NPS Form 10-900a OMB No. 1024-0018

(8-86)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section _____ Page ___

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SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 14000626 **Date Listed: 09/17/2014**

Panther Junction Mission 66 Historic District	Brewster	TX
Property Name	County	State

N/A
Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

9/17/2014
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

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Amended Items in Nomination:

Significance:
The appropriate level of significance as justified in the nomination is: *local*
[The nomination does not support national significance. Association with the nationally significant themes of the Mission 66 program does not automatically convey national significance, unless the resource(s) can be shown to have played an exceptional or precedent setting role in the larger program. The Panther Junction resources represent a locally significant manifestation of the important Mission 66 activities and programs.]

The Period of Significance is revised to read: *1948—1963.*
[The period reflects that start of the park's comprehensive planning effort and ends with the completion of the final Mission 66-era facility-- the Administration Building. While the Mission 66/Parkscape USA programs ran up to 1972, the activities at Big Bend National Park directly associated with those programs were limited to a smaller period.]

These clarifications were confirmed with the NPS FPO and Regional offices.

DISTRIBUTION:
National Register property file
Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

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National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form.* If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Panther Junction Mission 66 historic district

Other names/site number: Park Headquarters

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

2. Location

Street & number: Big Bend National Park

City or town: _____ State: Texas County: Brewster

Not For Publication: ☐ Vicinity: ☐

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

X **national** ___ **statewide** ___ **local**

Applicable National Register Criteria:

X **A** ___ **B** X **C** ___ **D**

Robert Sutton, Deputy FPO July 30, 2014

Signature of certifying official/Title: **Date**

National Park Service

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official: **Date**

Title : **State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government**

NPS Form 10-900

OMB No. 1024-0018

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

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A **B** **C** **D**

Signature of certifying official/Title:	**Date**
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.

Mark Wolfe 5/22/14

Signature of commenting official:	**Date**
Title :	**State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government**

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

✓ entered in the National Register

___ determined eligible for the National Register

___ determined not eligible for the National Register

___ removed from the National Register

___ other (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper — Date of Action: 9/17/2014

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

Private:	☐
Public – Local	☐
Public – State	☐
Public – Federal	X

Category of Property

Building(s)	☐
District	X
Site	☐
Structure	☐
Object	☐

Panther Junction Mission 66 Historic District | Brewster, Texas
Name of Property | County and State

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
37	25	buildings
1		sites
	6	structures
		objects
38	31	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use
Historic Functions

DOMESTIC: multiple dwelling
DOMESTIC: single dwelling
DOMESTIC: secondary structure
GOVERNMENT: government office
GOVERNMENT: post office
EDUCATION: school
RECREATION & CULTURE: outdoor recreation
TRANSPORTATION: road related

Current Functions

DOMESTIC: multiple dwelling
DOMESTIC: single dwelling
DOMESTIC: secondary structure
GOVERNMENT: government office
GOVERNMENT: post office
EDUCATION: school
RECREATION & CULTURE: outdoor recreation
TRANSPORTATION: road related

7. Description

Architectural Classification

_Modern: Park Service Modern

Materials:

Principal exterior materials of the property: _Concrete, Wood, Brick, Metal

Narrative Description

Summary Paragraph

The Panther Junction complex is near the center of Big Bend National Park, Texas, at the junction of TX 118 (Park Route 13) and US 385 (Park Route 11). Panther Junction serves as park headquarters and houses the majority of National Park Service (NPS) employees. The site was selected as park headquarters in 1948, four years after the park was officially established. Panther Junction was initially developed in the 1950s and early 1960s. Additional buildings and structures were built between 1980 and 2010 to support park operations.

The Panther Junction Mission 66 historic district qualifies for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under criterion A for association with broad patterns of history under the themes of community planning and design and a major movement within the National Park Service to modernize park units after World War II. The district also qualifies under criterion C for embodiment of a distinct characteristic (community planning) and a type of architectural design standard of Mission 66 development. Although the majority of the residences have undergone some interior and exterior renovations, the district retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. The period of significance is from 1948, with the selection of the site, until 1972 with the ending of the Mission 66 era.

The Panther Junction Mission 66 historic district includes the site and buildings constructed in the initial phase of development at Panther Junction and designed to the Mission 66 philosophy and in NPS modern style. The district comprises 37 contributing buildings and one contributing site. The buildings include the Panther Junction Visitor Center / Administration Building

(building 310); residence buildings (residences 203, 205, 232, 234, 238, 223, 224, 227, 228, 230, 233, 237, 248, 309, 312, 313, 319, 222, 225, 226, 231, 235, 250, 320, 236 a/b, 201, 208, 213, 220, 215 and 217); laundry building (one contributing building); Saint Vincent School, 249 (one contributing building, three noncontributing buildings); utilities buildings (maintenance building, 242, telephone building, 271); and service station (building 311). The landscape is the site in this evaluation. The landscape has certain attributes such as viewsheds, geographic features, circulation systems, small-scale features of human creation, and structures such as roads, driveways, the water tank, and planting islands.

There are 25 buildings and 6 structures constructed or significantly altered after the period of significance, which do not contribute to the historic district. Noncontributing elements include the emergency management services building (246), weight room, fire management office (256), science cultural resources management building (258), recycling warehouse (245), forever resorts warehouse (260), maintenance warehouse (273), maintenance warehouse II (274), roundhouse (275), law enforcement roundhouse (276), storage (262), roads welding building (253), roads storage building (254), three school buildings, water tank, concessions mobile home (217), school housing (134), housing (residences 7, 206, 207, 501, 210, 212, 266, 265, 202, 204, 229), roads ramada (244), Ocotillo Loop Road, La Junta Loop Road, combination tennis / basketball / volleyball court (259), and stone oil tank pad.

Narrative Description

District Location and Spatial Organization

The Panther Junction complex is near the center of Big Bend National Park, Texas, at the junction of TX 118 (Park Route 13), the entrance road to Big Bend National Park from the west; and US 385 (Park Route 11), the primary north-south park road. The historic district was designed and built around four primary use areas: (1) park headquarters and visitor center, (2) residential, (3) utilities and maintenance, and (4) visitor amenities and conveniences. Alsate Drive connects the areas, which is the main north-south road through the Panther Junction historic district.

Administrative functions are carried out in park headquarters and visitor center building (310) at the north edge of the district. Sited in a conspicuous location near Panther Junction entrance along TX 118 (Park Route 13), the building is viewed in a position of prominence as visitors approach this area of the park. A semicircular visitor parking lot at the visitor center and a service station (311), approximately 0.25 mile west of the visitor center, comprise the visitor amenities and convenience use area. Together, the visitor center, parking lot, and service station are the “welcome mat” for park visitors.

The residential area is about 0.25 mile southwest of park headquarters and is accessed along Alsate Drive, which marks the eastern edge of the residential area. Houses are west of the road along Bobcat Loop (the main housing loop road) and Javelina Drive, an east-west road that cuts through the middle of the residential area. Two apartment buildings and a school are also within

the southern portion of the residential area. The Mission 66 housing area at Panther Junction is designed like a 1950s subdivision with wide, curvilinear streets and ranch-style houses placed evenly along both sides of the roads. Each house is in the center of a large individual lot with plantings to the sides and rear for privacy. Particular attention was paid to details such as adequate site placement and traffic flow with side driveways (seven shared), side garages (some attached, some detached), and parking areas to the side of each house. Vegetation, covered patios, wooden screens, and concrete walls were used to create privacy and define spaces in backyards.

Approximately 0.25 mile south of the residential area, accessed along Tecolote Road, was a temporary/seasonal workers' residential area that included tents and mobile home pads and the laundry building.

The main maintenance area is approximately 0.5 mile due south of park headquarters, along Alsate Drive. The site for the maintenance area was selected based on its proximity to the entrance road, while also screened from primary visitor use and residential areas. The utility area was designed to function as the center of maintenance operations for Big Bend National Park. A large utilitarian, multi-bay garage-type building is surrounded by areas that are used for vehicle storage and service and machinery repair. To the south of the main maintenance area, Alsate Drive leads to additional utilitarian areas including a large (500,000 gallon) concrete water tank reservoir and pump house, which is on a hilltop south of the complex.

The primary use areas are tightly grouped together, but buffered from one another by placement within the natural topography, remnant native vegetation screens, and use of color. The visitor center / administration building and the service station are adjacent to TX 118 (Park Route 13 and 12 [road changes to Park Route 12 east of the US 385 intersection]). These buildings were designed to be seen and accessible to the traveling public, although the finish colors were selected to blend with the landscape. The residential area includes two clusters: the single-family houses and the temporary/seasonal workers' area farther to the southwest. Although the elevation in the area rises to the south and west of the visitor center and the residential area is visible from only a few areas along TX 118, the housing area is set back from the main road and designed along curved asphalt-paved roads to blend with the natural topography. The houses are low (one story) and finished in muted colors. The maintenance area is sited out of view, screened by natural topography.

The separation of use areas according to function was a major part of the master planning process for the area. The technique of creating and maintaining a master plan for specific park developed areas borrowed aspects of 1920s American city planning, such as zoned land-use restrictions, and early 1920s–1930s efforts by the National Park Service to organize its facilities in the parks. The primary purpose of park master planning was to generate a logical, well-studied "general" concept plan, which specified the site location, circulation networks (pedestrian and vehicular), type of architecture, built landscape features, planting, and grading. This master planning concept continued into the 1950s and 1960s with Mission 66.

Circulation

The Panther Junction historic district contains a number of vehicular and pedestrian circulation routes. At the park headquarters and visitor center, a visitor parking lot is to the north of the visitor center, while a smaller employee parking lot is to the south of the building. The visitor center parking lot is a semicircular drive with pull-in parking spaces accessed from TX 118 (Park Route 13). A narrow planting island separates the parking lot from TX 118. The employee lot is rectangular in shape and provides space for 24 vehicles. It is accessed from Alsate Drive and is also separated from the adjacent road by a planting island. A sidewalk leads from the visitor parking lot to the visitor center, while other pedestrian paths loop around to the west of the building through an interpretive walk. To the west of the visitor center, is the service station. It is also accessed off TX 118 (Park Route 13).

Within the residential area, the main vehicular routes include Alsate Drive, Bobcat Loop, and Javelina Drive. Shorter access roads include Escuela Drive, leading to the school, and Nolina Drive and Chino Court, leading to the apartment buildings at the south edge of the residential area. Quail Run and Chuparosa are short, dead-end paved roads on the west side of Bobcat Loop, each providing access to two residences. Unpaved access roads are also found throughout the area, along with some sidewalks leading to individual residences. Each residence also features a paved driveway (seven residences have shared driveways), while the school and apartment buildings have small, rectangular parking lots.

At the maintenance area, Alsate Drive creates a loop road with Tecolote Drive and dirt road extensions of Nolina Drive. At the northern end of this larger loop, paved, perpendicular parking is provided at the main maintenance area. Turnoffs, informal dirt parking, and staging areas are also to the east and north of the maintenance building. At the east and south edge of the district, the dirt loop road leads to the water tank. At the west end of Tecolote Drive are two looping roads—La Junta and Ocotillo Loop. These two loop roads were constructed later to provide access to additional, noncontributing park facilities.

The roads, a culvert, and the visitor center parking lot and planting island are contributing resources to the historic district. The paved roads are 20 feet wide with no shoulder and curve through the residential and maintenance areas. Contributing roads include Alsate Drive, Tecolote Drive, Escuela Drive, Javelina Drive, Bobcat Loop, Quail Run, Chuparosa, Chino Court, and a portion of Nolina Drive from Bobcat Loop to Chino Court. A large concrete culvert with native stone facing was installed under Alsate Drive near the maintenance area. One unnamed dirt road (extension of Alsate Drive) begins at the east side of the maintenance area and meanders south, leading to the water tank. The dirt road crosses a maintenance yard that has historically been used for equipment and material storage. There is a stone wall and foundation for an oil tank within the maintenance yard. While there is no documentation indicating when it was constructed, the structure was likely in use during the 1950s, and perhaps later. The site has been abandoned and the oil tank removed. The second unnamed dirt road (extension of Nolina Drive) begins at the west end of Tecolote Drive and continues south to the water tank. The 0.25-mile

section of TX 118 (Park Route 13) is also contributing to the district and connects the service station to the visitor center.

Other notable circulation features include Nolina Drive, which connects the residential area to the southern loop of the maintenance/utility area outside the historic district boundary. Although excluded from the historic district boundary, it is important to note that this road, its spur roads, and the buildings along it were added after the period of significance.

Views and Vistas

The views and vistas throughout Panther Junction are contributing resources to the historic landscape. Southwest of Panther Junction are the Chisos Mountains and Emory Peak. The mountain range is partly forested and surrounded by the Chihuahuan Desert. The landscape is carved with drainages from intermittent streams. The upper mountain canyons are steep. The lower canyons have more gentle slopes with thick deposits of alluvium. Panther Junction is between the Panther Canyon drainage and the Mouse Canyon drainage—the structures are on the upper end of an alluvial fan. Vegetation in the Panther Junction area is brush grassland. The Grapevine Hills are to the north and the Sierra Del Carmen range is in the distance to the east.

Views from the visitor center lobby are dominated by Lone Mountain, which is a short distance north of the building. Views from the residences and other buildings include Lone Mountain to the north and Pummel Peak and Lost Mine Peak to the south.

The views into and out of the Panther Junction Mission 66 historic district are mostly unaltered from the period of significance. The contributing buildings, structures, and sites present a development that blends with the surrounding landscape. Subsequent development, mostly administrative buildings and housing, has maintained this characteristic feature of the district.

Landscaping and Vegetation

Although much of the natural landscape in Panther Junction Mission 66 historic district was left in a natural state, designed landscapes were incorporated in the residential area and at the visitor center / administration building. Residential areas included sidewalks, fencing, privacy screens, outdoor dining areas, service (clotheslines), play areas, and ornamental vegetation. Landscapes around the first residences were approved by landscape architect Harvey Cornell. Many of these elements still exist and are features of the landscape and are described below as part of the buildings discussion.

Vegetation was a major landscape component; however, there has been much manipulation of vegetation in the housing area from residents' modifications and additions. The National Park Service has also removed many of the shrubs near the houses as part of a wildland/ urban interface clearing for fire safety. Plantings around the visitor center / administration building have also been altered. The plantings do not contribute to the historic district.

Panther Junction Visitor Center / Administration Building, 310

The visitor center and administration building, completed in 1963, is a modern style building designed to accommodate visitors and staff. It is a functional building with minimal exterior decoration and visual intrusion. Floor to ceiling corner windows in the visitor area lobby connect the interior to exterior views. The building is rectangular, with two rectangular wings on the east and northeast corners. The administration portion of the building is rectangular and is constructed around an open courtyard. The administrative functions are separated from the visitor use areas. The offices are accessed from the courtyard. The public/visitor entrance is oriented to the northwest. On the east side of the building is a community hall, and on the north corner of the building is the visitor lobby. An addition has been added (after 2005) to the northeast wall of the visitor lobby for bookstore space. The building is one story. The northeastern portion of the building is approximately 3.5 feet lower than the southwestern portion of the building.

The building is constructed of 4 inch x 16 inch concrete brick. The 4-inch brick was used to emphasize the horizontal lines of the building. The concrete brick is integrally colored a medium brown "to approximate surrounding soil"[1] and not painted. There is a 9-inch metal fascia board surmounting the top of the walls and painted a light tan. The built-up roof is flat, except for the single-sloped shed roof over the community hall. The building is approximately 11,600 square feet. The inner courtyard is approximately 53 feet x 58 feet. The courtyard, rear patio, and front entry are concrete squares with square voids for plantings. The roof extends into the courtyard to provide a covered passage. It is supported by square metal posts. The roof also extends over the visitor entrance approximately 18 feet x 44 feet and is supported by square metal posts.

Along the southeast wall is an 8-inch concrete screen block wall to conceal the outdoor mechanical units. In the administration area, the original windows have been replaced with similar aluminum-frame windows that have a fixed upper pane with a smaller lower hopper. The visitor lobby has fixed aluminum-frame picture windows in the northwest (three over two) and northeast (four over two) corner with painted stucco panels above the window. Along the elevation, the windows are aluminum-frame, single-hopper units and are set high in the wall. The community hall has three double metal-framed glass doors with a single glass transom on the northwest elevation, a metal solid double door on the southeast elevation, and three over two windows on the northeast elevation. The bookstore has a three over two fixed-pane aluminum frame window unit. Exterior office doors are metal with a single glass pane. Interior doors into storage, restrooms, and utility rooms are solid wood. Flooring was asbestos linoleum tile, restrooms had ceramic tile, and storage and utility rooms were concrete. Many have since been replaced with different materials.

Several changes have been made after 1972. Modifications to the building include replacement of windows, drop ceiling, and flooring. Plumbing, heating, and the air-conditioning unit and electrical systems have been upgraded (2012). Communication equipment (antennae) has been

[1] National Park Service, Western Office Design and Construction, Administration Building plans dated 05/18/61.

installed (2002). Flooring in the visitor center and bookstore is carpet tiles. The bookstore and projection room to the northeast have been added (2009), and the visitor area and post office have been re-configured. Originally, there were four public restrooms; now there are only two. The administration area retains the same number of offices.

Character-defining features of the visitor center and administration building include the overall massing, shape, low profile, natural-colored concrete block, low slope and flat roofs edged with light-colored metal fascia boards, fenestration, floor to ceiling window opening in the visitor center, banded windows in administration areas and offices, courtyard, covered front entry, concrete squared sidewalks and patios with square voids for plantings, and concrete screen block wall.

