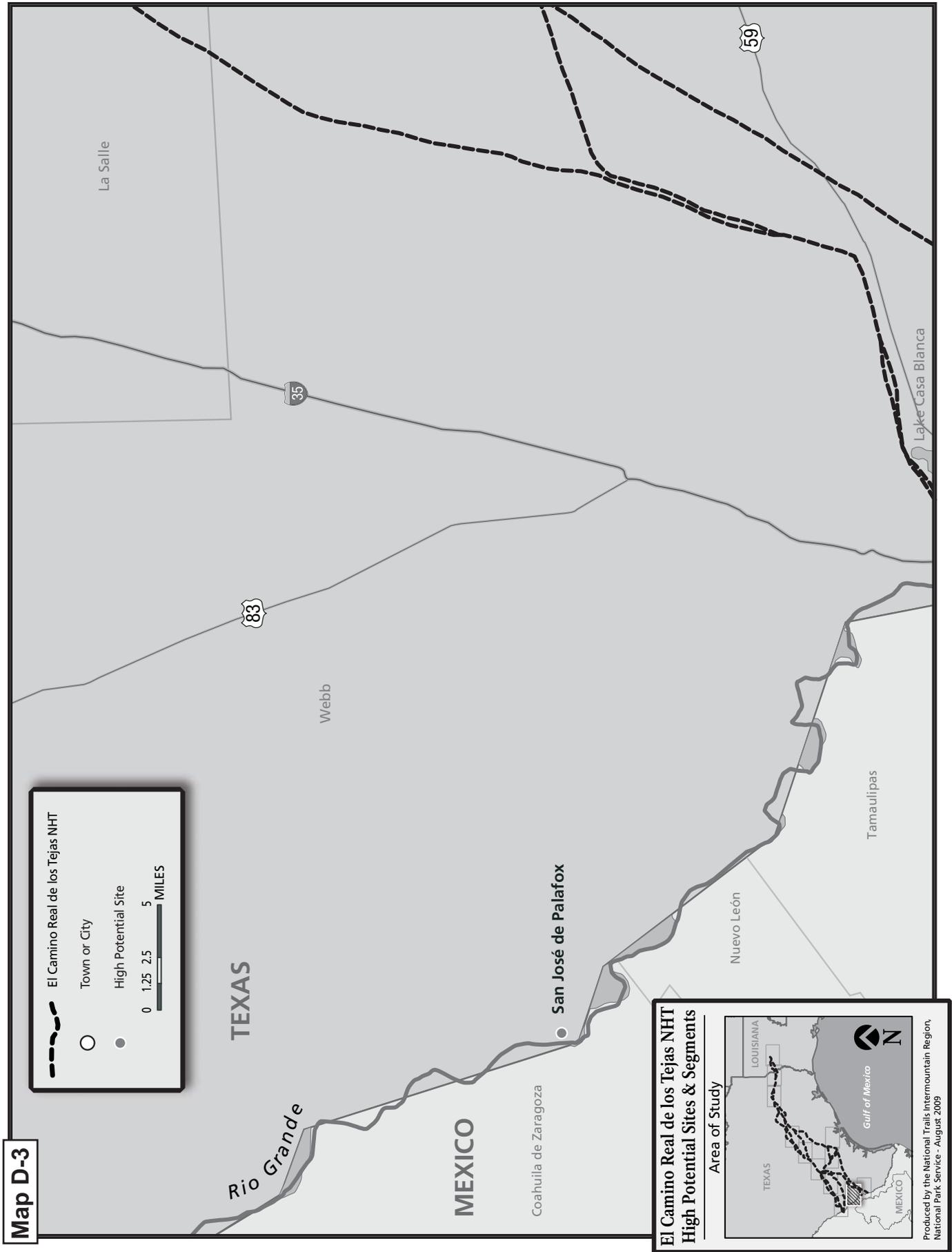
Ownership: Private

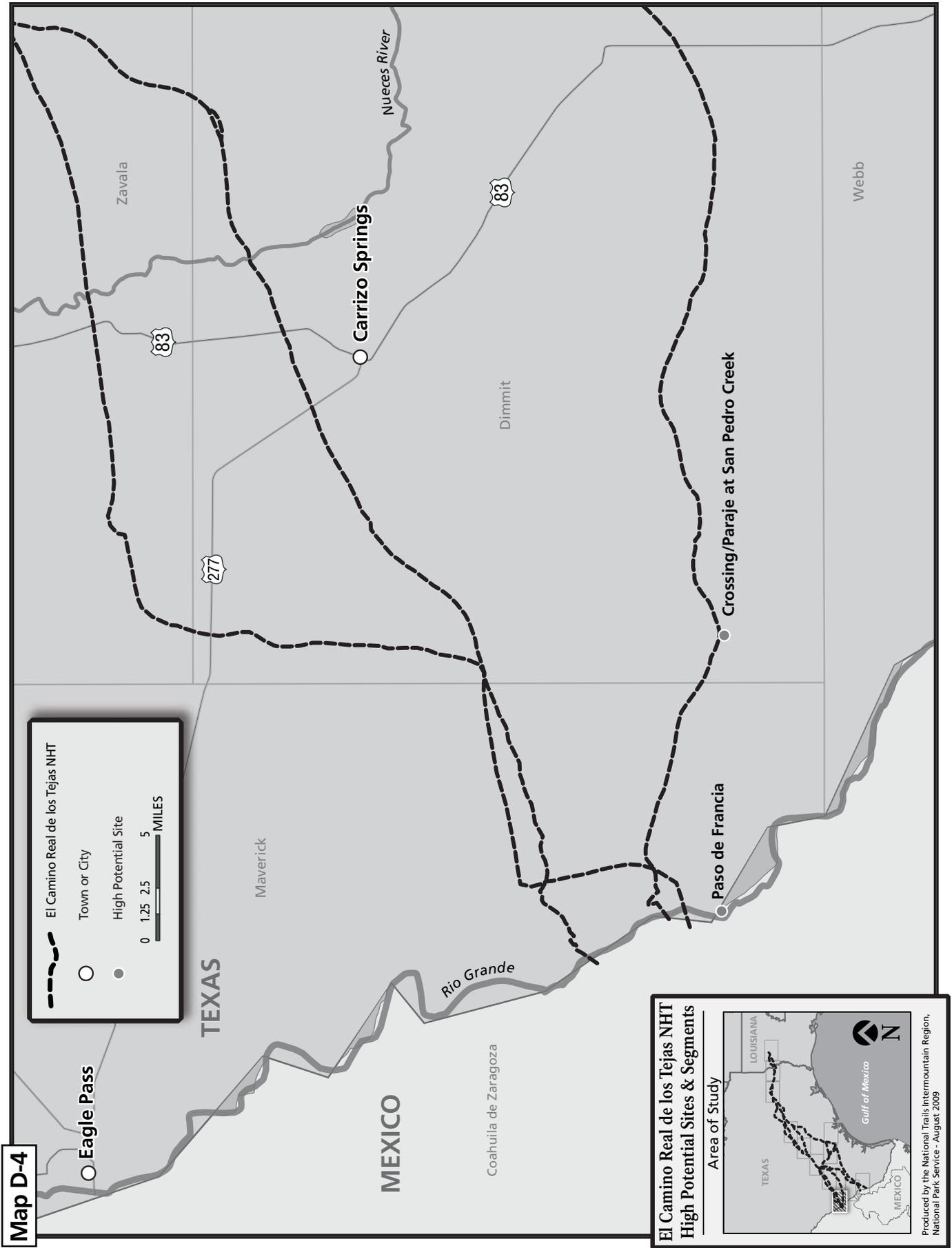
Note: The evaluating team was not granted permission to access this site.



Map D-2







Map D-5

