

JOHN F. BAKER  
SURVEYOR  
FORT WORTH, TEXAS

11-756  
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JUL 1 1958

GENERAL LAND OFFICE

June 27, 1958.

Commissioner of the  
General Land Office,  
Austin 14, Texas.

Dear Sir:

This is a report and discussion to accompany corrected field notes, for patenting, of Surveys 14 through 18 in Block 2, originally made for the Texas and Pacific Railway Company, in Presidio County, Texas.

The records of the General Land Office reveal that:

1. The surveys in Block 2 were originally located by L. E. Edwards, surveyor of El Paso County, in August of 1873. These field notes are endorsed "Cancelled by corrected field notes". We didn't find that any patents were issued on these field notes.

2. Corrected field notes were filed in the Land Office showing a survey by S. A. Thompson, surveyor of Presidio County, in the fall of 1884. These corrected field notes called for corner objects, witness trees, mountain bearings, and other descriptive calls along the Rio Grande River. These notes, like the originals, called for the surveys to be 950 varas between the sidelines and extend North 50 degrees East from the Rio Grande River to embrace 640 acres. The northeast, or back lines, called to be at right angles to the side lines.

A comparison of the descriptions of the corners on the river and the descriptions of the back corners (in the mountains), indicates to us, as surveyors, that the only running on the ground was done along the Rio Grande River.

The field notes (both original and corrected) called to adjoin only other surveys in Block 2, each survey building from the preceding one.

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3. In March and April of 1910, T. H. Seay, Special Deputy Surveyor of Presidio County, and Paul McCombs, surveyor for the Texas and Pacific Railway Company, made an investigation to locate corners and lines of surveys in Block 2 in the vicinity of Candelaria. Their sketch, report, and letters are filed in the Land Office as Rolled Sketch "MS" in Presidio County.

The sketch and report show:

(a) That Seay and McCombs found the upper River corner of Survey 5 as described in the field notes by Thompson.

(b) The angle between the mountain bearings was found to be as described in the field notes by Thompson, but it was necessary to use a variation of 17 degrees, being 5 degrees 21 minutes more than that reported by Thompson. (Some difference was to be expected as the normal change between 1884 and 1910, but not more than 5 degrees).

(c) Using the 17 degree variation, and running as called for by Thompson, these surveyors found the upper corner of Survey 7 (mountain bearing as called, and one marked witness tree and the stump of the other), the upper corner of Survey 8 (one marked witness tree in place), and the upper corner of Survey 10, (both witness trees standing as called for, and one tree marked as described in the Thompson field notes).

(d) Seay and McCombs determined Thompson's direction by orienting on mountain bearings from the identified corner of Survey No. 5, and verified this direction by traversing to other corners and finding the courses to witness trees or mountain peaks to be as called in the field notes. The side lines of the surveys were run at called course based on the above orientation; that is between 5 and 6 degrees counter clockwise from the direction recited in Thompson's field notes.

(e) Some slight excess was found, and it was prorated between the identified corners on the River. No determination is indicated for the back corners of the Surveys.

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(f) The above discussed construction, or reestablishment, was endorsed and approved by the Land Office. This is shown by the letter from McCombs to Seay, a copy of which is in the Land Office: "I have explained fully to the Chief Draftsman and to the Commissioner the whole matter and they approve of my construction; and asked me to have you as Deputy Surveyor file in the G. L. O. a copy of your field notes and map of the survey you and I made."

We agree with Mr. McCombs, and with the Land Office, that it was good surveying practice then, and it is good surveying practice now.

Going on the ground we find a large, long, rock in a mound of rocks, on the point of a rocky hill, and at a sharp bend in the Rio Grande River. The large, long, rock is marked 'X' and 'R'. From the appearance of the rock and rock mound, its position relative to the River, the old markings on the rock (which are the same as called for on witness trees by Thompson), and the sharp round peak for a bearing, we are satisfied that we have found the upper, or northerly River corner of Survey No. 19 in Block 2, T. & P. Ry. Co. by S. A. Thompson.

We made a connection from United States Coast and Geodetic Survey Station "CANDELARIA", just north of the town of the same name, to the above corner of Survey 19 and found that the course from the corner to the peak is North 14 degrees 31 minutes East. This is true direction based on a meridian through the Station "Candelaria". Thompson called for the peak to bear North 20 degrees East from the corner. Thus we find that North, as used by Thompson, was 5 degrees 29 minutes to the left, or counter clockwise, from true north.

Using Thompson's direction we have reestablished the south, or lower, River corner of Survey No. 14 from its calls for the large rock and two mountain bearings. This placement of the corner allows Thompson's calls to be satisfied.

JOHN F. BAKER  
SURVEYOR  
FORT WORTH, TEXAS

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We have located Surveys 14 through 19 as follows:

(a) Using Thompson's direction as determined from his bearings, as discussed above, for the side lines and northeast, or back, lines, we allowed the called distance in the field notes for the northwest line of Survey No. 19 and for the southeast line of Survey No. 14. These distances are from Thompson's corners and not from the River.

(b) This construction reveals a slight excess along the back lines of the Surveys, and a similar excess in the jogs, or offsets, in the back corners. We have prorated these excesses to determine a position for the back corners and the side lines. The side lines were projected southwesterly to the present easterly bank of the Rio Grande River.

(c) Objects were set on the side lines of the Surveys, near the River Road, to be above reasonable high water and to be more easily found.

We hope this furnishes the information needed for your consideration of the corrected field notes filed herewith for patenting.

Respectfully yours,

*John F. Baker*  
John F. Baker,  
Licensed State Land Surveyor.

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File No. 21621910  
Rio Grande Report  
Compta

Filed  
1958  
18  
COOK'S  
COURT

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File No. 92  
Presidio County  
Surveyors Report

Filed 7-1 1958

BILL ALLCORN, Com'r

By J. H. Ulbricht

Sec - 14, 15, 16, 17, 18  
& 19 - Block 2,  
T & P. Ry. Co.  
By John F. Baker

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John F. Baker,  
Respectfully yours,  
John F. Baker



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Thompson's corners and not from the River.  
Southeast line of Survey No. 14. These distances are from  
notes for the northwest line of Survey No. 19 and for the  
or back, lines, we allowed the called distance in the field  
bearings, as discussed above, for the side lines and northeast  
(s) Using Thompson's direction as determined from his  
We have located Surveys 14 through 19 as follows:

Commissioner of the General Land Office.  
Baker No. 4.

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