Noncontributing elements include post-1972 additions, interior finishes, current layout of the visitor center, the post office, public restrooms, exterior vegetation, and signage.

Plantings and Landscaping

The exterior landscaping has also been altered. Originally, there was a single, straight sidewalk from the parking lot to the main entrance. Additional concrete and asphalt walks have been added. The original concrete block administration building sign that was at the east entrance of the parking lot has been removed and a new visitor center sign has been installed in front of the main visitor building entrance. Historically, a simple landscaping plan was incorporated at the visitor center that introduced a few succulent species including the banana yucca or datil (*Yucca baccata*), soaptree yucca or palmilla (*Yucca elata*), creosote bush (*Larrea tridentata*), prickly pear cactus (*Opuntia* sp.), and barrel cactus (*Ferocactus* sp). These species were identified from black-and-white photographs of the era. Presently, the visitor center landscaping is very diverse and with additional plantings installed for the Panther Path nature trail. Extant landscaping plant species include the shrubs creosote bush, mesquite (*Prosopis* spp.), acacia (*Acacia* spp.), ceniza (*Leucophyllum* spp.), mariola (*Parthenium incanum*), ocotillo (*Fouquieria splendens*), Mormon-tea (*Ephedra* spp.), sage (*Salvia* spp.); the succulents banana yucca, prickly pear cactus, cholla cactus (*Opuntia* spp.), lechuguilla (*Agave lechuguilla*), sotol (*Dasylirion* spp.), and the herbaceous species wild buckwheat (*Eriogonum* spp.), datura (*Datura* spp.), stork's-bill (*Erodium* spp.), threeawn (*Aristida* spp.), annual grama grasses (*Bouteloua* spp.), and sideoats grama (*Bouteloua curtipendula*). Additional and similar vegetation have been added to the island in the parking lot and along the front of the building as well, which obscures portions of the building.

Residential Development

The residences within the Panther Junction Mission 66 historic district are modern "rambling" ranch-style houses. Character-defining features of these modern ranch designs include one-story, asymmetrical designs with a low-pitched roof with moderate to wide eave overhangs. The roofs are gabled, cross-gabled, or simple hip. The low, horizontal massing maximizes (emphasizes) the

façade of the building. At Panther Junction, the primary building material is 4 inch x 8 inch x 16 inch concrete block to further provide additional horizontal emphasis.

The interiors were generally designed with large, open public living areas (dining room and living room) on one end of the house, with private areas, bedrooms, and baths accessed from a hallway from the living areas on the other end. Built-in shelving and storage units and small vertical posts are used to define, but not enclose, public living areas. The kitchen is adjacent to, but separate from, the dining room. Large picture windows in the living areas are also characteristic of the modern ranch, as are private outdoor living spaces to the rear of the house.

First Residences

The first residences were constructed in 1951.

Residence 203, Superintendent's Residence

Residence 203 is a 1,780 square foot single-story, "rambling" modern ranch-style dwelling. The residence is T-shaped with a bedroom wing, kitchen and laundry room wing, and the dining room and living room in the center forming the leg of the "T." The house has a concrete footing with exterior walls constructed of 4 inch x 8 inch x 16 inch painted concrete blocks, with plywood siding on the southeast and northeast façade (laundry). The roof is pitched, cross-gabled over the living room and entry. The roof is constructed of wood joists and rafters covered originally with asbestos cement shingles. It was reroofed with asphalt composite shingles in the 1990s.

There is a 440 square foot detached two-car garage set at a 45-degree angle southeast of the kitchen. The garage is also constructed of concrete block with two metal, nonoriginal overhead doors. The doors were installed after 1972, replacing the original wood doors. There are two sliding aluminum-frame windows—one on the east elevation and one on the west elevation.

Exterior doors were wood with glass panes. Interior doors are hollow-core wood. The original aluminum casement windows in the bedrooms, kitchen, and bathrooms have been replaced with aluminum sliding windows. The original plate and louver windows in the living room have been replaced (since 1972) with plate and awning style.

The bedroom wing includes three bedrooms with closets, one full bath, one half bath in the master bedroom, and a utility room for the water heater. The kitchen wing includes the kitchen, laundry room, and storage pantry. The living room and dining room are open. The interior walls are finished with plywood paneling in the living room, dining room, and gypsum board in the bedrooms, bathrooms, and kitchen. The floors were asbestos tile—the tile has been replaced with linoleum tile since the 1980s.

Interior design details include a brick fireplace in the living room, which has been modified with an insert and a mosaic tile surround. This wall was originally exposed cement block and has been

covered with gypsum board. The main entry is separated from the dining room by a built-in unit with cabinets below and an upper 1 inch x 4 inch board grid forming box shelves with a translucent glass backing. The entry is also accentuated with red quarry tile, 12 inch x 12 inch square that is 4 feet wide and extends 24 feet into the living room. The living room has large picture windows connecting to the backyard.

The backyard is enclosed with a low concrete block wall. There is a large covered concrete patio under the pitched roof on the kitchen wing. Between the house and garage is a clothes drying area. The backyard is approximately 30 feet deep and 66 feet long with an additional angled section that includes the drying area and connects to the barbeque area. In the west corner is a built-in fireplace. The central portion of the yard is carpet grass with planting areas along the wall. Original landscape plans called for shrubbery and most has been removed piecemeal over the years. Abutting the southwest wall of the garage is a second concrete walled-in area that encloses the built-in barbeque grill and oven. The barbeque area enclosure is approximately 27 feet by 23 feet.

Residence 205 (assistant superintendent)

This residence is a 1,320 square foot, single-story, ranch-style dwelling. The residence is L-shaped with an attached single-car, 336 square foot garage. There are three bedrooms, bathroom and laundry and utility rooms in the long leg of the "L," with a central kitchen and dining area and living room on the far end. The garage and the 21 foot x 8 foot covered porch are attached to the living room. There is a small (10 feet x 4 feet) covered entry on the front elevation into the living room. The house has concrete footing with painted 4 inch x 8 inch x 16 inch concrete block exteriors. The roof is cross-hipped. The roof is constructed of wood joists and rafters covered originally with asbestos cement shingles, which were replaced with asphalt composite shingles in the 1990s. The roof was covered with rock-coated shingles in 2005. The building presents a low profile that blends with the surrounding landscape.

Exterior doors are solid core wood with windows, and interior doors are hollow-core wood. The original windows were aluminum casement, with hopper windows in the garage. The windows have been replaced with similar newer windows. The garage door is wood with four glass panes.

The bedroom wing includes three bedrooms with closets, one full bath, a laundry room, and a utility room for the water heater and furnace. The kitchen is a galley kitchen. The living room and dining room are open. The floors were asbestos tile and bathrooms are ceramic tile. The asbestos tile was replaced with carpet in 2005.

The main entry is separated from the living room by a closet. The living room has large window openings to connect to the backyard.

The backyard is surrounded by a gray block masonry wall. There is an uncovered flagstone patio, covered concrete porch, and the backyard is planted in Bermuda grass and a few trees. There is a flagstone sidewalk from the driveway to the front door. No landscaping plan was

found for this residence; current vegetation includes cottonwood (*Populus* sp.*),* soap tree yucca or palmilla (*Yucca elata*), prickly pear cactus (*Opuntia* sp.), mesquite (*Prosopis* sp.), acacia (*Acacia* sp.*),* creosote bush (*Larrea tridentata*), Mormon-tea (*Ephedra* sp.), barberry (*Mahonia* sp.), chamisa saltbush (*Atriplex canescens*), coldenia (*Tiquilia* sp.), goldeneye (*Viguiera* sp.), bush muhly (*Muhlenbergia porteri*), silver bluestem (*Bothriochloa laguroides*), threeawn (*Aristida* sp.), and fluffgrass (*Dasychloa pulchella*).

Residences 232, 234, 238 (two bedrooms, one bath)

Residences 232, 234, and 238 are 1,243 square foot, single-story, ranch-style dwellings. The residences are rectangular with two bedrooms to the southeast, a single bathroom, utility room, kitchen, and dining room in the center and a living room on the northwest. The houses have a concrete footing with exterior walls constructed of painted 4 inch x 8 inch x 16 inch concrete block. The roof is pitched and constructed of wood joists and rafters originally covered with asbestos cement shingles. They were reroofed with asphalt composite shingles in the 1990s. The residences present a low profile that fits into the surrounding landscape.

There is a 330 square foot detached, single-car garage set behind and to the east of each house. The garage is also constructed of concrete block with an overhead door. There is one aluminum frame sliding window on the west elevation.

Exterior doors were wood with glass panels. Interior doors are hollow-core wood. The original windows were aluminum casement in the bedrooms, kitchen, and bathrooms. The original windows in the living room were plate and louver. Most doors and windows have been replaced since the 1980s.

Interior design details include a galley kitchen, walls finished with gypsum board, asbestos tile floors, which have been replaced in different residences by carpet, linoleum, and/or composite wood flooring since the 1980s), and a ceramic-tiled bathroom. The main entry is separated from the living room by four 2 feet x 2 feet vertical columns attached at the floor and ceiling and spaced 9 inches apart. There are large windows along the northeast and southwest walls of the living room for light and ventilation. Units 232 and 234 have fireplaces.

The backyards were surrounded with cement block walls and included a play area and service (clothes drying) area near the garage, an uncovered flagstone patio and lawn area near the living room, and small covered concrete porches (16 feet x 6 feet). There was a 4 foot high alternating vertical 1 inch x 6 inch redwood slat fence separating the service/play area from the outdoor entertaining area. There were small grass lawns by the patios that were surrounded by shrubbery, but most vegetation has died, been removed, or been replaced by other landscaping since 1972. There are concrete sidewalks from the driveway to the front door and flagstone walks from the front to the back of the yard. Trees were planted along the fence, driveway, and sidewalks.

When constructed, the residences had planned landscaping with native species. Trees included cottonwood (*Populus deltoids*), desert willow, black walnut, red bud, ash, and yucca (*Yucca*

treculeana). Other plantings include black persimmon, bouvardia, sumac, dusty miller, scarlet buglar, native white brush, and salvia. Plantings were typically close to the house and surrounding the backyard and along the driveway. Over the years, for fire safety purposes, many of the trees and shrubs near the houses have been removed, and residents have personalized their homes with plantings of their choice.

Residential Expansion in 1957

Residences 223, 224, 227, 228, 230, 233, 237, 248, 309, 312, 313, 319 (3 bedrooms, 1 bath)

These residences were constructed in 1957. They are 1,320 square foot single-story, ranch-style dwellings and are similar to residence 205. The residences are L-shaped with an attached, single-car, 336 square foot garage. There are three bedrooms, a bathroom, and laundry and utility room in the long leg of the "L," with a central kitchen and dining area and living room on the far end. The garage and the 21 foot x 8 foot covered porch are attached to the living room. There is a small (10 foot x 4 foot) covered entry on the front elevation into the living room. The houses have concrete footing with painted 4 inch x 8 inch x 16 inch concrete block exteriors. The roofs are cross-hipped and constructed of wood joists and rafters originally covered with asbestos cement shingles. They were reroofed with asphalt composite shingles in the 1990s. The buildings present a low profile that blends into the surrounding landscape.

Exterior doors are solid wood; windows and interior doors are hollow-core wood. The original windows were aluminum-frame casement, with hopper windows in the garage. The windows were replaced after 2000, many with single-hung windows. Unit 224 retains its original windows; all other units have had the windows replaced.

The bedroom wing includes three bedrooms with closets, one full bath, a laundry room, and a utility room for the water heater and furnace. The kitchen is a galley kitchen. The living room and dining room are open. The floors and bathrooms are tile.

The main entry is separated from the living room by a built-in unit with a cabinet below and open shelves above, approximately 12 inches deep and 3 feet long. The living room has large window openings to connect to the backyard.

Unit 228 has solar panels installed on the roof and new concrete sidewalks. The garage door and windows are original, but a drop ceiling has been added to the garage. The kitchen cabinets are original, but the countertops and backsplash have been replaced. The ceramic bathroom tile has been replaced. The roofing material has been replaced with fiberglass shingles. All modifications have occurred since the 1980s

Unit 312 has the original kitchen cabinets with replacement countertops. The bathroom fixtures have been replaced. Most interior and exterior doors and screens are original. The yard is surrounded with a new privacy fence, although a section of redwood privacy screen is still intact.

The asbestos roofing shingles have been replaced with fiberglass. The residence is now used for offices and the interior walls have been furred out and drywall and insulation added. The garage was originally a carport—a garage door has been added. No changes to the building date to the period of significance.

Unit 313 has replacement kitchen cabinets and appliances, flooring, windows, and lights. The windows do not match the original windows. They are double-hung; the sliding vinyl windows are finished with larger muntins. The patio and sidewalk concrete has been replaced. The yard is fenced with chain-link. The windows in the garage have been painted with murals and the garage door replaced. The roof is rock-coated shingles. No changes to the building date to the period of significance.

Residences 222, 225, 226, 229 (noncontributing), 231, 235, 250, 320 (2 bedrooms, 1 bath)

These low-profile residences were constructed in 1957 and are of the same design as the previous two bedroom / one bathroom units without a fireplace. They are rectangular 1,243 square foot, single-story, ranch-style dwellings. The houses have a concrete footing with exterior walls constructed of 4 inch x 8 inch x 16 inch painted concrete block. The roof is pitched and constructed of wood joists and rafters originally covered with asbestos cement shingles. These residences were reroofed with asphalt composite shingles in the 1990s.

There is a 330 square foot detached, single-car garage set behind; some garages are oriented differently than the previously constructed two-bedroom units. These houses share a driveway with the adjacent house. The garage is also constructed of concrete block with an overhead door. There is one sliding aluminum frame window on the west elevation. The roof is pitched and constructed of wood joists and rafters originally covered with asbestos cement shingles (replaced by asphalt composite shingles in the 1990s).

Exterior doors were wood with glass panels. Interior doors are hollow-core wood. The original windows were aluminum casement in the bedrooms, kitchen, and bathrooms. The original windows in the living room were central fixed panes with operable side panes. Most windows have been replaced since 2000 with single-hung windows.

Interior design details include a galley kitchen, walls finished with gypsum board, asbestos tile floors, and a ceramic-tiled bathroom. The main entry is separated from the living room by four 2-foot round, vertical columns attached at the floor and ceiling and spaced 9 inches apart. A built-in cabinet and shelves separate the living room and dining room. There are large windows along the northeast and southwest walls of the living room for light and ventilation.

The backyards included a play area and clothes drying area near the garage and a patio and lawn area near the living room, and a small (16 foot x 6 foot) covered porch. Planting areas surround the patio and lawn along the front of the house and the driveway. There are concrete sidewalks from the front door to the street.

Unit 225 has had a flat ramada added over the patio made of 2 inch x 6 inch wood studs and metal poles.

Unit 226 has original windows and patio. Linoleum tile has been installed over asbestos tile and carpet has been installed in the living room. The interior walls are original with no insulation.

Unit 229 has undergone major exterior renovations in the early 1990s. The back of the roof has been raised and altered to opposing shed roofs with clearstory windows at the ridge. Although the floor plan has not been altered, the house no longer resembles the other houses of this style and floor plan. This unit is noncontributing to the historic district.

Residence 236 a/b – Teacherage

In the single-family housing area is a duplex built in 1957 for the school teachers. The rectangular ranch-style building is constructed of painted 4 inch x 8 inch x 16 inch concrete brick with a pitched roof with wood slat gables and composite shingles (installed in 2008). It blends into the surrounding landscape. Each unit is 800 square feet and has two bedrooms with closets, one bathroom, a linen closet, enclosed kitchen, utility room, and living room. The living rooms are on the outer ends of the units with the bedrooms along the common wall. The front window in the living room is a single-pane, aluminum-frame window approximately 4 feet square. The other aluminum frame windows are single hung. The front door is wood with eight glass panes and nonoriginal screen doors. There is no record of when the doors were installed, but it was likely after 1972.

Residences 215 and 217 – Apartments

To the west of the single-family housing area and on a rise are two apartment buildings, which were built in 1957. The rectangular modern style buildings are constructed of painted 4 inch x 8 inch x 16 inch concrete brick with a pitched roof of composite shingles. Building 215 is 94.0 feet long by 26.5 feet wide. Two units have bedrooms that protrude in the front to an additional 6 feet. A small 3.5 foot x 4.5 foot extension is on the back of each unit to house the water heater and evaporative cooler. The front façade has a 6 foot deep covered front porch with a planter box on each end of the front of the building. Building 215 has two side-by-side efficiency units and two one-bedroom units. The one-bedroom and efficiency units are separated by a utility/laundry room. The efficiency units contain a bathroom, kitchen/eating space, and a living/sleeping room and are approximately 400 square feet. The one-bedroom units include a bathroom, bedroom, kitchen, dining area, and living room and are approximately 500 square feet. The utility/laundry room is approximately 160 square feet. There are aluminum frame hopper windows with fixed glazing above in the front rooms of the efficiency units and sliding widows in the back of the one-bedroom units. Doors are solid wood exterior and hollow core wood interior.

Building 217 is 129 feet long and the same width as building 215. Building 217 has one additional efficiency unit and one additional one-bedroom unit. Windows and flooring have been

replaced in a number of the units since 2000. Some units have fiberglass shower/tub inserts installed in the bathrooms.

