

MORRIS BROWNING

LICENSED STATE LAND SURVEYOR
PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER NO. 4079



BROWNING BLUE PRINT CO. INC.

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117 EAST THIRD AVENUE

TELEPHONE 8462

AMARILLO, TEXAS

Hon. Bascom Giles
Commissioner of General Land Office
Austin, Texas

Dear Sir:

Herewith I am submitting to you field notes covering my re-survey of the several sections of land comprising the 6666 Ranch located in Carson and Hutchinson Counties. Also I wish to submit the following report as further evidence that I actually retraced the lines as run by the original surveyor, Mr. H. C. Hedrick in 1875.

This re-survey includes all of Block 5 containing 132 sections, and the West 36 sections of Block 4, I. & G. N. RR Surveys. In all there are 168 sections in the ranch, and the re-survey in question. The County line between Carson and Hutchinson cuts the most northerly tiers of sections about midway, leaving about half of the area of the upper fourteen sections in Hutchinson County, the balance being in Carson County. You will note that I have had the field notes of the fourteen sections traversed by the County line filed in both Hutchinson and Carson Counties.

Blocks 4 and 5, I. & G. N. RR were originally surveyed by H. C. Hedrick in 1875. In his field notes Mr. Hedrick calls for earth monuments at each of the four corners of Block 5 built up of sod with bases from 12 to 15 feet and heights from 8 to 10 feet.

In 1888 Mr. P. G. Omohundro, State Surveyor, employed by the New York and Texas Land Company, Limited, made a resurvey of the following lands situated in Gray, Roberts, Hutchinson and Carson Counties; Blocks 2, 3, 4, 5, & 7, I. & G. N. RR and Block B-2 H. & G. N. Of the particular Blocks in which we are interested, Blocks 4 and 5, I. & G. N., Mr. Omohundro ran only the outside Block lines. No field notes were made of the individual sections, but an accurate map was made on heavy cardboard, which is in the office of the White Deer Land Company at Pampa, Texas. The distances shown between the Omohundro corners as he shows them check very close to the corners and distances I found myself, and am showing on my map and field notes. I had the pleasure of knowing Mr. Omohundro during the latter years of his life. He was a graduate of Virginia Military Academy of the Civil Engineering School, and came to the Panhandle soon after his graduation in the year 1886. He was a man who took great pride in his work. He did surveying work in the Panhandle until about the year 1890, when he moved to South Texas. He had lived at Beaumont many years prior to the time of his death in June 1930.

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In the latter part of 1927 and early 1928, Mr. Omohundro was among a party of surveyors, including the writer, who made a joint survey of some lands in Hutchinson County about three miles North of Block 5. In the course of our work we went to the Northeast corner of Block 5, which we identified by bearings called for in the original field notes as follows: Cottonwood 12" in diameter bears S12 $\frac{1}{2}$ E 50 varas, and another cottonwood 18" in diameter bears S 65 $\frac{1}{2}$ W. 80 varas. Mr. Omohundro stated that the earth mounds built up from sod by Mr. Hedrick were easily found as they were high enough to be seen as far as half a mile distant, especially those corners out on the prairie land. He found and identified each of the four corners marking Block 5, the Southeast corner of Block 4 and the Northeast corner of Section 125, Block 4, which are the six controlling corners governing this survey.

As stated above, Mr. Omohundro ran only the outside lines of Blocks 4 & 5. He set 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ " iron pipe in the center of the earth mounds and the same size pipe at each section corner along the line he ran.

Following behind Mr. Omohundro's surveying party, came fencing crews who set posts and built wire fences along the lines as they were established. The fences have been kept up throughout these years, and the iron pipe set by Mr. Omohundro 52 years ago are still there and have been recognized as the actual corners during this time.

I was also on the ground with Mr. Omohundro at the Northwest corner of Block 5. We surveyed East from this corner four miles, finding Omohundro pipe at each corner, to the Northeast corner of Section 125, from where we ran North. A Significant factor proving the position of the Northwest corner of Block 5 is the call in the original field notes for crossing the Santa Fe Trail. This old road can still be traced across the Northwest corner of Section 122 at the distance called for by Mr. Hedrick.

All blocks adjacent to Blocks 5 & 4 were resurveyed from the Omohundro lines and corners which is further evidence of the correctness of the Omohundro resurveys, viz., Block 7 South of Block 4, Blocks 2-TT and Block T, South of Block 5; Block 3, A B & M and Block S, West of Block 5 and Block 1 - B & B, and Block Y-M & C North of Block 5.

