

Presidio COUNTY ROLLED SKETCH NO. 120  
Maps showing various locations of Rio Grande River  
SURVEYED I. B. & W. C. BY J. F. Fricdkin -  
RECEIVED Sept. 17, 1974  
FILED Filed - 3-7-83 -

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INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY AND WATER COMMISSION  
UNITED STATES AND MEXICO

200 IBWC BUILDING  
4110 RIO BRAVO  
EL PASO, TEXAS 79998

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER  
UNITED STATES SECTION

MAILING ADDRESS:  
P. O. BOX 20003

SEP 17 1974

Mr. Bob Armstrong  
Texas General Land Office  
Stephen F. Austin Building  
1700 North Congress  
Austin, Texas 78701

*Ph: 915 543-7300*

Dear Commissioner Armstrong:

I appreciate very much your letter of September 5, 1974, with reference to the lands in the Presidio Valley of Presidio County, lying between the patented surveys and the Rio Grande, in follow-up of our good meeting in your office on August 29, 1974.

We are pleased to furnish, in response to your request for material evidence of the river movements, the enclosed composite map of the area in question which shows the surveyed locations of the river in 1852, following the 1848 Treaty, in 1895, in 1905, in 1908, in 1910 and in 1969, as compiled from survey records and aerial photographs on file in our office here in El Paso, all of which may be reviewed by your representative at any time. Also enclosed is an overlay for the map showing the latest patent lines based upon patent information obtained from a review of the files in your office, and the office of the County Clerk, which clearly shows the additions of land to the north bank by movement of the river since the patent surveys.

As can be readily seen from the map, the 1852 survey shows that the river was then along the north edge of the valley and the 1969 survey shows the river to be more nearly along the south edge of the valley. This is the evidence supporting our statements to you that the land in question has been shifted from the south to the north of the Rio Grande by the changes in the course of the river since the boundary was established following the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo in 1848.

Let me again express my real thanks to you for affording me the opportunity to visit with you in your office on August 29, 1974, and for your interest in this matter.

Sincerely,

J. F. Friedkin  
Commissioner

cc: James J. Kaster  
State Representative  
Austin, Texas

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October 21, 1974

Mr. J. F. Friedkin, Commissioner  
International Boundary and Water Commission  
P. O. Box 20003  
El Paso, Texas 79998

Dear Commissioner Friedkin:

I have your letter of recent date with which you enclosed a map and overlay showing the movement of the Rio Grande River in the Ojinaga area in Presidio County.

Our legal and engineering divisions have studied this problem and compared the movement of the river on your map with other information we have in our office. Like any other factual study, we were hopeful that we could find more information than we have been able to find concerning the gradual or evulsive change of the river since 1870 to the present time. It appears from information available that the river, at the time of the grants along the area in which the Boundary Commission proposes to straighten the river in the Ojinaga area, was approximately at the called distance of the various surveys. All surveys have adjoinder calls to the river and when the river moved, either by a slow gradual change or by an evulsive change as the result of flood action, ownership of the additional land on the north side of the river could not be claimed by the State of Texas but would be the property of private individuals, either those in the United States or possibly a claim by someone in Mexico.

In view of the above facts, it appears that the State of Texas does not have a claim and that the area between the called distance of the surveys in this area and the actual existence of the river today on the ground would

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Mr. J. F. Friedkin - page 2

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be accreted land. We have concluded that this is accreted land as a result of the adjoining calls, or that in the case of an evulsive change, there is a possibility that Mexico and/or her citizens might have a claim to some of the area. In either of the above factual situations, the State of Texas could not claim the acreage as excess acreage or vacant land.

Sincerely yours,

Bob Armstrong

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cc: Mr. James J. Kaster  
State Representative  
Austin, Texas