Residences 201, 208, 213, 220 – 3 bedroom / 1½ baths

These residences were built as part of a later expansion in 1964. They are rectangular, single-story, ranch-style dwellings with 1,569 square feet of living space and a single-car attached carport. They are constructed and sited to blend into the landscape. The houses have a concrete footing with exterior walls constructed of painted 4 inch x 8 inch x 16 inch concrete block. The roof is pitched and constructed of wood joists and rafters originally covered with asbestos cement shingles. They were reroofed with asphalt composite shingles in the 1990s.

The floor plan includes three bedrooms, one full and one-half bathroom, a recessed entry, utility room, galley kitchen, and open living and dining room. These units were not accessible during the site visit, so no interior descriptions are available.

Exterior doors were wood with glass panels. Interior doors are hollow-core wood. The original windows were aluminum casement in the bedrooms, kitchen, and bathrooms. The original aluminum-frame windows in the living room have a central fixed pane with operable side lights. Other windows include two over two, single-hung windows. Most of the units have had the windows, exterior doors, and roofs replaced after 2000.

Plantings and Landscaping

The landscaping of the residences varies. The original five residences had backyards that were surrounded with cement block walls and included a play area and service (clothes drying) area near the garage, an uncovered flagstone patio and lawn area near the living room, and small covered concrete porches (16 feet x 6 feet). There was a 4-foot-high alternating vertical 1 inch x 6 inch redwood slat fence separating the service/play area from the outdoor entertaining area. There were small grass lawns by the patios surrounded by shrubbery. These features remain at some of the residences, but have been removed from most at various times beginning in the 1980s. There are concrete sidewalks from the driveway to the front door and flagstone walks from the front to the back of the yard. Trees were planted along the fence, driveway, and sidewalks.

Later residences had similarly defined backyard spaces—some with 6-foot-high redwood slat privacy screens to shield service areas, and some had concrete block wall sections, but are generally not fully enclosed. Wood privacy or chain-link fences have been added to some of the residences. Other landscaping included poured concrete square-patterned sidewalks, poured concrete patios, flagstone patios, screens of vertical redwood slats, and clotheslines. Some houses have had ramadas added over back patios.

No landscaping plans were found for later residential expansion, but it is assumed that when constructed, the residences had planned landscaping with native species similar to the earlier

residences. Plantings were typically close to the house and surrounding the backyard and along the driveway. Over the years, for fire safety purposes, many of the trees and shrubs near the houses have been removed, and residents have personalized their homes with plantings of their choice.

The backyards were originally connected to the wastewater system—gray water was used to irrigate the lawns. The system went offline in the 1980s and the yards have mostly reverted to native vegetation or no vegetation.

Laundry Building

The laundry and restroom facility for the former employee tent and trailer site is about 0.5 mile from the single-family housing area. The building is approximately 16 feet x 20 feet (320 square feet). It is constructed of unpainted 4 inch x 8 inch x 16 inch concrete brick and has a low-pitched roof, originally with asbestos cement shingles. The building, constructed in 1956, is surrounded by a gravel driveway. There are four rooms in the building. On the east side is a laundry room with a large double sink, washer and dryer, and hot water heater. On the northwest side, a room that was formerly the shower room is now an office for the trails crew. There are two bathrooms on the southwest side—one has had the fixtures removed.

The laundry room has ceramic tile 2/3 up the walls. There are high windows, approximately 20 inches x 28 inches, aluminum-frame, single-pane, and hopper. The north elevation has four hopper windows—one has been removed for an air-conditioning unit and a solid door. The west elevation has two solid wood doors, the south elevation has five windows—one has been removed for an air-conditioning unit; the east elevation has five hopper windows and one solid wood door.

Building alterations were all undertaken after 1972.

Although utilitarian in design, the building incorporates character-defining features of the residential housing and visitor center including concrete brick to emphasize horizontal massing, low-pitched roof, and natural color.

Contributing elements include the exterior façades, overall building massing, interior laundry room, exterior building materials and color and the building's orientation to the parking lot and road. Noncontributing elements include the former shower room and bathrooms.

St. Vincent School, 249

The school was completed in 1952.

The original school was L-shaped and constructed of painted standard concrete block. The primary portion of the building has two classrooms and a cafetorium. The wing contains a utility room, two restrooms for the students, which are accessed from outside, and a small restroom

accessed from the cafetorium. The roof over the classrooms is a shed roof with clearstory windows to the south and a door into each classroom. There are no lower windows. A lower shed roof on the south elevation creates covered passages between the classrooms. The restroom and cafetorium have a low-pitched roof that also provides a covered passage to the restrooms. An addition for a library was added (construction date is not specified in sources) to the northeast façade onto the cafetorium creating a T-shaped structure. The addition has a shed roof.

The northeast façade has large three over three aluminum-frame picture windows—the lower windows are single hung. All of the windows have been replaced. There was a 2 foot 8 inch wing wall protruding to the northeast at the end of each classroom. The wing wall on the north end of the building has been incorporated into the library addition. There is a glass, metal-framed door on the north façade and an exterior grade hollow-core wood door on the south façade into each classroom.

There was playground equipment to the south of the school on bare ground, which has since been removed (date of removal was not recorded in sources). Additional school buildings have been constructed close to, but separate from the original school on the north, south, and west sides after 1972. A combination tennis, basketball, volleyball court has been constructed to the southeast. It was built after the period of significance for the Panther Junction Mission 66 historic district.

The character-defining features of the original school include the overall shape, massing, and floor plan, shed roof, clearstory windows, picture windows on the northeast side, and neutral color.

Noncontributing elements include the three surrounding buildings and the combination tennis, basketball, volleyball court.

Maintenance Buildings

Maintenance Building, 242

The maintenance building (constructed in1950) is utilitarian rectangular, measuring approximately 222 feet long x 38 feet wide with an area of 8,436 square feet. On the west end of the building are offices. To the east of the offices is a warehouse, two restrooms, a boiler room, electrical and plumbing shop, three automobile repair bays, and a carpentry shop. The building is standard concrete block with a low-pitched roof. The roof is approximately 12 feet high, with a 14-foot-high section over the three automobile repair bays beginning approximately 34 feet from the east end. The floors are poured concrete.

The south elevation is punctuated with multiple openings (doors and windows) and glazing for daylighting. There are six pedestrian doors with four fixed-glass panes and two over two transom windows above. There is one standard overhead door opening into the electrical and plumbing bay and three large overhead doors into the automobile repair bays. The standard overhead door

is eight panes wide and three panes high. The large overhead doors are eight panes wide and four panes high. Between the doors are bands of windows, two over four, with an operable awning center section.

The east façade has three sets of windows and the west elevation has one. The north elevation has one large overhead door, three single and one double pedestrian door, and a band of windows matching the south façade.

The character-defining features of this building include the overall massing, shape, fenestration, building materials, neutral color, floor plan with open bays, and the multipane doors and windows.

Telephone Building, 271

The telephone building, which was constructed in 1952, is a utilitarian rectangular structure measuring approximately 24 feet x 12 feet; constructed of painted concrete block with a pitched corrugated metal roof. There is a metal door with a single-pane door on the south and east elevations and a window on the south elevation. The aluminum sashed window unit consists of two, two over four with an awning center section. A small flat roof approximately 4 feet x 2 feet is attached to the wall above each door.

The character-defining features of this building include the overall massing, shape, fenestration, neutral color, and building materials.

Concessions Buildings

Service Station, 311

The service station was built in 1958.

The service station is L-shaped and of modern design. It is approximately 864 square feet; constructed of painted concrete bricks with vertically batten wood siding capping the top portion of the wall below the roof. The shed roof is T-shaped and projects to the north providing shelter over the gas pumps and supported by two steel columns. The angle of the roof mirrors the angle of Lone Mountain in the distance, south of the service station.

The building consists of a service bay with an overhead door opening to the west, a sales room opening to the north, and a storage room and two restrooms behind the sales room. The car lift in the service bay has been removed. The restrooms are accessed from the outer south and east sides. There is a large three over one aluminum-framed fixed picture window in the sales room along the north elevation. The sales room was constructed with a second similar window on the east elevation that has been filled in with concrete block. The exterior door to the sales room has a single large glass pane with a transom window above the door. There are two windows on the north and south elevations of the service bay. The overhead door also has a band of windows.

The gas pumps have been replaced with modern pumps. The sales room has been expanded into the service bay area.

The character-defining features of this building include the modern design, scale, massing, shape, fenestration, neutral color, roof design and shape, service bay with overhead door, pump island, building materials, and neutral color.

The modern gas pumps and overhead door are noncontributing features.

Integrity

Within a district, the majority of the properties from the district's period of significance must have integrity. Panther Junction possesses physical integrity to the period of significance—1945–1972. Aspects of integrity include location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

The historic district was sited near the center of the park along two major park roads and is still there today. Panther Junction was designed and planned with four primary use areas organized around curved roads. Although there have been newer buildings constructed and additions in the maintenance area, school, and residential area, the overall layout, spatial relationships, and use areas have been maintained. Panther Junction also retains setting. Panther Junction is at the base of the Chisos Mountains surrounded by the Chihuahuan Desert. The landscape is carved with drainages from intermittent streams. Although residences and the administration building had intentionally designed landscaping and the landscaping around the residences has been significantly altered or reverted back to natural vegetation, the overall natural setting was and still is predominant. Predominant materials used in construction of buildings include concrete block and brick with windows used to connect indoor spaces to the outdoors. Windows, roofing, and interior finishes have been changed in many of the buildings due to age, wear, and energy improvements; overall, however, the district retains construction and finish materials. Panther Junction retains workmanship and feeling. The district illustrates National Park Service efforts to modernize parks yet maintain a naturalistic design. Design and planning philosophies of the time and modern construction materials were incorporated to provide larger visitation areas and comfortable living accommodations for employees in the post-war environment without dominating and greatly altering the natural landscape. Panther Junction also retains association with the Mission 66 era. It retains sufficient features to relate the property to the modern movement style in terms of massing, spatial relationships, proportion, pattern of windows, texture of materials, and ornamentation common to "Park Service Modern."

Summary of Contributing and Noncontributing Resources

The following table lists contributing and noncontributing buildings and structures within the district boundaries. The noncontributing buildings and structures were constructed after the period of significance (post 1972) or have been significantly altered:

Panther Junction Mission 66 Historic District
Name of Property

Brewster, Texas
County and State

Contributing Buildings, Structures, and Sites	Noncontributing Buildings, Structures, and Sites
Panther Junction Visitor Center / Administration Building, 310	Emergency Management Services Building, 246
Superintendent's Residence, 203	Weight Room (no number)
Residence, 205	Fire Management Office, 256
Residences, 232, 234, 238	Science Cultural Resources Management Building, 258
Residences, 223, 224, 227, 228, 230, 233, 237, 248, 309, 312, 313, 319	Recycling Warehouse, 245
Residences, 222, 225, 226, 229, 231, 235, 250, 320	Forever Resorts Warehouse, 260
Residence 236 a/b – Teacherage	Maintenance Warehouse, 273
Residences 215 and 217 – Apartments	Maintenance Warehouse II, 274
Residences, 201, 208, 213, 220	Roundhouse 275
Laundry Building	Law Enforcement Roundhouse 276
Saint Vincent School, 249	Storage, 262
Maintenance Building, 242	Roads Welding Building, 253
Telephone Building, 271	Roads Storage Building, 254
Service Station, 311	Roads Ramada, 244
Landscape Features (views and vistas, circulations, landscaping)	Three School Buildings (no number)
	Water Tank (no number)
	Concessions Mobile Home, 217
	School Housing, 134
	Housing 202, 204, 229, 206, 207, 265, 266, 501
	Duplex Housing, 210
	Quadplex Housing, 212
	Combination Tennis / Basketball / Volleyball Court, 259
	Stone Oil Tank Pad (no number)
	La Junta Loop Road
	Ocotillo Loop Road

The following table summarizes the contributing buildings and site features and the contributing and noncontributing elements of those buildings and features.

Building or Feature	Contributing Elements	Noncontributing Elements
Panther Junction Visitor Center / Administration Building, 310	▪ front façade ▪ overall building massing ▪ flat roofs ▪ window walls ▪ overlapping functional spaces ▪ horizontality of profile ▪ layout of administration wing around open courtyard and elevation changes ▪ exterior building materials, color, and texture of materials ▪ orientation to parking lot and main road ▪ entrance drive, parking lot, and island	▪ interior finishes ▪ layout of visitor center, post office, public restrooms ▪ vegetation ▪ exterior signage ▪ additions after 1972
Residence Buildings (31 contributing buildings) ▪ Residence 203, Superintendent's Residence ▪ Residence 205 (assistant superintendent) ▪ Residences 232, 234, 238 ▪ Residences 223, 224, 227, 228, 230, 233, 237, 248, 309, 312, 313, 319 ▪ Residences 222, 225, 226, 231, 235, 250, 320 ▪ Residence 236 a/b – Teacherage ▪ Residences 215 and 217 – Apartments ▪ Residences 201, 208, 213, 220	▪ overall layout of areas ▪ floor plans ▪ exterior building materials and color ▪ orientation to roads ▪ exterior living/entertaining spaces ▪ relationship of houses to garages and to the street ▪ low profiles ▪ interior original details, including finish materials, entrance shelf, or wall separators	▪ replacement windows and interior finishes ▪ landscape plantings
Laundry Building (1 contributing building)	▪ exterior façades ▪ overall building massing ▪ interior laundry room ▪ exterior building materials and color ▪ orientation to parking lot and road	▪ former shower room and bathrooms
Saint Vincent School (249) **(1 contributing building, 3 noncontributing buildings)**	▪ exterior façades ▪ overall building massing ▪ interior floor plan of original building ▪ exterior building materials and color ▪ orientation to parking lot and road and residential area	▪ three surrounding buildings ▪ tennis, basketball, volleyball court

Building or Feature	Contributing Elements	Noncontributing Elements
Maintenance Building, 242	▪ overall building massing ▪ layout of workspaces and open bays ▪ exterior building materials and fenestration ▪ windows and doors	
Telephone Building, 271	▪ overall building massing ▪ exterior building materials and fenestration ▪ windows and doors	
Service Station, 311	▪ overall building massing and shape ▪ roof design ▪ exterior building materials and fenestration ▪ T-shaped roof and roof slope ▪ Interior layout – service bay, sales room, storage room, and restrooms	▪ overhead door ▪ modern gas pumps
Landscape Features (1 site)	▪ spatial organization of residents, maintenance, and administration/visitor areas ▪ views of mountains and desert ▪ views into Panther Junction – low profile, scale, blending into environment ▪ water tank reservoir (500,000 gallon) and pump house with access roads from northwest (residential area) and northeast (maintenance area) to the water tank (site) ▪ visitor center parking lot, including semicircular drive with pull-in parking spaces accessed from US 385 and a narrow planting island separating the parking lot from US 385 ▪ Alsate Drive, Tecolote Drive, Escuela Drive, Javelina Drive, Bobcat Loop, Quail Run, Chuparosa, Chino Court, and a portion of Nolina Drive from Bobcat Loop to Chino Court ▪ Quail Run and Chuparosa dead-end roads ▪ a large concrete culvert with native stone facing was installed under the Alsate Drive near the maintenance area ▪ topography, natural drainages, and natural flora ▪ resident human-made landscape features, including original patios, concrete and flagstone sidewalks, screening elements, fences and walls, and clothes lines	▪ planting materials

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

[X] A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

[ ] B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

[X] C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

[ ] D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

[ ] A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

[ ] B. Removed from its original location.

[ ] C. A birthplace or grave.

[ ] D. A cemetery.

[ ] E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure.

[ ] F. A commemorative property.

[ ] G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

Architecture
Community Planning and Development

Period of Significance
1948–1972

Significant Dates
1948, 1957, 1963

Significant Person

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder
National Park Service
Cecil Doty, Architect
Harvey Cornell, Landscape Architect

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraphs

Thirty-seven buildings and one site at Panther Junction headquarters complex at Big Bend National Park are eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places as a historic district under criterion A as a reflection of NPS Mission 66, a programmatic park planning and development program that resulted in extensive construction and infrastructural improvement from 1957 until 1966.

The early postwar years saw a dramatic increase in park visitation that threatened already overwhelmed infrastructure. Congress did not provide funding to ameliorate NPS problems. The Mission 66 program was effectively designed to garner congressional funding for park projects. Panther Junction was established and constructed in the postwar and Mission 66 era and is a good example of the development perspective NPS architects and planners applied to park development during the Mission 66 era such as their effort to design park-developed areas as communities.

The district is also eligible under criterion C as a reflection of the architectural design standards of Mission 66 development. The buildings were sited in association with central parking and park circulation patterns. The district includes visitor center / administration buildings, combined visitor and administrative functions, interpretive displays, and information desks, a maintenance building and other support structures and buildings. Design characteristics include flat roofs, window walls, exposed steel supports, concrete, and concrete block construction, overlapping functional spaces, horizontality of profile, massing, color, and texture of materials. The Panther Junction visitor center / administration building was designed by Cecil Doty, one of the most innovative, influential, and prolific Mission 66 architects designing visitor centers. The residences and other buildings also reflected modern Mission 66 architectural standards. Most were based on standardized plans that incorporated flat or minimally pitched roofs, concrete, and concrete block construction, large windows, and open interior spaces. Native landscaping was incorporated into residential development.