Since Mr. Omohundro was working only 13 years later than Mr. Hedrick when the corners were easily found and because of the excellent character of the man and his high standing as a surveyor, there should be no question as to the correctness of Mr. Omohundro's lines. However, there are a number of intermediate calls between corners along the South, West and North lines by which his work can be checked. Therefore, I am comparing these calls with the facts on the ground as I found them for your further information:

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Beginning at the Southeast corner of Sec. 1, Block 5, and running West, Mr. Hedrick calls to cross "head of Spring creek at 1420". Please note a draw we cross at 1506 varas. This draw is a tributary of Dixon Creek however. It is noted that Mr. Hedrick called Spring Creek what we show on our map as Bear Creek. The real Spring Creek is some four or five miles East of Bear Creek.

Continuing West, the original surveyor calls to cross a branch at 1350 varas from the Southeast corner survey 2, We crossed this object at 1500. Another branch is called for at 75 varas West of the Southeast corner of Survey No. 3. We find this branch at 145 varas West of Mr. Omohundro's pipe marking that corner.

A creek crossing is called for 1507 varas West of the Southeast corner survey 4. We check the original surveyor almost identical on this call. We also check Mr. Hedrick in his call to cross creek at 1600 varas West of the Southeast corner survey 5. Again we check the surveyor in his call to cross a creek at 580 varas West of the Southeast corner of Section 6.

Another Creek crossing is called for 740 varas West of the Southeast corner of survey 7, and again we check with the surveyor, as well as the call to cross the branch at 700 varas West of the Southeast corner of survey 8. With seemingly regularity, we check the following calls: At 680 varas West of the Southeast corner of section 9 cross a creek; at 365 varas West of Southeast corner of Sec. 10 cross branch.

Beginning at the Southwest corner survey 11 and running North along the West line of Block 5, we do not find any calls for natural or artificial objects by which we can identify any corner until we get to the Northwest corner of section 122, which is the Northwest corner of Block 5. A rock mound is called for at the Northwest corner of section 56, and a rock mound from which 2 cottonwoods 2 feet in diameter bear North 940 varas, was the call for the Northwest corner of Sec. 78. Neither of these rock mounds have been found, nor the cottonwood bearing trees. Mr. Omohundro told me he was running South from the Northwest corner of the Block, and that he did not remember looking for these corners while running the line. His field books, which are on file in the office of the White Deer Land Company at Pampa, Texas do not show that he found the corners, neither does his original map.

We find a very important call that should identify the Northwest corner of Block 5, in the field notes of survey 122. Beginning at the Northwest corner of survey 121 - Thence North "at 1620 varas across Santa Fe Road; at 1900 varas to a monument 12 foot base by 8 feet high - Thence East at 700 varas across Santa Fe road". I found some portions of very old ruts at each of the calls to cross the West and the North lines. However, newer ruts paralleling these calls a few varas to the north are plainly visible. The writer knows

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from his own experience, as a boy, that it was customary for drivers of wagons and buggies to pull out on the sod in muddy weather, so these newer ruts would also be called a part of the Santa Fe Road or Trail.

Running East from the Northwest corner of Block 5, we note a call to cross a branch at 980 varas East of the Northwest corner section 126. We crossed Hell Creek at 1018 from the above corner.

Continuing East Mr. Hedrick calls to cross "Limestone Creek" at 1400 East of the Northwest corner of Sec. 130. We crossed Dixon Creek, at that distance, which am positive is the same creek he referred to as "Limestone" creek.

A rock mound from which a cottonwood 2' in diameter bears E 60 varas is the description of the Northeast corner Sec. 130. I did not dig underneath the surface to find the rock mound, neither did I find the bearing tree. I checked Mr. Hedrick on his call to cross "Spring Creek" which is really Bear Creek at 1780 varas East of the Northwest corner of survey 132.

Mr. Hedrick did not call for any ties to natural objects along the East line of Block 5, which is also the West line of Block 4. Therefore it is reasonable to suppose that he did not run a line on the ground between the corners marking that line.

As stated before, Mr. P. G. Omohundro ran only the outside lines of Blocks 5 and 4, leaving the Panhandle country in 1890. The East line of this ranch being an interior line in Block 4, was surveyed by the late Mr. T. D. Hobart of Pampa, Texas. Mr. Hobart ran the line running South from Mr. Omohundro's iron pipe marking the Northeast corner of survey 121 Block 4 to the Southeast corner of survey 9. At the section corners along the line, he set 1 1/2" iron pipe, the same as Mr. Omohundro did. Mr. Hobart also ran a three mile line from the Northwest corner of survey 34 Block 4, eastward to the Northeast corner of survey 36. I gave the same recognition to Mr. Hobart's corners as I did to Mr. Omohundro's, as I found them to have been correctly re-established.

Through the courtesy of the officials of the United States Soil Conservation Service, who were kind enough to allow me access to their aerial photographs, I have shown the creeks and draws and other objects on the map in their identical locations as they lie on the ground.

I wish to thank you very much for your cooperation and assistance in making this survey.

Yours very truly

Morris Browning
Licensed Land Surveyor

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