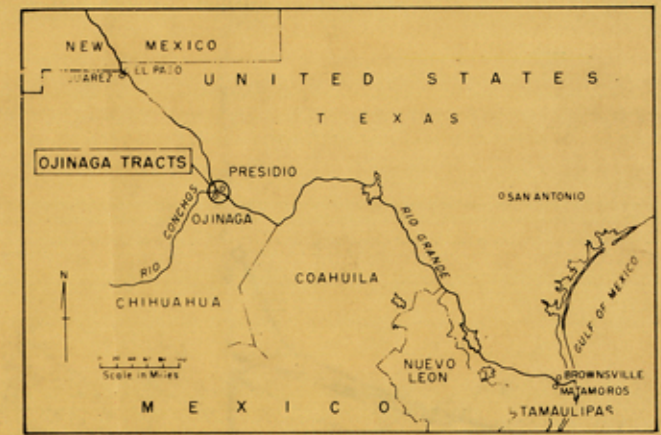
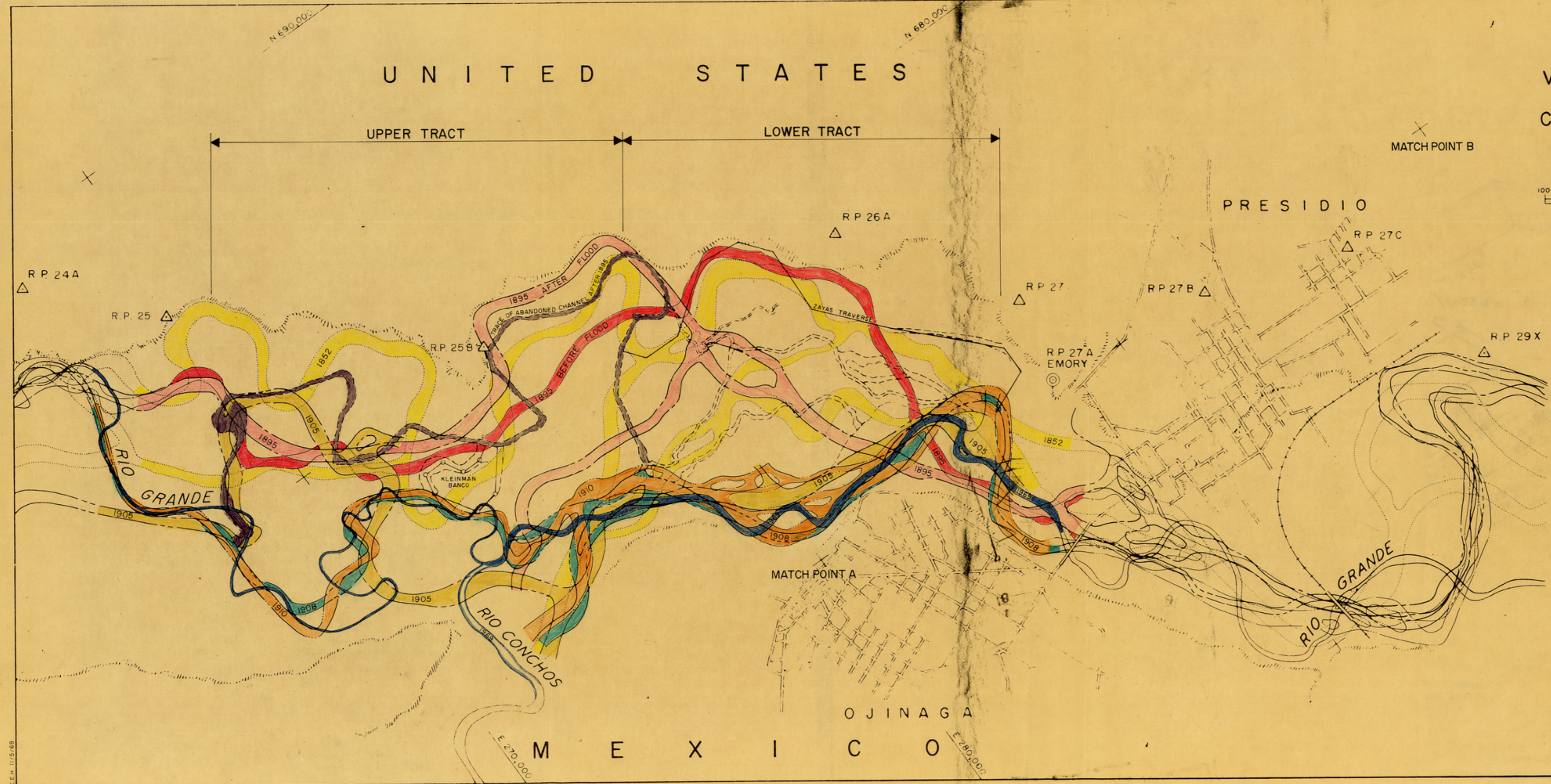
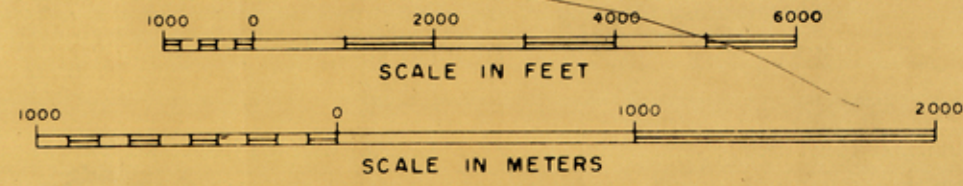
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UNITED STATES