The NPS Mission 66 development also embraced the design characteristics of post–World War II suburban developments. This was most directly reflected in park administrative areas such as Panther Junction. The first development plans for Panther Junction were developed in 1948 by regional landscape architect Harvey Cornell. The headquarters area plan proposed a diverse development that was dominated by residential buildings. It included a community center (with a school, gymnasium, and auditorium), softball fields, tennis courts, employee apartments, and 67 residences, which were laid out on curved loop roads. Administrative, visitor services, and maintenance areas were planned near, but discrete from the residences. The plan was modified in 1950 and minimally altered over the next decade. Nonetheless, the core residential development of the 1948 plan was retained.

The period of significance for this district begins in 1948 when construction began through 1972 when Mission 66 era construction program was completed. The district has national significance representing the NPS Mission 66 philosophies and designs of the time.

Narrative Statement of Significance

Mission 66: Building Post-war Parks

The National Park Service Mission 66 era was characterized by broad-based construction, staffing, and a park expansion program that shaped the ways in which Americans experienced the national parks after the mid-1950s.

Mission 66 was the result of pressures and trends that shaped post-war America. The United States underwent dramatic changes after World War II. Almost two decades of austerity gave way to a burst of affluence and consumption that shaped the rise of the modern consumer economy. Many Americans moved to affordable homes in new, relatively undifferentiated suburbs. Credit became more available. Automobiles were purchased in unprecedented numbers and Americans took to the road.[2]

Some traveled on the newly constructed interstate highway system—the product of the largest public works program in U.S. history. Many traveled to the national parks, which became a beacon for post-war tourists. Visitation to Yellowstone, for example, mushroomed over 50% in 1945 after the Nazi spring surrender. This was not an anomaly. Park visitation nationwide more than doubled between 1945 and 1947.[3] Visitation continually increased through the late 1940s and into the 1950s.

In the meantime, the parks suffered over a decade of austere budgets and a significant maintenance backlog. Park funding did not keep pace with the increased pressures from visitors. Park and concession facilities, roads, and other infrastructure, already in need of maintenance, were unable to accommodate the dramatic expansion of post-war visitation. Except for a three-year park road construction program that was part of the Federal Highways Act of 1954, construction budgets remained low during the 1950s.[4]

This situation triggered a crisis. Bernard Devoto, a noted historian and journalist, published a damning exposé of the national parks in *Harper's Magazine* in October 1953. Entitled "Let's Close the National Parks," the article detailed the status of the parks. He presented a woeful image. Park roads, buildings, and other facilities were, he noted, in deplorable shape. Parks themselves, Devoto observed, were also understaffed and employees lived in decrepit housing. A survey of NPS park staff echoed Devoto's concerns over living conditions. Park housing was determined, by the employees themselves, to be inadequate and substandard. Devoto excoriated

[2] See Lizabeth Cohen, *A Consumers' Republic: The Politics of Mass Consumption in Postwar America* (New York, NY: Vintage Books, 2004).

[3] Richard West Sellars, *Preserving Nature in the National Parks: A History* (New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 1997) pg. 173.

[4] Linda Flint McClelland, *Building the National Parks: Historic Landscape Design and Construction* (Baltimore, MD: The Johns Hopkins University Press), pg. 462.

Congress for ignoring the imperiled parks and underfunded National Park Service. Other similar articles with such titles as "National Parks: Tomorrow's Slums," and "The Shocking Truth About Our National Parks," appeared in other national magazines. The articles gave voice to widespread concern that the National Park Service had not met its obligations to the public or its employees.[5] Congress, however, was not initially forthcoming with additional funding.

The National Park Service leadership was not oblivious to these trends. In fact, the problems that observers reported in the 1950s were predicted a decade before. Director Newton Drury voiced concern over a predicted increase in park use as early as 1944. He called for a three-year program of construction and management planning in anticipation of increased visitation. His plan emphasized resource protection over development. The director wanted to address the maintenance backlog, but he also wanted to manage visitation and development in a way that restricted impacts on vulnerable resources. He urged the removal of concession facilities from sensitive areas, reduction of campground development, and discouragement of resort-style development. While Drury's efforts to raise money for projects was unsuccessful, post-war park management planning continued in the hope that funding would become available. Planning was especially pressing for newly established, relatively undeveloped parks such as Everglades National Park and Big Bend National Park.[6]

Conrad Wirth, a career NPS planner, replaced Drury as director in 1951. He was immediately confronted with his predecessor's challenges. Ever increasing park use and stagnant funding became an even more pressing problem. Wirth realized that the status of park funding was not going to change unless he did something bold. He saw that other agencies like the Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation, and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers were able to obtain adequate and secure funding because they were working on large multiyear projects that required regular appropriations to ensure their completion. National Park Service projects, by comparison, were small and could easily be cut from budgets. The National Park Service was obviously not building large dams, but Wirth was convinced that a large programmatic project was needed to convince Congress to adequately fund the National Park Service. He felt, moreover, that a project that encompassed all the states would encourage Congress to be more generous. Fortuitously, there was also concern that demobilization after the Korean War would undermine the U.S. economy by reducing federal spending. Wirth knew that President Eisenhower was looking for public works projects that could stimulate the economy, but that did not resemble the social welfare programs of the New Deal.[7] This was part of the motivation for development of the interstate highway system. It was in this environment that the director developed a bold plan to secure presidential and congressional support for dramatically increased park funding.

[5] McClelland, *Building the National Parks*, pg. 462; Sellars, *Preserving Nature*, pg. 182; Ethan Carr, *Mission 66: Modernism and the National Park Dilemma* (Amherst, MA: University of Massachusetts Press, 2007) pgs. 6–7.

[6] McClelland, *Building the National Parks*, pg. 461; Sellars, *Preserving Nature*, pg. 174.

[7] Sellars *Preserving Nature*, pgs. 182–3, Carr, *Mission 66*, pg. 10.

Wirth revealed his plan in the winter of 1956. He stood at the podium of the American Pioneer Dinner on February 8 and announced an ambitious new program he called Mission 66. The director proposed to develop, enlarge, and modernize the national parks by 1966, the 50th anniversary of the National Park Service. As much as his proposal was a development plan, it was a maneuver to pressure Congress and President Eisenhower to increase NPS appropriations to address the results of over a decade of woefully inadequate park funding. One of Wirth's closest advisors in the formulation and early implementation of Mission 66 was Lon Garrison, former superintendent of Big Bend National Park. Wirth won the president's support before he ever publicly announced the program. Eventually, Congress responded favorably, partly, no doubt, because Wirth proposed projects in many members' districts.[8]

Park Service budgets increased 39% the first year of Mission 66 and 11% the next year and increased continually over the next decade. This supported an extensive construction and development program. The Mission 66 program emphasized a decade-long expansion of park staff; increased development of interpretive services; construction of modern facilities; and improvement of roads, trails, and campgrounds.[9]

The initial Mission 66 construction program included over 1,000 projects ranging from sewers to visitor centers, valued at $75 million. By 1966, Congress had appropriated approximately $1 billion for NPS Mission 66 programs. Historian Ethan Carr notes that Mission 66 was "the most effective means of increasing Park Service appropriations since [the New Deal]."[10]

The philosophical design foundations of Mission 66 reflected a desire to break from the past. Stephen Mather, the first director of the National Park Service, saw development necessary to the survival of the agency. In his view, attracting tourism was an essential resource for establishing public, and thereby, congressional support for the parks. This ideology shaped park development into the 1950s. The post-war embrace of the national parks forced a re-evaluation of this frame work. No longer was merely attracting constituents enough. Park planners realized that national parks now had to both accommodate and manage visitation. Development had to be planned in such a way as to allow dramatic increases in use and facilitate the protection of resources.[11]

Wirth reminded planners that existing facilities were designed for a "stagecoach economy." The parks, in his opinion, were in need of a contemporary makeover. The director and his advisors encouraged the use of modern methods of landscape and architectural design in place of the rustic designs of the 1920s and 1930s. Planners and architects were encouraged to experiment with structural form and materials. The increased use of glass, concrete, and steel was an integral

[8] Robert Frankenberger and James Garrison, "From Rustic Romanticism to Modernism, and Beyond: Architectural Resources in the National Parks," *Forum Journal* (summer 2002), pg. 15; Carr, *Mission 66*, pgs. 3, 68; McClelland, *Building the National Parks*, pg. 463.

[9] McClelland, *Building the National Parks*, pg. 463.

[10] McClelland, *Building the National Parks*, pg. 469; Carr, *Mission 66*, pg. 10.

[11] Sellars, *Preserving Nature*, pg. 181.

part of the program, as was the incorporation of prefabricated architectural and structural components.[12]

Mission 66 buildings were intended to blend into the landscape. This concept shaped design, location, and ornamentation of Mission 66 structures. Historian Ethan Carr points out that the "horizontal massing, unornamented elevations, and (usually) unobtrusive siting of Mission 66 buildings," served to minimize their visibility and almost always allowed them to harmonize with the landscape. In this way, Mission 66 grew out of the planning process that Director Drury began. Carr characterized Big Bend as an example of a park where this unobtrusiveness goal was met.[13]

Much of Mission 66 development was focused on visitor services and accommodations such as lodging and campgrounds. In fact, over 500 campgrounds were constructed under the program. The Chisos Mountain Lodge at Big Bend National Park was constructed in 1966 and is considered a prototypical post-war park lodge. Other Mission 66 visitor services buildings included stores, restaurants, and service stations.[14]

The visitor center was the most symbolic of Mission 66 buildings. Prominent architects were often hired to design modern visitor centers and administrative buildings that became the aesthetic center of many Mission 66 developments. More than 100 visitor centers were planned and by 1966, 95, including the Panther Junction administrative building, had been constructed. Sixteen others were under construction or contracted. Costs of the buildings ranged from $100,000 to $500,000 each.[15]

Mission 66 also included extensive infrastructural development (especially road and trail) projects. Almost 3,000 miles of new or rehabilitated roadways were constructed under the program, which also resulted in the construction of 256 utility and maintenance buildings. The maintenance buildings were constructed next to maintenance yards that were delineated by a linear arrangement of buildings, garages, and sheds. The buildings were often built to standardized plans and sited near employee housing developments.[16]

Mission 66 was not just a construction program. It included a significant expansion of NPS staff. Staff required housing. Initial Mission 66 plans envisioned the construction of over 1,000 new housing units in the first five years of the program. Ultimately, the program resulted in the construction of 1,239 new employee housing units over 10 years. Government regulations for square footage and cost resulted in austere budgets. The cost of the residences, on average, was

[12] McClelland, *Building the National Parks*, pg. 464; Sellars, *Preserving Nature*, pg. 183.

[13] Carr, *Mission 66*, pg. 340; Sellars *Preserving Nature*, pg. 184.

[14] Carr, *Mission 66*, pg. 252; Sellars *Preserving Nature*, pg. 184.

[15] Carr, *Mission 66*, pg. 155.

[16] Carr, *Mission 66*, pg. 166.

$18,000 each. In order to efficiently construct such a large number of homes quickly and within budget, John B. "Bill" Cabot, chief architect for the National Park Service, developed residential plans in 1956 entitled "Standard Plans for Employee Housing," later amended with additional plan variations. These standardized plan residences became known as the "Mission 66 Ranch." The standard plans included variations of two- and three-bedroom ranch houses, as well as designs for multiple units and a dormitory. In fact, the first design was based on two 1951 houses that were built at Glacier National Park, West Glacier Headquarters area, that were approved by Cabot when he was the Region II regional architect in Omaha, Nebraska.[17]

Several plans were quickly developed for two-, three-, and four-bedroom homes, apartments, duplexes, and dormitories. Typical two-bedroom units were about 1,100 square feet and three-bedroom units were approximately 1,300 square feet. Later, standardized plans increased square footage by about 200 feet. Minor modifications to the plans were allowed to meet local need. For example, the location of garages and porches could be altered to meet local need. Sheathing could also be modified to use locally available materials.[18]

The Mission 66 program was not without controversy. Some specific projects, such as ski lifts and boat marinas focusing on recreation, drew the ire of conservationists. More general widespread criticism of Mission 66 was related to the fact that the National Park Service envisioned dramatic construction and development plans that would modernize and urbanize the parks replacing the rustic traditions of previous eras. Critics disapproved of many of the new visitor centers and tourist facilities, which they considered inappropriate in design and location. Similarly, the design and construction of roads that supported greater traffic volumes and increased speeds prompted negative reactions from critics. Opponents also feared the National Park Service was involved in a construction binge that would lead to overdevelopment at the cost of preservation. Devereux Butcher, an artist and photographer who had also studied architecture, was not enthusiastic about modern architecture being introduced in the national parks. In the early 1950s, he visited those national parks with new construction, including Big Bend. Butcher described the new maintenance building at Panther Junction as resembling a factory.[19]

Director Wirth and his fellow NPS planners and architects defended Mission 66 development as the most effective way to accommodate the visitor's right to visit national parks and the reality that they were visiting in large numbers.[20] Mission 66 planners were convinced they could address the need to accommodate increased use without impairing park resources.

Ultimately, Mission 66 development was impacted by the rise of the environmental movement, which forced the National Park Service to adopt a less developmental perspective by the mid-

[17] National Park Service Draft Mission 66 Era Resources, National Register of Historic Places form, revision II, 01/07/2013 (on file at the NPS Intermountain Region, Santa Fe, NM).

[18] Carr, *Mission 66*, pg. 169–70.

[19] Carr, *Mission 66*, pg. 133.

[20] McClelland, *Building the National Parks*, pg. 470; Sellars *Preserving Nature*, pg. 185; Carr, *Mission 66*, pg. 14.

1960s. Wirth was replaced as director by George H. Hartzog Jr. in 1964. Under Hartzog's leadership, the National Park Service turned away from many of the development-oriented modernist principals of Mission 66. Hartzog urged park planners to adopt a naturalistic design wherein the "manmade facility [was] subservient to" the surrounding landscape. The use of locally obtained materials was emphasized. Finally, ecological considerations were incorporated to ensure "preservation over use." Large-scale development, as pursued under Mission 66, was incongruent with these new management and development philosophies. Instead of developing parks to accommodate more visitors, Hartzog proposed expansion of the national park system to meet recreational demands. Under his leadership, the number and diversity of national park system units increased by nearly 60.[21]

Mission 66 at Panther Junction

There is evidence of human occupation and use of what is now Big Bend National Park going back at least 11,000 years. The earliest residents were hunters and gatherers pursing large game. Changing climatic conditions caused the residents to shift focus to smaller game and hunting techniques changed to include the use of a spear thrower or atlatl. At the same time there was an increased reliance on gathering and processing plants. Residents maintained this lifeway until about 1,000 years ago when contact with sedentary agricultural groups to the northwest resulted in the adoption of limited agricultural practices and use of the bow and arrow.

Archeological evidence reveals American Indian use of the Panther Junction area beginning 4,500 years ago and extending into the historic era with evidence that the area was used by the Mescalero Apache in the 17th century.[22]

Historic American Indian occupation of the Big Bend area (beginning around AD 1535) included the Chisos Indians, a group of nomadic peoples who were linguistically associated with the Conchos Indians of North Chihuahua in northwestern Coahuila, Mexico. The Chisos were displaced by the Mescalero Apache after 1700. The Jumanos passed through the Big Bend area on migrations between what is known today as west Texas and southeastern New Mexico. Finally, the Comanche Indians passed through the park area until the mid-1800s along the Great Comanche Trail while conducting raids into the interior of Mexico.

In 1535, the first European, Alvar Nunez Cabeza de Vaca, passed near the Big Bend area. He was followed by other explorers and then by a short-lived line of presidios along the Rio Grande in the late 1700s. The closest presidios were Presidio de San Vicente near present day San Vicente, Coahuila, and Presidio de San Carlos near present day Manuel Benavides, Chihuahua. Permanent settlement of the area began after Mexican Independence in 1821.

[21] McClelland, *Building the National Parks*, pgs. 478–9; Sellars *Preserving Nature*, pg. 205–6.

[22] Thomas C. Alex, "Addendum to the Assessment of Effect for Proposed Construction of a Science and Resource Management Office at Panther Junction, Big Bend National Park, Texas," February 26, 2006, BIBE Compliance file 99_15; Donald W. Corrick "Archeological Clearance for Installation of Metal Buildings for Fuel Truck, Recycle Center, and Fire Cache, Panther Junction, Big Bend National Park, Brewster County, Texas," July 1, 1998, BIBE Compliance file 98_16. Both on file at BIBE.

Non-Hispanic settlers began arriving in the area after 1849, and ranchers began settling in the Big Bend area in the 1870s. By 1900, sheep, goat, and cattle ranches dominated the landscape. Farmers settling in the Rio Grande floodplain built small agricultural villages like Terlingua Abajo, San Vicente, La Coyota, and Castolon. Mining also began in the early 1900s, which increased settlement in the Big Bend area. The communities of Boquillas and Terlingue sprang up as a result of mining activities.

