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Re: Sections 20, 22 and 26, T.C.Ry.Co. Block 1  
Terrell County, Texas

File No Sketch File 41  
TERRELL County

Filed October 29 19 98

GARRY MAURO, Com'r  
SURVEY REPORT By Douglas Howard

See Rld. SK. 60

## HISTORY

The T.C.Ry.Co. Block 1 was placed upon the ground by H.C. Barton, Deputy Surveyor, Pecos County, in July 1881. Section 2 (originally Section 1 - Numbering of the first four sections being changed by General Land Office per letter dated September 22, 1882) calls to begin at "Stone Mound in Valley 2 miles East of SE Corner Section 6, Block 34, University Lands at Independence Creek". Field Notes for each succeeding Section calls to begin at the previous one, with Sections adjacent to the University Lands making adjoinder calls for common corners. Mr. Barton apparently ran a traverse in a Westerly direction, meandering thru Block 1. The general route of the traverse can be ascertained by his Field Note calls for stone or pebble mounds at a number of corners within the Block.

University Blocks 34, 35, 36 and 37 were the only other surveys within the area at the time, having been located by R.M. Thomson, Surveyor for University Lands, in December 1879. Stone Mounds were called for at a number of corners within this block.

In May 1882, L.W. Durrell, Deputy Surveyor for Pecos County, ran a connecting line from the Northwest corner of Section 1 (now Section 2) Block 1, T.C.Ry.Co., to the mouth of Independence Creek and thence continuing on to Geddis Spring and Myers Spring. Mr. Durrell began at a "rock mound built in valley from whence a bush on a round top hill bears South 15° East at the Northwest corner of Section 1 (2) and the Northeast corner of Section 9". Continuing then S.45°W. 2688 varas to a "Stone mound from whence a point of a mountain on the South side of Independence Creek bears North 53° East". He further states that the rock mound is the Southwest corner of Survey 9 in Block 1. He then continues North 45° West 2688 varas to a "mound built on a rocky bluff above valley" for the Southeast corner of Survey 6, University Block 34, and also the Northwest corner of

Survey 10, Block 1, T.C.Ry.Co., Thence North 1900 varas to a large mound of white rock situated on a bluff West of Independence Creek. Said rock mound is marked "Barton 1879" also "Thompson" and "T.A.T." Said corner is the Northeast corner of Survey 6, University Block No. 34, and the Southeast corner of Survey No. 5 in same block. The connecting line then continues on to the mouth of Independence Creek. Block 161 lying to the East and South of said T.C.Ry.Co. Block 1 was located from this connecting line.

The next record of surveys that we find being made in this area was the resurvey of the University Lands by Frank F. Friend, Special Surveyor of University Lands, in July and August, 1934 and filed of record in 1938. Mr. Friend reported that of the 64 stone mounds called for by Thomson in the original survey of the University Lands, he only found two, being the Northeast corner of Block 34, and the Southwest corner of Block 35. The map of Friend's work indicated that he found the Original (Barton) corners at the Northwest and Northeast corners, of Section 11, said Block 1, and that he found a "corner which may or may not be original" at the Southeast corner of Survey 69, said Block 1.

In February 1950, H. Conger Jones, surveyed several sections in T.C.Ry.Co. Block 1 (Rolled Sketch 49), lying immediately West of our area of concern and patents issued.

James k. Avera, a Licensed State Land Surveyor of San Angelo, made a survey for the Mitchell and Corder Ranches (G.L.O. Rolled Sketch 36) in December 1939 and January 1940. This survey included the West end of said T.C.Ry.Co. Block 1, and a portion of C.C.S.D. & R.G.N.G.Ry.Co. Survey Block 1, which was a continuation of Barton's work of 1881. It is noted that he accepted the Stone Mound at the Southwest corner of the University Block 35 as being common with the Northeast corner of T.C.Ry.Co. Survey 68, Block 1, and the rock mound at the Southeast corner of T.C.Ry.Co. Survey 69, said Block 1, as identified by Friend as "may or may not be original".