RIO GRANDE  
VICINITY OF PRESIDIO-OJINAGA TRACTS  
SHOWING  
CHANNELS OF THE RIVER 1852 TO 1969



LOCATION MAP

LEGEND

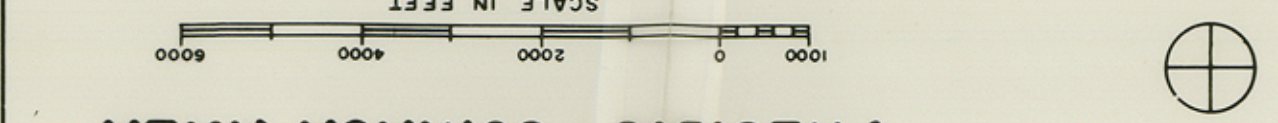
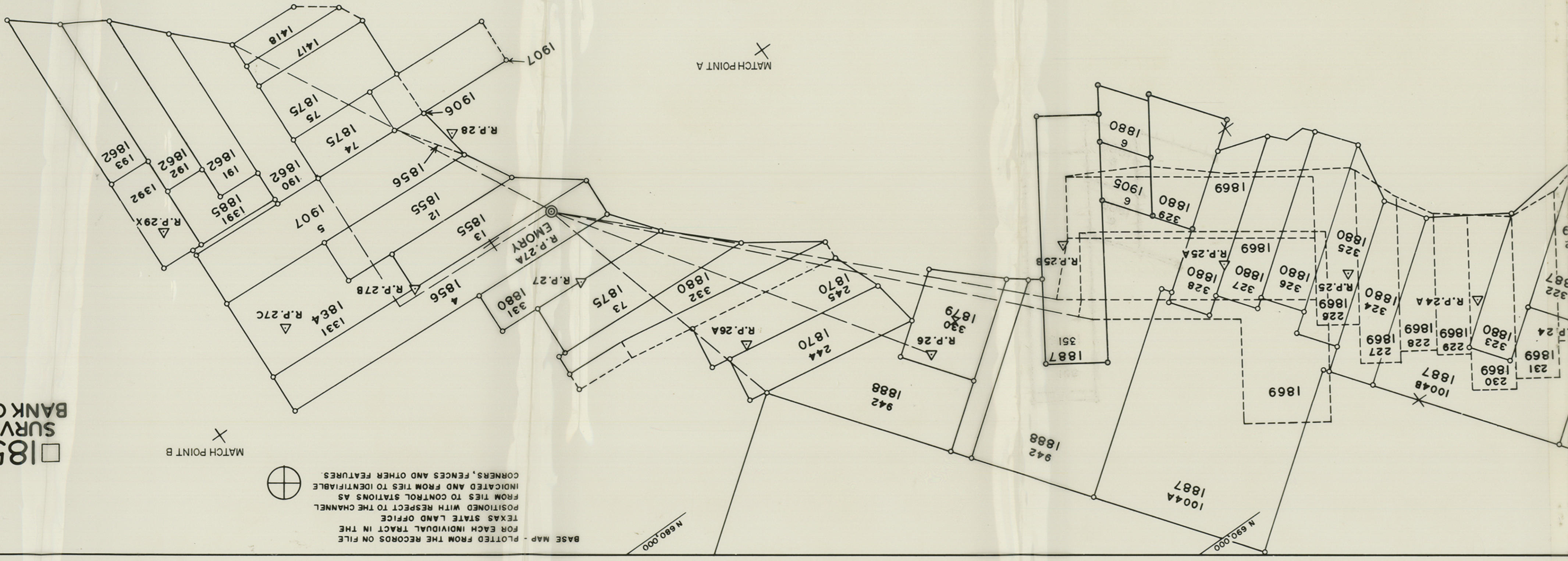
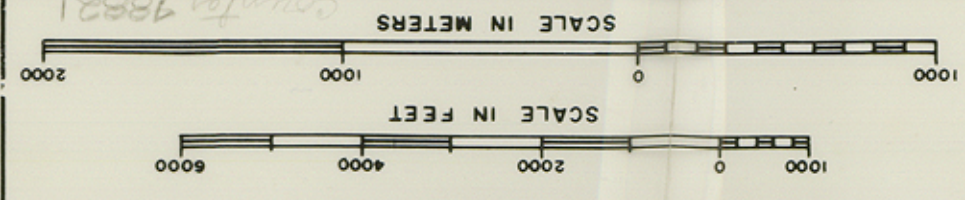
-  1852 EMORY-SALAZAR SURVEY
-  1895 U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY (BEFORE FLOOD)
-  1895 U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY (AFTER FLOOD)
-  1905 MEXICAN ARMY SURVEY
-  1908 MEXICAN SECTION SURVEY
-  1910 U.S. SECTION I. B. C. SURVEY
-  TRACES OF ABANDONED CHANNELS AS SURVEYED BY MEXICAN SECTION IN 1908 & BY U. S. SECTION IN 1910
-  1969 I. B. & W. C. AERIAL SURVEY



1855-1907  
 SURVEY OF NORTH  
 BANK OF RIO GRANDE

BASE MAP - PLOTTED FROM THE RECORDS ON FILE  
 FOR EACH INDIVIDUAL TRACT IN THE  
 TEXAS STATE LAND OFFICE  
 POSITIONED WITH RESPECT TO THE CHANNEL  
 FROM TIES TO CONTROL STATIONS AS  
 INDICATED AND FROM TIES TO IDENTIFIABLE  
 CORNERS, FENCES AND OTHER FEATURES.

RIO GRANDE  
 PRESIDIO - QUINAGA AREA



E 280,000

E 270,000

N 680,000

N 690,000