Beginning in the 1920s, the area that became Big Bend National Park attracted the attention of conservationists and other advocates who, with the increased interest in automobile travel, hoped that the protection of natural areas could lead to greater tourism in the Big Bend region. Men such as J. J. Willis, an automobile dealer from Midland, and state representative Robert M. Wagstaff actively pushed for protection of the scenic resources of Big Bend in the early 1930s. Advocates for a park in the Big Bend area gained the support of a majority of Texas lawmakers, and in March 1933 the state legislature passed legislation authorizing the creation of Big Bend State Park, which consisted of 150,000 acres in 15 sections of land near the Rio Grande canyons of Santa Elena, Mariscal, and Boquillas. Governor Miriam "Ma" Ferguson signed the bill into law a few months later. A Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) camp was established at Chisos Basin in 1934. Section five of the state park enabling legislation encouraged the eventual inclusion of park lands in a national park. Congress and President Franklin Delano Roosevelt followed up on this request two years later when they authorized the establishment of Big Bend National Park on June 20, 1935. However, it took another nine years before the land acquisitions were complete, delaying official establishment of the park until June 12, 1944.[23]

When first established in the mid-1930s, the park was isolated and minimally developed, a fact acknowledged in the first initial planning documents for Big Bend National Park, which described the park as "untouched wilderness." Subsequent development in the park remained relatively minimal, even during the Mission 66 era.[24] One of the most pressing concerns at Big Bend was the need for a park headquarters. NPS employees were living in abandoned CCC-era tent-cabins at Chisos Basin during the late 1940s, subsequent to park establishment.

The initial planning for location and design of park headquarters at Big Bend National Park was conducted under the leadership of Director Newton Drury and reflects his concern about balancing development with resource protection. The Civilian Conservation Corps began developing Big Bend State Park in 1934. They constructed an 8-mile road to Chisos Basin where they placed the center of development. Several trails were also constructed allowing access to the surrounding mountains. The Civilian Conservation Corps constructed the first permanent buildings in Chisos Basin in 1940. Workers built a series of stone and stucco cabins on a spur road in the upper reaches of the basin.

[23] Michael Welsh, "Landscape of Ghosts, River of Dreams: A history of Big Bend National Park," (NPS 2002) http://www.nps.gov/bibe/historyculture/upload/BIBE-ADHI-2008.pdf (accessed October 30, 2012), pgs 21, 52, 333–4.

[24] Carr, *Mission 66*, pg. 27.

A group of NPS park specialists visited the Big Bend area in February 1940 in order to begin the master planning process for Big Bend National Park. The planners included Harvey H. Cornell, the regional landscape architect based in Santa Fe; Ross Maxwell, geologist and future Big Bend superintendent; and Jerome Miller, an NPS architect based in Santa Fe. The planners addressed several issues associated with development of the new park, including the siting of entrances and the necessary network of park roads, including primary routes connecting the north entrance with Chisos Basin, a road east to Boquillas, and a road from Chisos Basin to a proposed west entrance near Terlingua. Secondary roads were also considered throughout the park, including routes to Santa Elena Canyon, Mariscal Canyon, and along the Rio Grande. Cornell also wanted visitors to have access to the south rim from Chisos Basin. He proposed that a tramway could be constructed from the basin to the Laguna area. From there, a road could be constructed to take visitors to the rim. The south rim road and tram proposals were never adopted.[25]

The planners addressed facility planning only after analyzing road systems in the park. Cornell asserted that a lodge and cabins should be constructed in Chisos Basin in order to take full advantage of the park's scenic resources. The planners were not supportive of an earlier CCC plan in which large campgrounds were to be constructed at Chisos Basin. Instead, they proposed a site in Pine Canyon (which was never developed as a large campground). These initial plans evolved into a management plan that was completed in 1942. It included several grand hacienda-style buildings in the basin, including a resort. A camp similar to Phantom Ranch in Grand Canyon National Park and a cog railway to the South Rim were also proposed. These plans were never implemented, but initial NPS plans for development of the park required making Chisos Basin the focal point of park administration and visitation.[26]

Although Drury was uncomfortable with overdevelopment, the plans for Big Bend were not modest. A development program was proposed that included construction of visitor facilities at the Rio Grande and Chisos Basin. Planners intended to build a "lodge, cabins, coffee shop, store, curio store, service station, stables, campground," and other unspecified structures. They also proposed construction of about 100 miles of "high standard highway, a similar mileage of secondary roads," and horse and foot trails.

Drury opposed the use of Chisos Basin for park headquarters because it was incompatible with his principle of prioritizing conservation over development. Cornell and his associates addressed the location of an administrative area on their February 1940 visit to the park. Cornell noted that the administrative area would consist of a number of buildings, including employee housing, that should not be easily seen from park roads. Initially, most sites evaluated were too exposed and visible from proposed roads to meet Cornell's approval. Eventually, Cornell proposed two sites near the Rio Grande, which were abandoned due to the remoteness of the sites and the summer heat of the area. Finally, a site was selected near the center of the park. It was an ideal spot according to Cornell because development would not significantly affect the natural values of the

[25] Welsh, "Landscape of Ghosts," pgs. 213-4.

[26] McClelland, *Building the National Parks*, pg. 461; NPS, "The Big Bend National Park Project, Texas," pg. 19, Big Bend National Park archives, Big Bend National Park-01508, Box 11.

park and the central location provided the best administrative access to all sections of the park, which also provided easy accessibility to all visitors.

World War II interrupted planning and development of the Big Bend National Park headquarters until 1948 when the National Park Service drilled several water wells in the vicinity of the selected headquarters site. Big Bend was, in fact, one of two new national parks that were in critical need of development after World War II. The other park was Everglades National Park, which was established in 1947. The test wells were productive enough to justify the establishment of an administrative area. The site became known as Panther Junction.[27]

Plans for the headquarters included an "administration building (utility buildings), warehouse and equipment storage, and a housing development for park employees." Visitor services were to be limited to a "gasoline station and general store."[28] Indeed, Panther Junction was envisioned by Cornell and his associates as a community. The original site plan for the headquarters was developed in 1948. It called for the construction of a small administrative building, a small contact station, fire station, utility/maintenance building, store and curio shop, auto court, service station, community center (with a school, gymnasium, and auditorium), softball fields, tennis courts, employee apartments, and 67 residences. The utility/maintenance area was at the southwest end of the site. The contact station, administrative offices, store, service station, and auto court were at the north end of the headquarters complex. Residences were laid out on curved loop roads (figure 22) between the store and utility areas (figure 1). The plan was modified during the Mission 66 era, reducing the scale of development and altering road locations. The community center, fire station, softball fields, tennis courts, employee apartments, and auto court were never constructed. The service station was built north of its proposed site. The small administrative offices and contact station were ultimately incorporated into a large administrative building during the Mission 66 development. Three proposed residential road loops consisting of 31 buildings east of the main road into the administrative area were eliminated. Ultimately, additional post-Mission 66 housing was constructed in the western portions of Panther Junction. Mission 66 planning was dynamic and while the sources are not explicit on the reasons, the plans changed over time. It was likely a result of mission and budgetary considerations. Even with the changes, the core residential development of the 1948 plan was retained.

Cornell was not only active in master planning at Big Bend and, specifically, Panther Junction. He was directly involved in almost all aspects of the early development of the administrative

[27] McClelland, *Building the National Parks*, pgs. 461–2.

[28] Ross Maxwell, "Big Bend National Park—Its Facilities and Problems," April 2, 1949 BIBE archives, BIBE-01508, Box 11; Ross Maxwell, "Big Bend National Park: Its Past—Its Future," September 20, 1948, BIBE archives, BIBE-01508, Box 11.; Welsh, "Landscape of Ghosts," pgs. 214. According to Ross Maxwell, first superintendent of the park and renowned story teller, Sam Nail was riding along and in the vicinity of where the road intersection is now at Panther Junction, he encountered a group of male mountain lions fighting over who was going to mate the lone female and after much growling, snarling, and scuffling, they decided who was top cat and once they had finished this whole show, they all went different directions. That location became known as Panther Junction.

area. Planning and construction were well underway by 1950, by which time the southern residential loops proposed in 1948 had been eliminated from the site plan. The 1950 plans also eliminated the community center, fire station, softball fields, and tennis courts. Employee apartments had been relocated south of their original location and scaled down in size. Car shelters were proposed where the school now stands.[29] In 1951, there was a spur road at Panther Junction that, according to park planning documents, served five residences. These buildings were the superintendent's house (residence 203), assistant superintendent's house (residence 205), the magistrate's house (residence 232), residence 234, and residence 238 (figure 3).[30] While these residences incorporated modern mid-century design that was also used in later Mission 66 Panther Junction residences, it does not appear that they served as models for future standardized designs.

A 150,000-gallon "concrete reservoir" was also constructed. The reservoir was filled via a 3-inch galvanized pipe from a well approximately 1,300 feet distant. Water from the reservoir was eventually delivered via gravity flow to four fire hydrants, residences, and other buildings via a 6-inch cast-iron pipe.[31] Planners stated that the residences still needed enclosed porches, deer fences, and landscaping. Harvey Cornell designed the landscaping and selected trees and shrubs to be planted near the buildings to provide shade. The back and front yards were planned with curved lawns of native grass bordered by shrubs (figure 3). Tree species included cottonwood (*Populus deltoids*), desert willow (*Chilopsis linearis*), Texas black walnut (*Juglans microcarpa*), Texas redbud (*Cercis canadensis* var. *texensis*), fragrant ash (*Fraxinus cuspidate*), and yucca (*Yucca treculeana*). Shrubs and vines included black persimmon (*Diospyros texania*), evergreen sumac (*Rhus virens*), salvia (*Salvia regla*), clematis (*Clematis* sp.), and other species native or easily adapted to the area (figure 4). The residences were served by innovative septic systems with oversized septic tanks to reduce the need for pumping. The leech system was designed so that the outer lines would provide irrigation for landscaping (figure 5). There is no evidence that this system was constructed in other parks. The septic system was eventually abandoned when the sewage treatment plant was constructed during the Mission 66 development. Finally, a maintenance building was under construction (figures 6 ,7, and 18). This building became a prototype for utility buildings planned, but never constructed, at Panther Junction during Mission 66. A proposed 1963 utility building was almost identical to the original maintenance building. The original building design was also typical of maintenance buildings constructed at other parks during Mission 66. The maintenance building temporarily held the park administrative offices and eventually also served as an information office for park visitors. Power was provided by a central power generating plant (25 kW Caterpillar diesel). Underground powerlines provided

[29] "Panther Junction Headquarters, Part of the Master Plan, Big Bend National Park, " Drawing 2108-B, December 1950. Drawing is on file at the National Park Service Technical Information Center Library, Lakewood, CO.

[30] There seems to be some disagreement among site plan drawings from the early 1950s. Some show five residences, others show four. See, for example, NPS, "Landscape Design Residences 1, 3, 4, & 5: Panther Junction Big Bend National Park," Drawing 2042, May 1950; NPS, "Planting Plan: Panther Junction Headquarters Big Bend National Park," Drawing 2188, June 1951. Both drawings are on file at the National Park Service Technical Information Center Library, Lakewood, CO.

[31] NPS, Master Plan Development Outline: Big Bend National Park, Texas, Utilities, 1952, pg. 1. Digital copy on file at IMRE, Santa Fe, NM.

electricity to the buildings. Liquid petroleum gas supplemented electricity at the residences. There was the expectation that housing, roads, utilities, and other buildings be expanded as needed.[32]

Much of the early planning and development at Panther Junction was conducted under the guidance of Lon Garrison who became park superintendent in 1952. Park development was one of his major objectives.

The first Panther Junction development plan he participated in was developed in 1953, by which time the apartment complex and car shelters had been eliminated. A school was proposed, as was the construction of additional residences south of the development proposed in 1948. Additional maintenance and utility buildings were also planned. The plans also reflect the consolidation of the administrative and visitor contact functions into a single building at the site of the current administrative building (figure 2).[33] This plan was retained throughout the Mission 66 era with only minor variations. A 1958 development master plan for Panther Junction was essentially unchanged, except that it proposed the construction of more residences in loops to the north and south of the core of constructed residences.[34] A 1963 plan was unchanged from the 1958 version (figure 11).[35]

In 1954, Superintendent Garrison addressed the need for employee housing. Except for the five housing units already constructed at Panther Junction (buildings 203, 205, 232, 234, 238), employee housing was woefully inadequate. Garrison acknowledged that park housing was substandard, unsafe, and insufficient. Many NPS employees and their families were still using CCC tent-cabins installed in the 1930s.[36]

Garrison pursued the development of new employee housing units throughout the park. In 1954, he proposed two new housing units in Chisos Basin and at Santa Elena Junction and one at Persimmon Gap. Panther Junction, however, was the focus of his plan with 20 new housing units proposed. Seasonal housing was also to be consolidated from tents in Chisos Basin to Panther Junction. A trailer and tent site was proposed at the south end of Panther Junction for seasonal

[32] NPS, Master Plan Development Outline: Big Bend National Park, Texas," Developed Areas, 1952, pg 1–2. Digital copy on file at IMRE, Santa Fe, NM; NPS, Master Plan Development Outline: Big Bend National Park, Texas," Utilities, 1952, pg. 2. Digital copy on file at IMRE, Santa Fe, NM; NPS, Master Plan Development Outline: Big Bend National Park, Texas," Interpretation, 1957 pg. 10. Digital copy on file at IMRE, Santa Fe, NM; NPS, Master Plan Development Outline: Big Bend National Park, Texas," Buildings, 1957, pg. 5. Digital copy on file at IMRE, Santa Fe, NM.

[33] "Panther Junction Headquarters, Part of the Master Plan, Big Bend National Park, " Drawing 2108-E, August 1953. Drawing is on file at the National Park Service Technical Information Center Library, Lakewood, CO.

[34] "Panther Junction Headquarters, Par of the Master Plan, Big Bend National Park, " Drawing 2108-H, August 1958. Drawing is on file at the National Park Service Technical Information Center Library, Lakewood, CO.

[35] Panther Junction Headquarters, Part of the Master Plan, Big Bend National Park, " Drawing 2108-I, August 1963. Drawing is on file at the National Park Service Technical Information Center Library, Lakewood, CO.

[36] Welsh, "Landscape of Ghosts," pgs. 342–3.

housing.[37] Superintendent Garrison left Big Bend in January 1955 for a position in Washington, D.C., before the buildings were constructed.

Garrison served as one of Conrad Wirth's most trusted Mission 66 advisors in Washington D.C. His experiences at Big Bend surely influenced his perspective as a national leader in Mission 66 planning. He, however, was not an architect, but a former chief ranger who had the trust of the park manager. In this manner he was able to draft the Mission 66 policy in terms that resonated with field personnel.[38] George Miller replaced Garrison as superintendent. Miller reported in 1955 that work on the infrastructure at Panther Junction was proceeding. He noted that telephone service had been extended to the site and a water system had been constructed. Miller described the water system as "one of the most distinctive" in the National Park Service. It consisted of a 1,500-foot lift and a 500,000-gallon storage tank. Water was delivered via three lines of pipe "over very rugged terrain" to Panther Junction. The water tank and lift station were large for a park unit in the 1950s; 500,000 gallon tanks were, however, being used in municipal applications in the 1950s and 1,500-foot lifts were in use in various applications in the 1950s. A school had also been constructed by 1955 (figures 8, 9, 19, 20).[39] Most other development did not occur until after 1957.

A Mission 66 plan was developed for Big Bend National Park in 1957. The plan specified four areas in which the park needed development to meet visitor and resource protection needs. These plans included physical development programs such as road and trail construction and rehabilitation; and construction of visitor accommodations, campgrounds, and service facilities. The plan also called for development of more vigorous interpretive and protection programs and hiring more staff to meet visitor needs. The authors also noted that the park had never had adequate maintenance or interpretation facilities.[40]

There was some concern over new construction. The Mission 66 plan authors noted that Big Bend had a small budget and that "there is no point in building new and modern facilities," unless there is an established maintenance and operation program for the new buildings in place at the time of construction. Nonetheless, the plan budgeted nearly $13 million for Mission 66 projects at the park over the next two years (the park maintenance budget was just over $300,000). Two million dollars were set aside for Panther Junction—more than any other specified region of the park. The largest single appropriation was for roads and trails at nearly $7 million.[41]

[37] Welsh, "Landscape of Ghosts," pg. 343.

[38] Carr, *Mission 66*, pg. 103.

[39] George W. Miller, Superintendent, Big Bend National Park, "A Report on the Most Significant Events of the 1955 Fiscal Year at Big Bend National Park, Texas," Science and Resource Management Library, BIBE.; NPS, Panther Junction Park Headquarters, Part of the Master Plan, Big Bend National Park," Drawing 2108G, September 1955. Drawings are on file at the National Park Service Technical Information Center Library, Lakewood CO.

[40] NPS, "Mission 66 for Big Bend National Park," 1957, pgs. 3–4, 6. Digital copy on file at IMRE, Santa Fe, NM.

[41] NPS, "Mission 66 for Big Bend National Park," 1957, pgs. 9–10. Digital copy on file at IMRE, Santa Fe, NM.