### **SURVEY FINDINGS:**

In February 1994 we began a search and retracement of Barton's traverse in said T.C.Ry.Co. Block 1. Recovering the stone mounds at the Northeast and Northwest corners of Survey 11 as identified by Frank Friend, we began running a traverse to corners where stone, rock, or pebble mounds were called for. Accessory bearings to physical features as called for were observed. This aided in finding and identifying a number of the original monuments. Of the monuments not recovered, most were in areas of flash flooding or other unstable sites and time has probably taken its toll. The monuments recovered are indicated on our accompanying Survey Plat.

A considerable amount of time was spent searching for "Pebble Mound" Barton called for at the Northeast corner of Section 49 and at the Northeast corner of Section 89 with no positive results. Within a 300 vara radius of the predicted site of the Northeast corner of Section 89, several rock mounds of varying size were found. Several were found to be in a line, indicating an old fence. One was of sufficient size and shape to have been an old grave. None were of the character and size of other Barton Corners, and probably were not placed by any surveyor. There is indication of old

habitation nearby.

As previously observed when retracting other work by H.C.Barton, 50 to 100 varas excess per mile is not unusual. This Block seems to be no exception.

## CONCLUSIONS AND CONSTRUCTION

Mr. Barton apparently knew where the southeast corner of the University Block 34 was. This conclusion can be made from the fact that L.C.Durrell, in his Connecting Line Notes of 1882, began at Barton's stone mound two miles East of the Southeast Corner of the University Block, then ran diagonally Southwest to the Southwest corner of Survey 9, said Block 1, then Northwest to a mound on a rocky bluff above a valley at the Southeast corner of University Block 34. Mr. Durrell also noted the large mound of white rock situated on a bluff West of Independence Creek being marked "Barton 1879" and "Thompson", this being 1 mile North of said Southeast corner of Block 34. (A thorough search lasting several days was made for this mound, however no evidence was found).

A brass disk as marked by Frank Friend was recovered at the Southeast corner of the University Block 34, as well as a small stone mound several varas to the Southeast. The position of both are on top of a plateau overlooking a valley below. As the stone mound could not be identified and not being of the size and character of the Thomson mounds recovered by Mr. Friend, we felt that his brass disk should be accepted as the common Northwest corner to Survey 10, said Block 1.

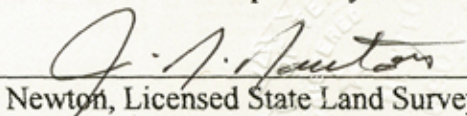
Mr. Barton made adjoinder calls to the University sections as he progressed to the West, however no evidence exists that he actually retraced the South line of the University Blocks or knew precisely the location of Mr. Thomson's monuments to the west. From Barton's traverse, we find no indication that he ever tied back into Mr. Thomson on the University Blocks. Since considerable excess exist in Barton's work, we believe that from his tie at the Southeast corner of University Block 34, he had knowledge of the South line of the University, however he made the adjoinder calls for Thomson's mounds along the South line through conjecture. The call for common corners with the University should be broken, but since he is considered to have knowledge of the South line, the call for adjoinder with it should be honored.

As noted on our map, the stone mound found by Friend and adopted by Avera for the Southeast corner of Survey 69, said Block 1, is approximately 513 varas Easterly from Barton's original Southeast corner of Survey 69, which can be identified by his accessory bearing, and its relative position to the Original mound at the Southeast corner of Survey 66.

In 1879 Mr. Thomson used a needle variation of  $10^{\circ}$  East for the University Surveys. Mr. Barton used a needle variation of  $11^{\circ}$  East in 1881 for his work. This difference is apparent in the work of the two surveyors. We find a little over  $1^{\circ}$  difference between the University Lands as resurveyed by Mr. Friend and an average meridian of Mr. Barton's work as retraced by us. The slight difference over  $1^{\circ}$  probably due to the movement of the magnetic pole over the two year span.

A review of our plat will show that lines were connected between corresponding original monuments. Meridional lines based upon an average bearing of Barton's work were extended through found original monuments and from prorated corners between them. Straight lines at right angles to the average meridian were then extended thru the remaining original monuments.

Respectfully submitted;

  
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J.N. Newton, Licensed State Land Surveyor