The park, therefore, received its first comprehensive development under Mission 66. An administrative building, residences, and other buildings and structures were built at Panther Junction over the next decade. Utilities, roads, and other infrastructure were constructed throughout the park. Secondary visitor areas, such as Rio Grande Village, were developed. Finally, in 1966 the concessioner completed Chisos Mountain Lodge. Ethan Carr describes the lodge as "one of the best examples of the understated, efficient character that Mission 66 planners" envisioned for park lodging.[42]

Housing was one of the primary priorities of Mission 66 development at Big Bend—housing development at Panther Junction was part of one of the most extensive categories of Mission 66 construction. NPS-wide, 743 single-family and semidetached homes and 496 apartment units were built in housing subdivisions near visitor centers and administrative areas in numerous parks. Most of the homes, including those at Panther Junction, were built following standardized plans that came to be known as the "Mission 66 Ranch." The plans included five and six versions of three- and two-bedroom homes, respectively. No variations were allowed, except for orientation of the home and the placement of porches, garages, and other minor changes.[43]

The need for housing was urgent and plans for fiscal year 1957 included construction of 20 residences that Garrison had recommended in 1954 and a 10-unit seasonal employee apartment complex (figure 10). A 1957 list of existing and proposed buildings and structures at Panther Junction included 39 residences—most were two- and three- bedroom homes. Building 236, the Teacherage (figure 12), was a duplex. Seasonal employee apartment buildings 215 and 217 were designed by Lyle Bennett, P. E. Smith, and Robert Hall in 1956. Bennett had extensive NPS experience. He designed the Painted Desert Inn at Petrified Forest National Park in 1940, and in 1948 was involved in the design of modern buildings at Joshua Tree, Olympic, and other parks. Bennett played a prominent role in Mission 66 development. Bennett and his staff designed administrative buildings at several parks, including White Sands and Bandelier national monuments in New Mexico, and served in an advisory role in development at other parks, including Grand Canyon National Park.[44]

There was also a trailer court and tent area with 22 sites for seasonal employees. The trailer court had a laundry room and restroom building (building 240). There was a school (building 449). Other buildings included a radio (telephone exchange) building (building 239), a conference center (building 210, not built), the maintenance building (building 242), a pump house with windmill (building 241), and five storage buildings. The 1957 inventory also lists a planned administrative building, service station, 16 additional proposed residences, and 2 apartments.[45] In early 1963, Panther Junction had 36 employee residences (figure 23) with more planned, a

[42] Carr, *Mission 66*, pgs. 250–1.

[43] Carr, *Mission 66*, pgs. 167–9.

[44] Carr, *Mission 66*, pgs. 63, 140, 155.

[45] NPS, "Master Development Outline: Building Charts, Big Bend National Park" 1957, pg. 7–14. Digital copy on file at IMRE, Santa Fe, NM; NPS, (Management Plan: Big Bend National Park) 1958, pg 32. Digital copy on file at IMRE, Santa Fe, NM.

maintenance building, telephone exchange, and school. There were also at least five equipment storage structures.[46] The administration building was constructed a year later, but the residences and apartments were not built during the Mission 66 era.

NPS planners indicated the need for a concession-operated service station and recreational vehicle (RV) campground near Panther Junction as early as 1952.[47] The service station (figure 13, figure 21) was constructed with a small trailer court, which the concessioner was operating by 1961. NPS planners recommended, however, in 1961 that the trailer court be demolished in place of a larger RV campground. The campground was never constructed. They also proposed a concessioner storage warehouse at Panther Junction, which was not constructed.[48]

Park administrative offices were still temporarily housed in the maintenance building in 1958. A planned administration building was still not constructed. The maintenance building was also a de facto warehouse. Equipment that could not be stored in the maintenance building was stored outside. A warehouse and equipment storage building had not yet been built.[49] Panther Junction had commercial electrical power provided by Rio Grande Electric Cooperative by 1958. Commercial telephone service was also available. There were no plans to replace the existing septic systems with a sewage system. Water was still provided via wells and a storage reservoir.[50]

As discussed above, visitor centers were often the focal point of Mission 66 developments. Panther Junction did not have a specified visitor center, but it did have an administrative building, which was the centerpiece of Mission 66 construction at Panther Junction. Panther Junction was envisioned as a headquarters district that served to meet staffing, protection, and interpretation needs at the park. As park headquarters, it was not considered a primary visitor services area. Therefore, there was no visitor center proposed for Panther Junction. Visitor centers were planned at Chisos Basin, Castolon, and Rio Grande Village near concessions developments. The Panther Junction administrative building, which was included in the earliest Panther Junction planning documents, was expected to be mostly dedicated to park management functions. It was, however, planned with a small lobby for visitor contact and sales. The Mission 66 development plan for Big Bend National Park specified that visitor services at Panther Junction administrative building be limited to a small orientation area to provide information on "where to go and what to do next." There were also plans for a small sales area where visitors could purchase additional interpretative literature.[51] The administrative building was going to be

[46] NPS, "Master Plan for the Preservation and Use of Big Bend National Park," Volume I, Chapter 5, 1963, pg. 2. Digital copy on file at IMRE, Santa Fe, NM.

[47] NPS, "Master Development Outline" Concessions, 1952, pg. 1. Digital copy on file at IMRE, Santa Fe, NM.

[48] NPS, "Master Plan for the Preservation and Use of Big Bend National Park," Volume I, Chapter 3, 1961, pg. 32. Digital copy on file at IMRE, Santa Fe, NM.

[49] NPS, (Management Plan: Big Bend National Park) 1958, pg 31. Digital copy on file at IMRE, Santa Fe, NM.

[50] NPS (Management Plan: Big Bend National Park) 1958, pg 26–7. Digital copy on file at IMRE, Santa Fe, NM.

[51] NPS, "Master Plan for the Preservation and Use of Big Bend National Park," Volume I, Chapter 2, 1960, pg. 3. Digital copy on file at IMRE, Santa Fe, NM.

placed at a location on the "main highway" where visitors could be directed toward other park areas.[52] Although one of the earliest planned buildings (Panther Junction administrative building) was not completed until 1963 (figure 14).

Park Service regional architect Cecil Doty designed the Panther Junction administrative building in 1961 (figure 15). Doty began his NPS career in 1934. He quickly made his mark on NPS architecture when he designed the Region III headquarters in Santa Fe, New Mexico—a building Ethan Carr describes as "one of the finest prewar national park buildings." Doty also assisted in the design of the Painted Desert Inn at Petrified Forest National Park during World War II.[53]

By the late 1940s and early 1950s, Doty, now regional architect for Region IV, was experimenting with more modern designs—he began incorporating flat and shed roofs, reinforced concrete, geometric massing, and other characteristics—a clear departure from the rustic designs of the prewar era.[54] Doty was not alone. He and his contemporaries were adopting modern architectural design well before the 1956 launch of the Mission 66 program.

Doty was influential in the development of the Mission 66 visitor center design. He developed 54 preliminary visitor center designs between 1956 and 1966. Not all the designs were built. Others were significantly altered before completion, but many were constructed. Nonetheless, Doty's work incorporated modern materials and designs that solidified the visitor center as the architectural expression of Mission 66. His designs of the Zion and Montezuma's Castle visitor centers reflect, according to Ethan Carr, "an unpretentious, functional approach to architecture that met (administrative and visitor needs) with dignified efficiency and minimal visual intrusion on the landscape."[55]

Doty approached the design of visitor centers and administrative buildings holistically. He strove to incorporate many of the functions of a park village into one building. Offices, museum exhibits, restrooms, information desks, auditoriums, and other functions were to be under one roof. Interior space was designed for efficient visitor flow.[56]

This design approach is reflected in the Panther Junction administrative building. The building, however, was clearly designed to support park management functions rather than provide direct visitor services. A relatively small area of the building was designated for visitor orientation and information. Most of the rest of the building was dedicated to administrative offices for park

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[52] NPS, "Mission 66 for Big Bend National Park," 1957, pg. 8. Digital copy on file at IMRE, Santa Fe, NM.; Master Plan Development Outline: Big Bend National Park, Texas," Interpretation, 1957, pg. 14. Digital copy on file at IMRE, Santa Fe, NM.

[53] Carr, *Mission 66*, pg. 139.Landscape architect Harvey Cornell was also involved in the design of the Region III headquarters.

[54] Carr, *Mission 66*, pgs. 140–1.

[55] Carr, *Mission 66*, pgs. 147, 151.

[56] Carr, *Mission 66*, pg. 143.

staff, including the superintendent, assistant superintendent, park naturalist, and chief rangers. Space was also dedicated to support staff such as typists and secretaries. There was a space for other uses such as a darkroom, library, and storage. Perhaps, as a reflection of the development focus of Mission 66, the building included a landscape architect's office and a drafting room (figure 16). Non-NPS functions were also incorporated into the building. There was a post office and a "U.S. Commissioner's" office. Finally, the building plan included a large landscaped interior patio, which was inaccessible to visitors.[57]

NPS planners stressed that the location of visitor centers, and in the case of Panther Junction, administrative buildings, were planned in conjunction with road design that would support efficient visitor flow. Large parking lots were provided for the multitude of automobile travelers, and circulation systems were designed to avoid congestion. The goal was to keep park visitors and their automobiles moving. Again, the Panther Junction administrative building reflects this philosophy. A testament to the automobile-based travel that Mission 66 sought to serve; a large parking lot with space for 42 visitor vehicles and 17 employee vehicles was placed adjacent to the administrative building.[58] The building itself was centrally located along major park roads near a service station.

The completion of the administration building brought active Mission 66 construction to an end at Panther Junction. The 15 years between selection of the Panther Junction site for a headquarters complex to dedication of the administration building in November 1963 resulted in development of Panther Junction as park headquarters. The majority of NPS housing is at this site. Moreover, all park management functions were based out of Panther Junction. Limited visitor services were provided at the administration building. These conditions reflected the original Mission 66 conceptual plans for Panther Junction. The headquarters complex also embodied Mission 66 architectural concepts, including standardized design, modern materials, and unobtrusive contemporary design. Finally, the concept of the park housing area as a community was modified from the original Panther Junction development plans (for example, the community center was never built), but was maintained with housing laid out in residential loops and the construction of a school on-site. Many of the conceptual and design ideals of Mission 66 development are still reflected at Panther Junction.

[57] NPS, "Administration Building, Panther Junction, Big Bend National Park," Drawing 3215D, May 1961. Drawings are on file at the National Park Service Technical Information Center Library, Lakewood, CO.

[58] NPS, "Master Plan for the Preservation and Use of Big Bend National Park," Volume I, Chapter 5, 1963, pg. 2. Digital copy on file at IMRE, Santa Fe, NM.

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Previous documentation on file (NPS):

____ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
____ previously listed in the National Register
____ previously determined eligible by the National Register
____ designated a National Historic Landmark
____ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #_____
____ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
____ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

____ State Historic Preservation Office
____ Other State agency
__X__ Federal agency
____ Local government
____ University
____ Other
Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property ___100 acres_____

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates
Datum if other than WGS84:_____

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Or

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

[ ] NAD 1927 or [X] NAD 1983

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Verbal Boundary Description

The boundaries of the nominated property are delineated by the polygons whose vertices are marked by the above UTM reference points.

Boundary Justification

The boundaries of the district include 37 contributing buildings and one site that comprise the majority of the Mission 66 development at Panther Junction and the four use areas. There are 25 noncontributing buildings and 6 noncontributing structures within the boundary. The eastern, southern, and southwestern boundaries follow the road with an outer edge 50 feet from center line. The western boundary around the residential area is 30 feet beyond the yard fence lines. The northern portion of the district includes the visitor center with parking lot with 30-foot setbacks, the service station and parking lot with 30-foot setbacks, and the portion of TX 118 (Park Route 13) connecting the service station with the visitor center with 50-feet either side of center line, and Alsate Drive connected to the residential area to the south with a corridor 50 feet either side of center line, except along the north side of Telecote Drive between La Junta and Nolinda where the corridor is 30 feet from center line to exclude additional noncontributing buildings.

The boundary was designed to incorporate all Mission 66 resources, including the site at Panther Junction in as contiguous, yet compact, a manner as possible. The noncontributing buildings and structures are within the district boundaries because excluding them would have either resulted in a patchwork of district boundaries or an overly confusing, circuitous, district boundary.

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11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Chris Baker, Historian and Jayne Aaron, Architectural Historian
organization: Aarcher, Inc.
street & number: 88 Inverness Circle E, Suite 106
city or town: Englewood state: CO zip code: 80112
e-mail cbaker@aarcherinc.com; jaaron@aarcherinc.com
telephone: 410.897.9100
date: 07/22/13

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

1. **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location; **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
2. **Additional items: Figures**
3. **Photographs**

Continuation Sheets

NPS Form 10-900 OMB No. 1024 0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form
Continuation

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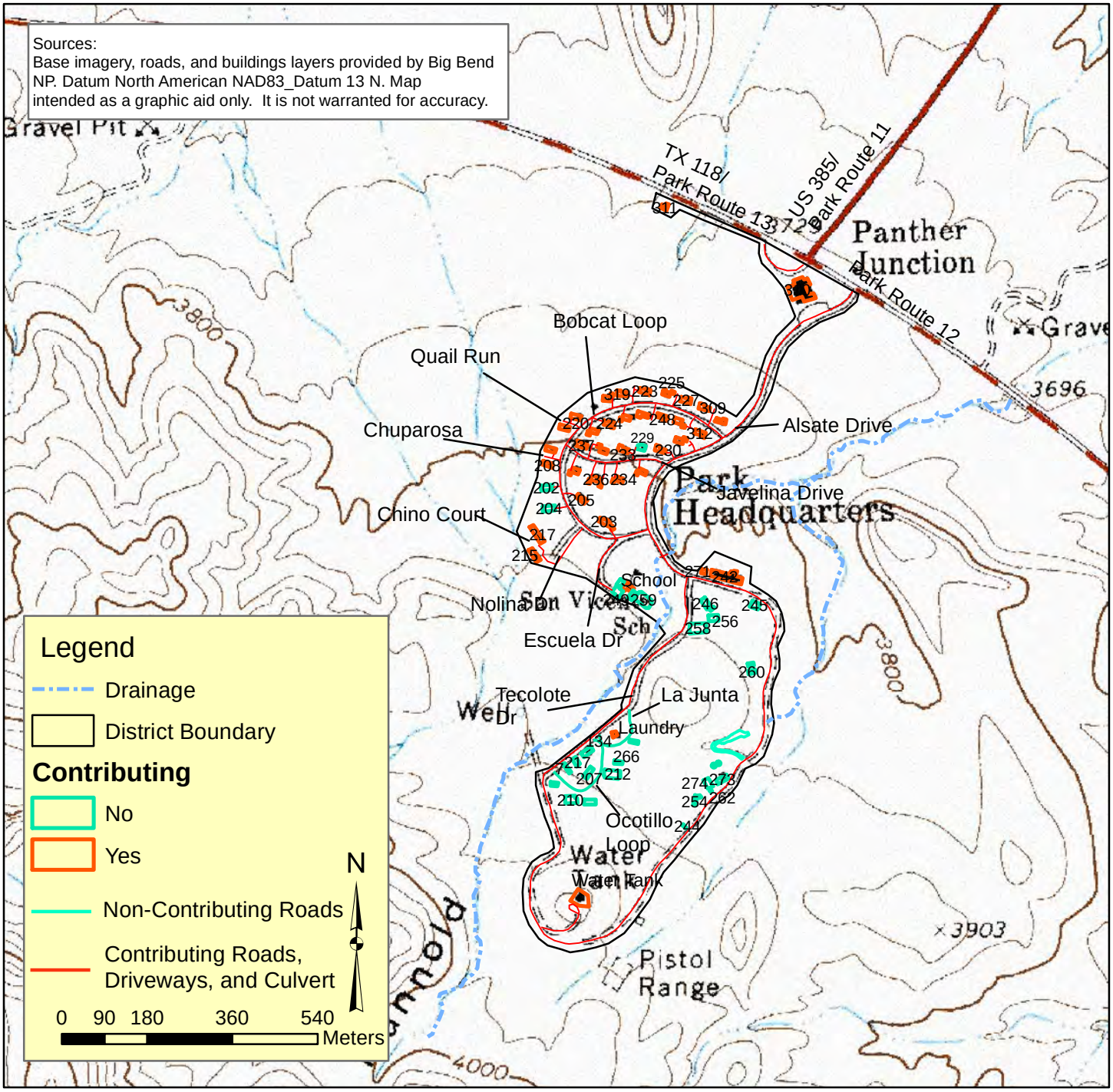

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form
Continuation

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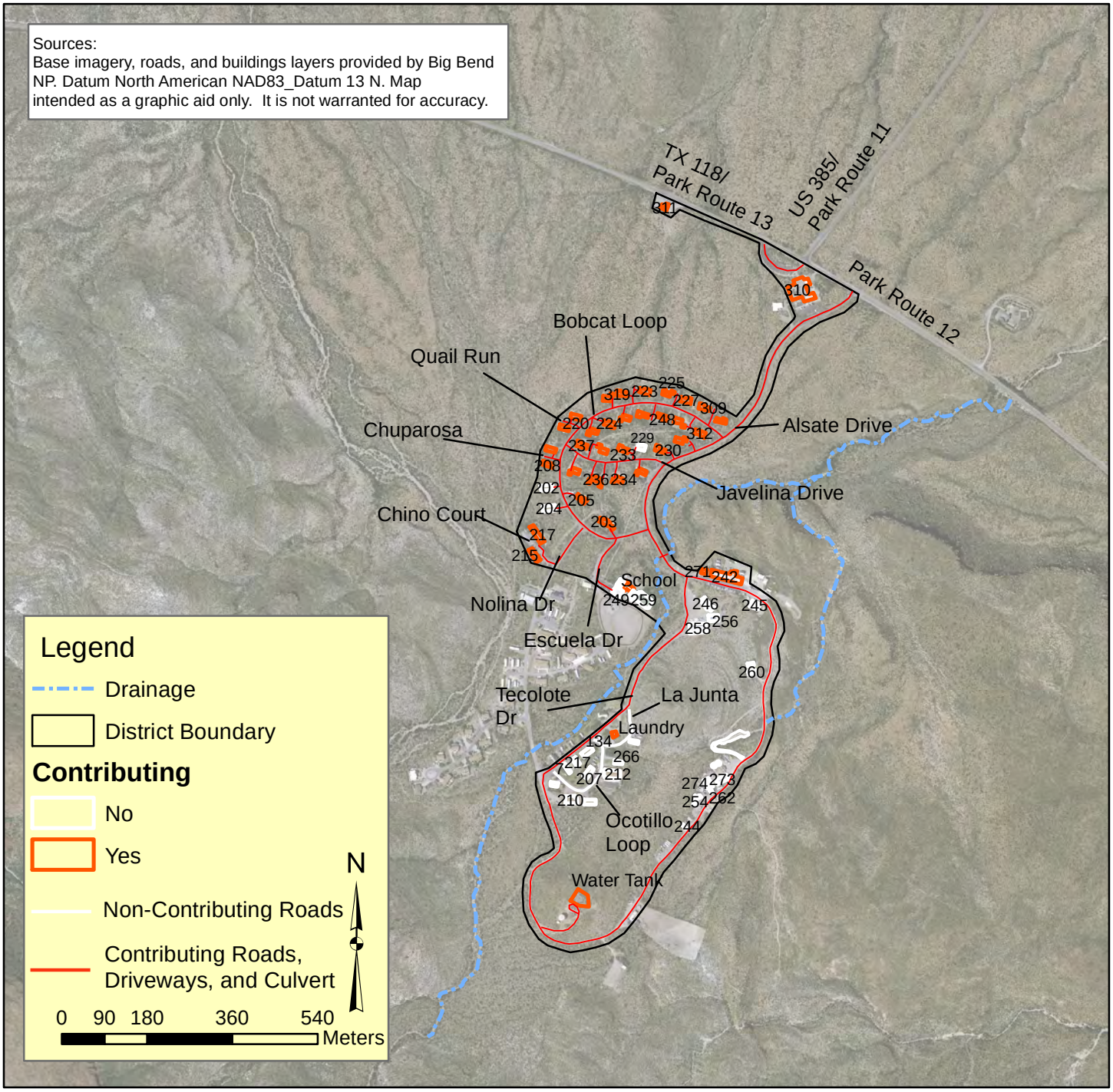

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form
Continuation

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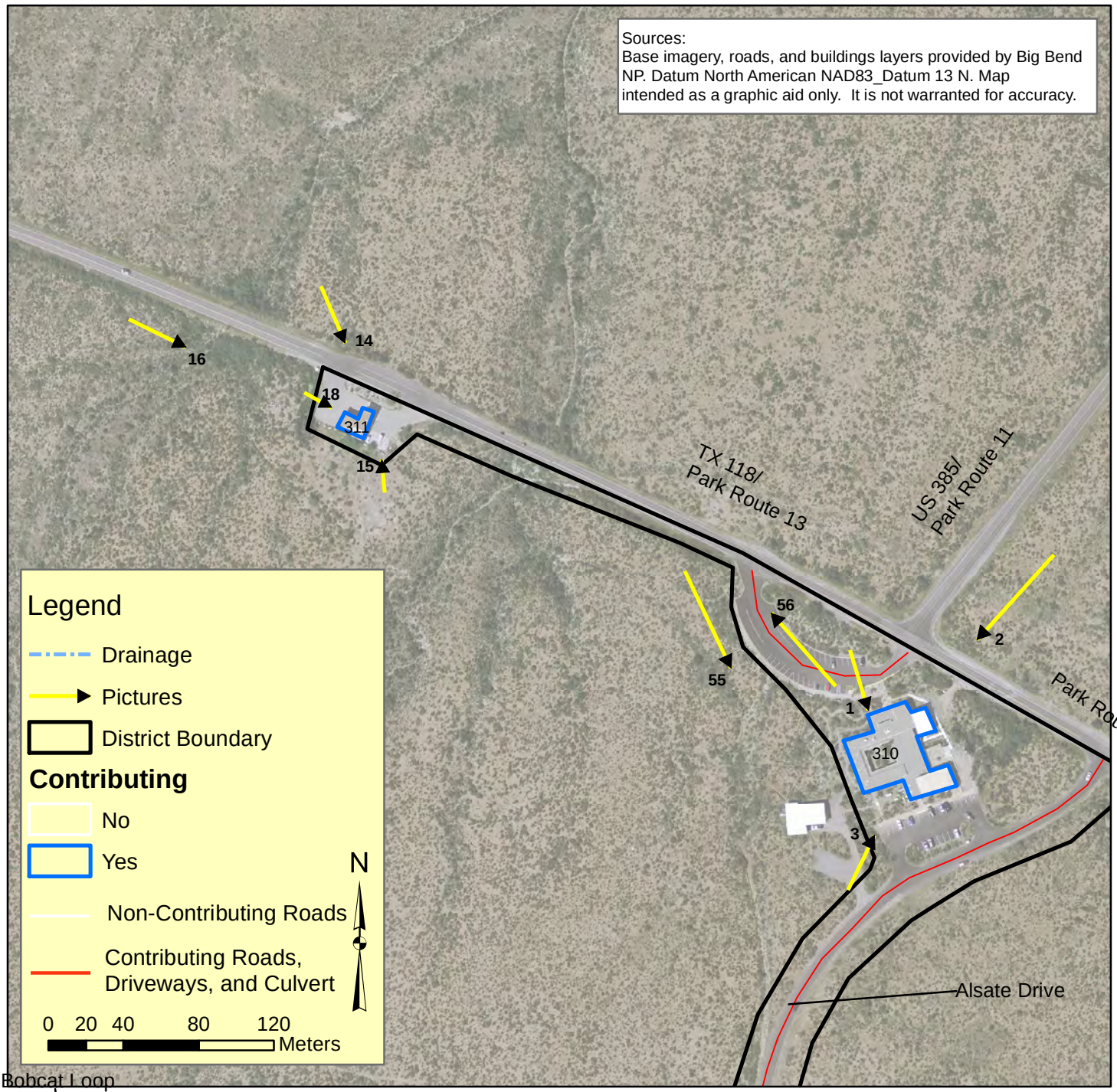

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form
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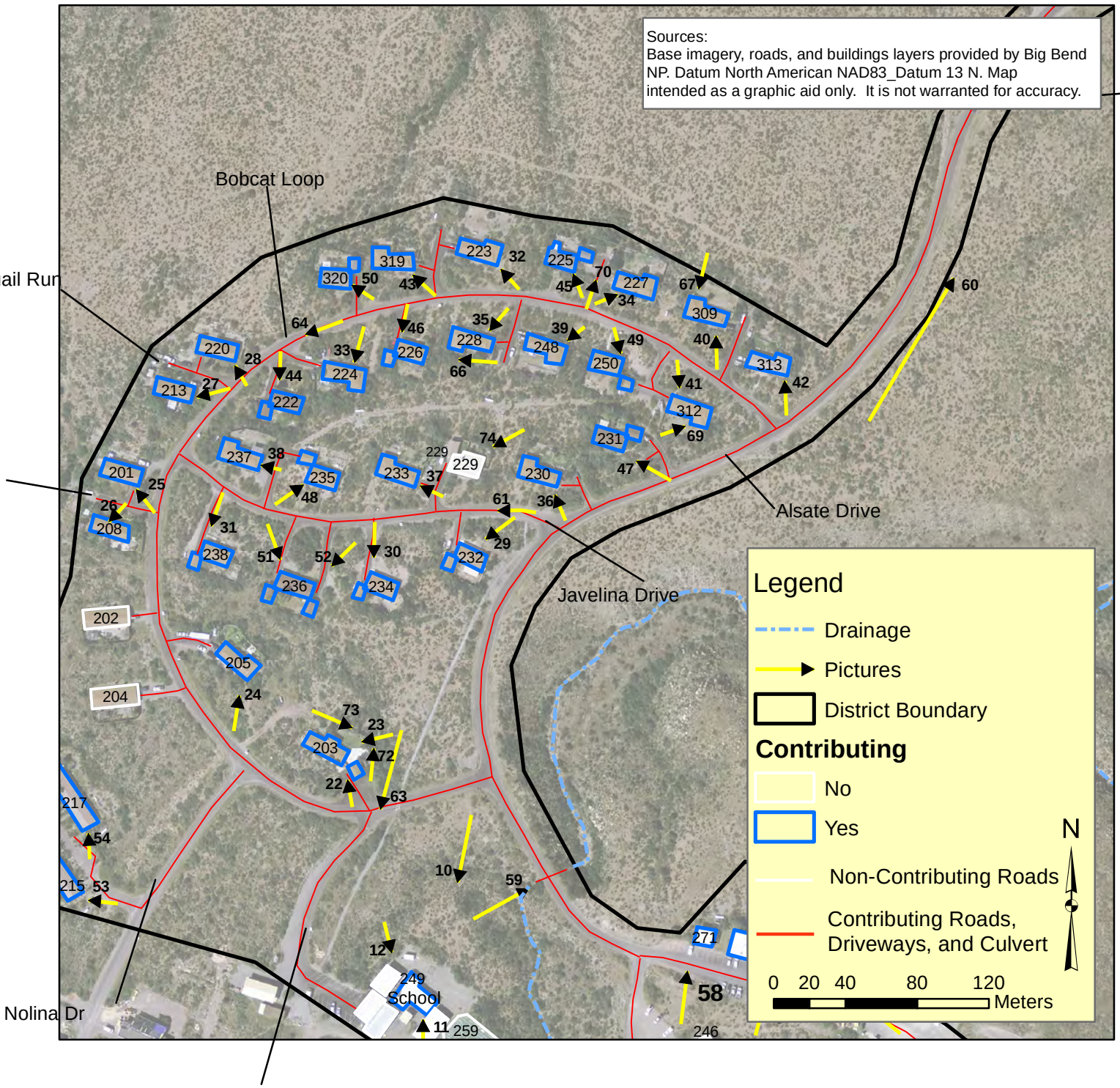

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form
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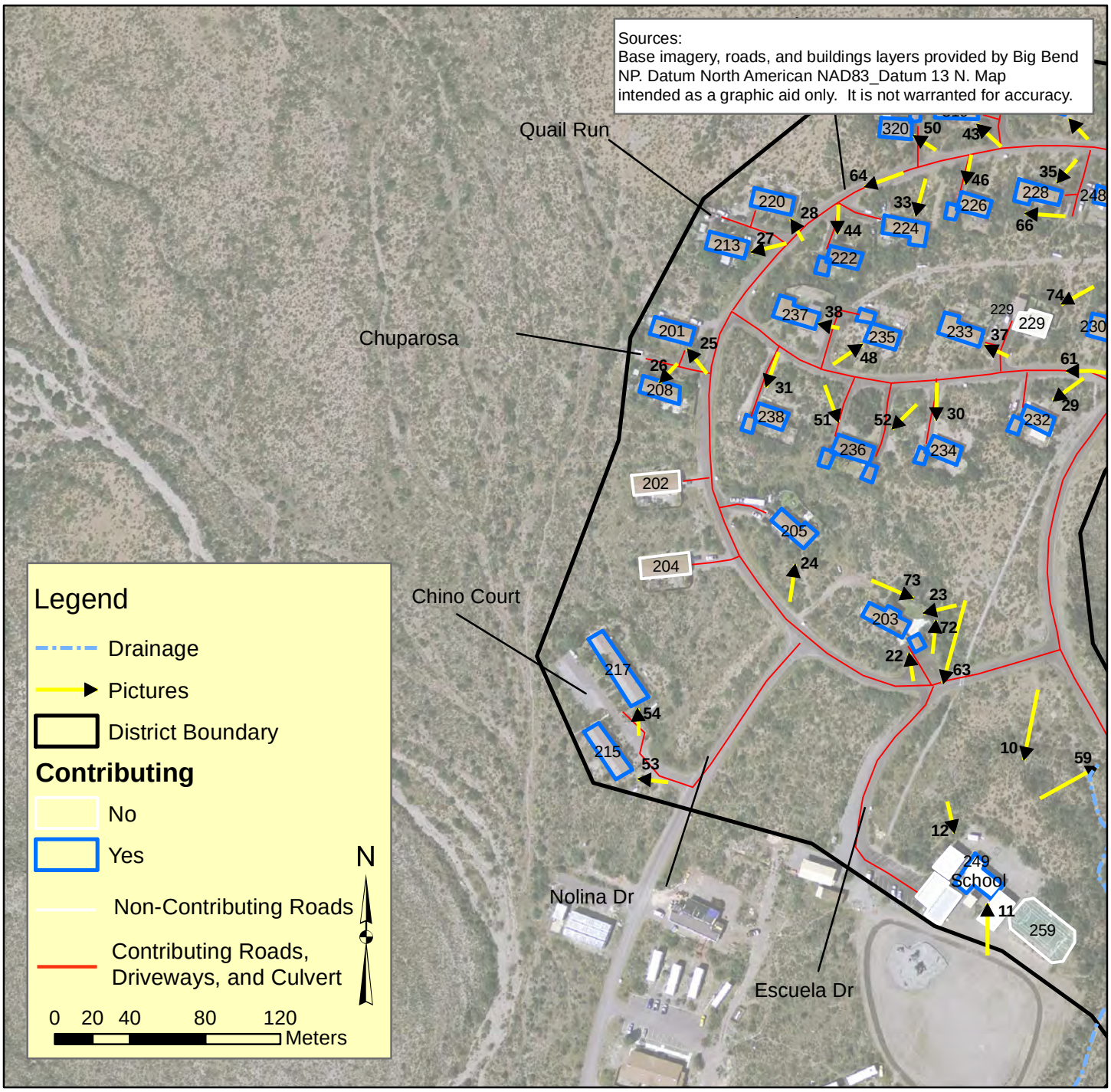

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form
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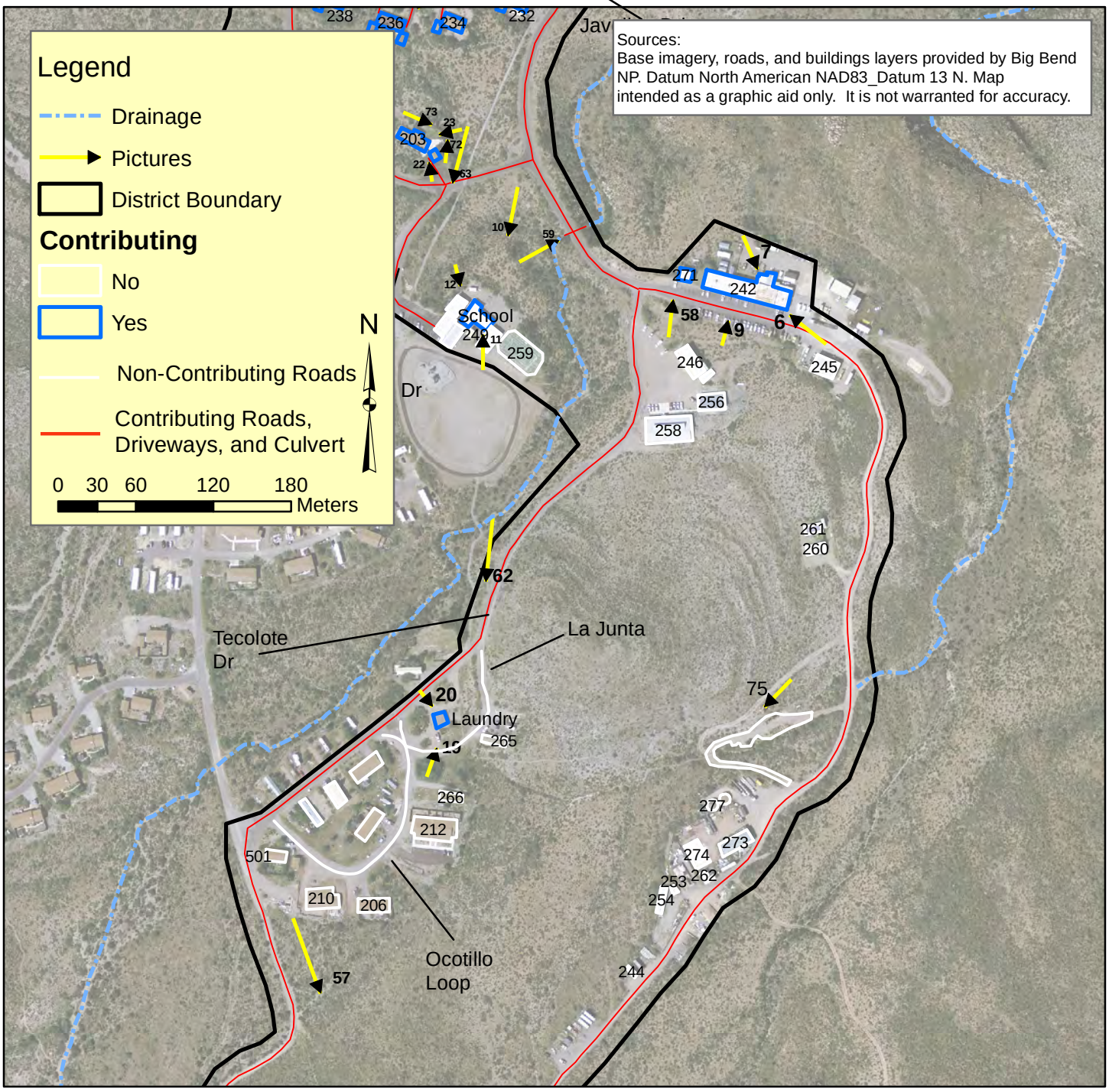


Figure 1: Panther Junction Park Headquarters Plan, 1948

Figure 2: Panther Junction Park Headquarters Plan, 1955

Figure 3: Landscsape Design Plan Residences 1, 3, 4, 5, 1950

Figure 4: Planting Plan, 1951

Figure 5: Sewer Layout for Houses, 1949

Figure 6: Utility Building Plan, 1950

Figure 7: Maintenance Building, circa 1950

Figure 8: An Elementary School for San Vicente CSD, 1952

Figure 9: School, Panther Junction, Undated

Figure 10: 8-Unit Employee Quarters, Building 215 and 217, 1956

Figure 11: Revised Employee Residences Plan, 1964

Figure 12: Teacherages Plan, no date

Figure 13: Proposed Service Station, no date

Figure 14: Administration Bulding, circa 1964

Figure 15: Administration Building, Elevations, 1961

Figure 16: Administration Buildinig, Floor Plan, 1961

Figure 17: Administration Building Elevation, 1962

Figure 18: Maintenance Building Front Façade, circa late 1950s

Figure 19: Saint Vincent School, 1953

Figure 20: Saint Vincent School Playground, circa 1952

Figure 21: Gas Station, 1959

Figure 22: Bobcat Loop 1961

Figure 23: Residence 229, 1957

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

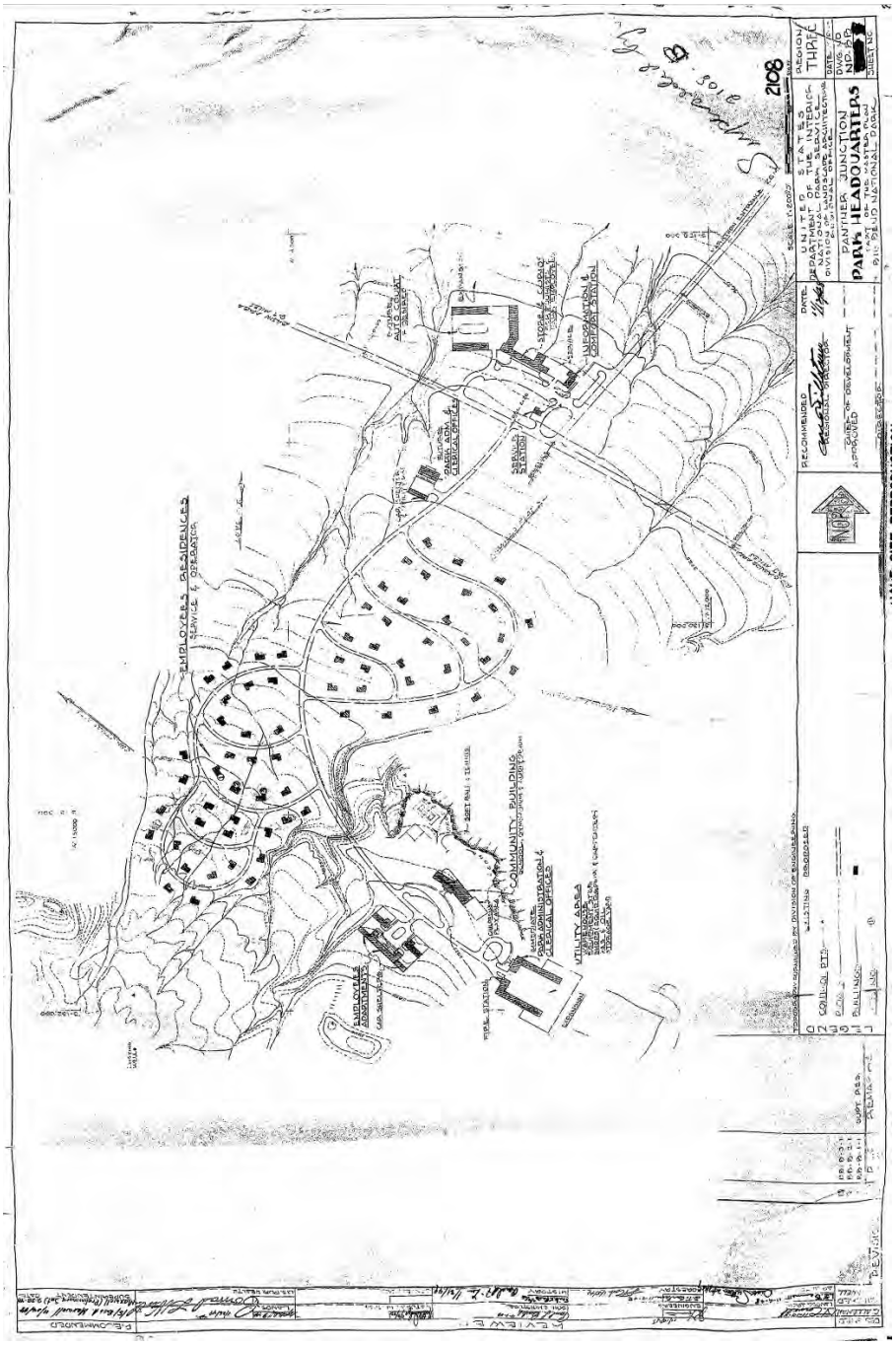
National Register of Historic Places Registration Form
Continuation Sheet

Section Number: Additional Information Figures Page: 9

Name of Property: Panther Junction

City or Vicinity: Big Bend National Park

County: Brewster State: Texas



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

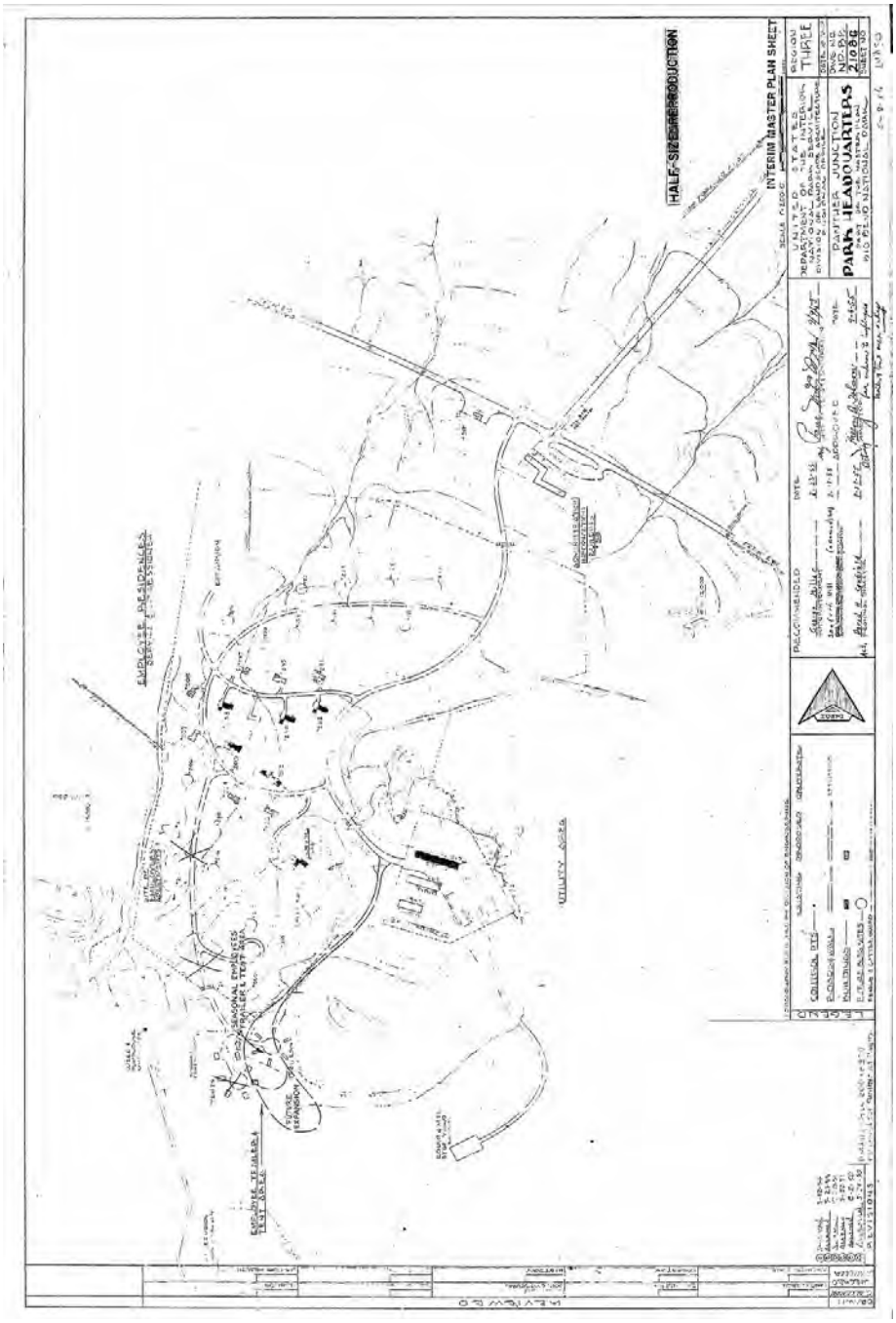
National Register of Historic Places Registration Form
Continuation Sheet

Section Number: Additional Information Figures Page: 10

Name of Property: Panther Junction

City or Vicinity: Big Bend National Park

County: Brewster State: Texas



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

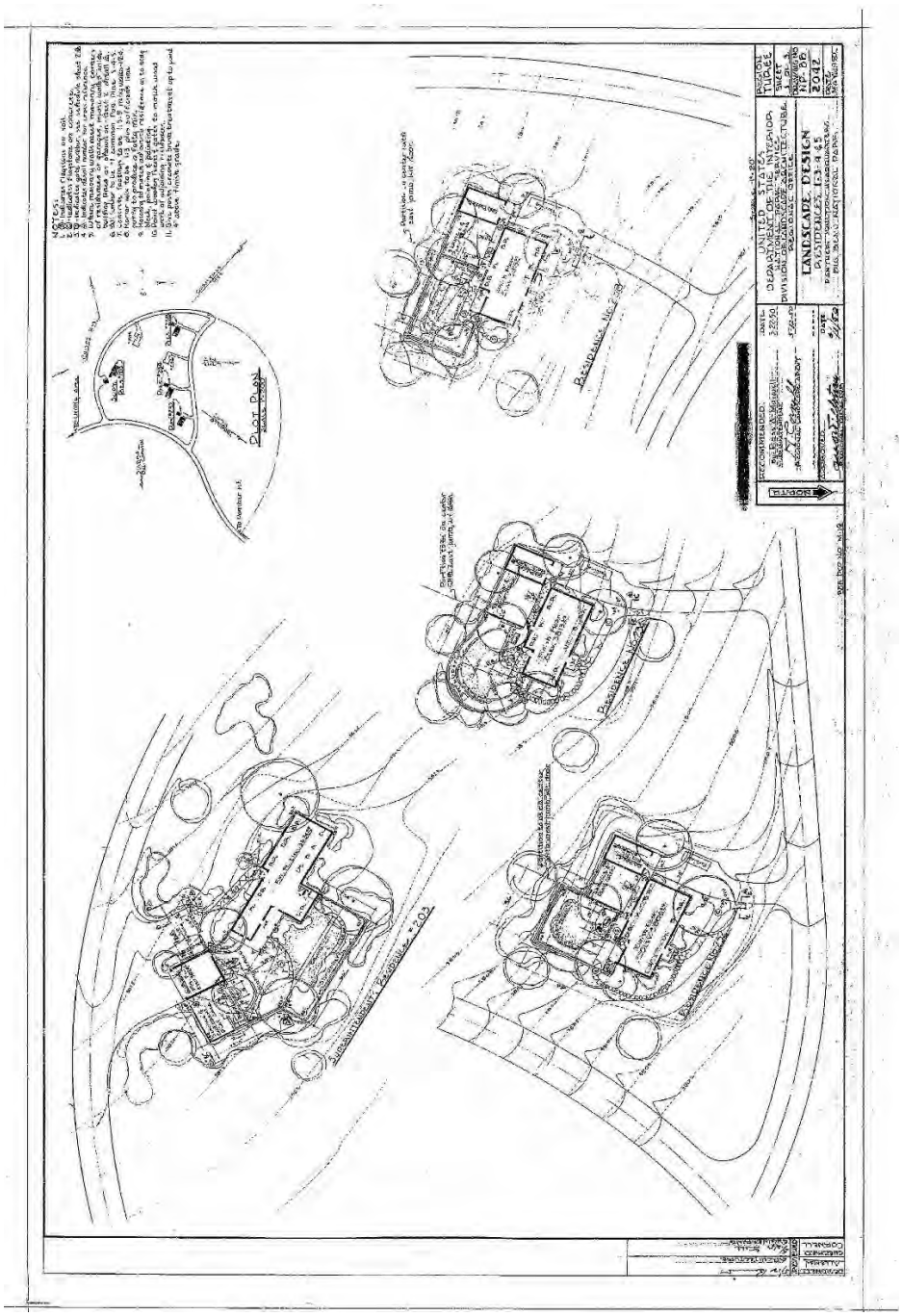
National Register of Historic Places Registration Form
Continuation Sheet

Section Number: Additional Information Figures Page: 11

Name of Property: Panther Junction

City or Vicinity: Big Bend National Park

County: Brewster State: Texas



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

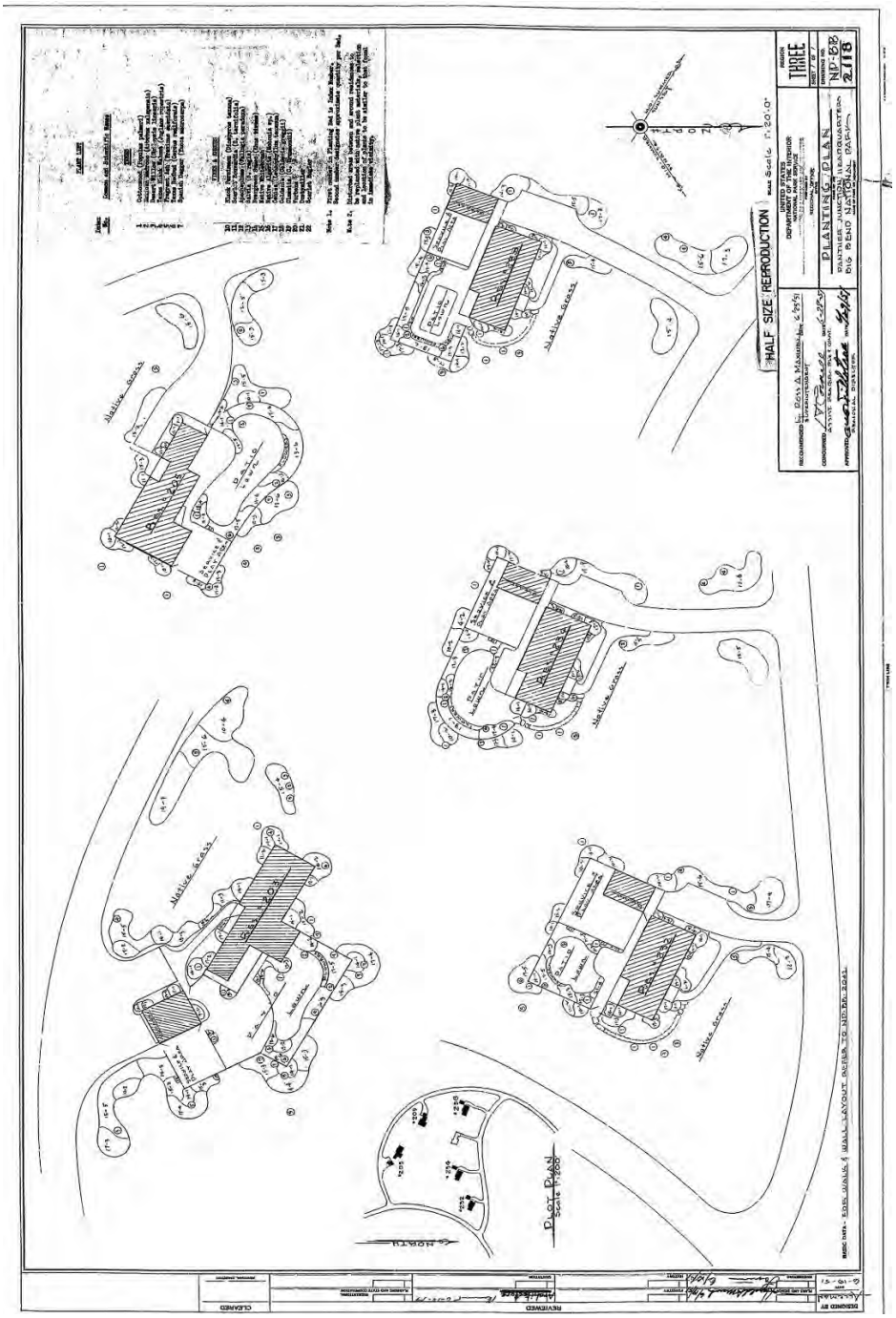
National Register of Historic Places Registration Form
Continuation Sheet

Section Number: Additional Information Figures Page: 12

Name of Property: Panther Junction

City or Vicinity: Big Bend National Park

County: Brewster State: Texas



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

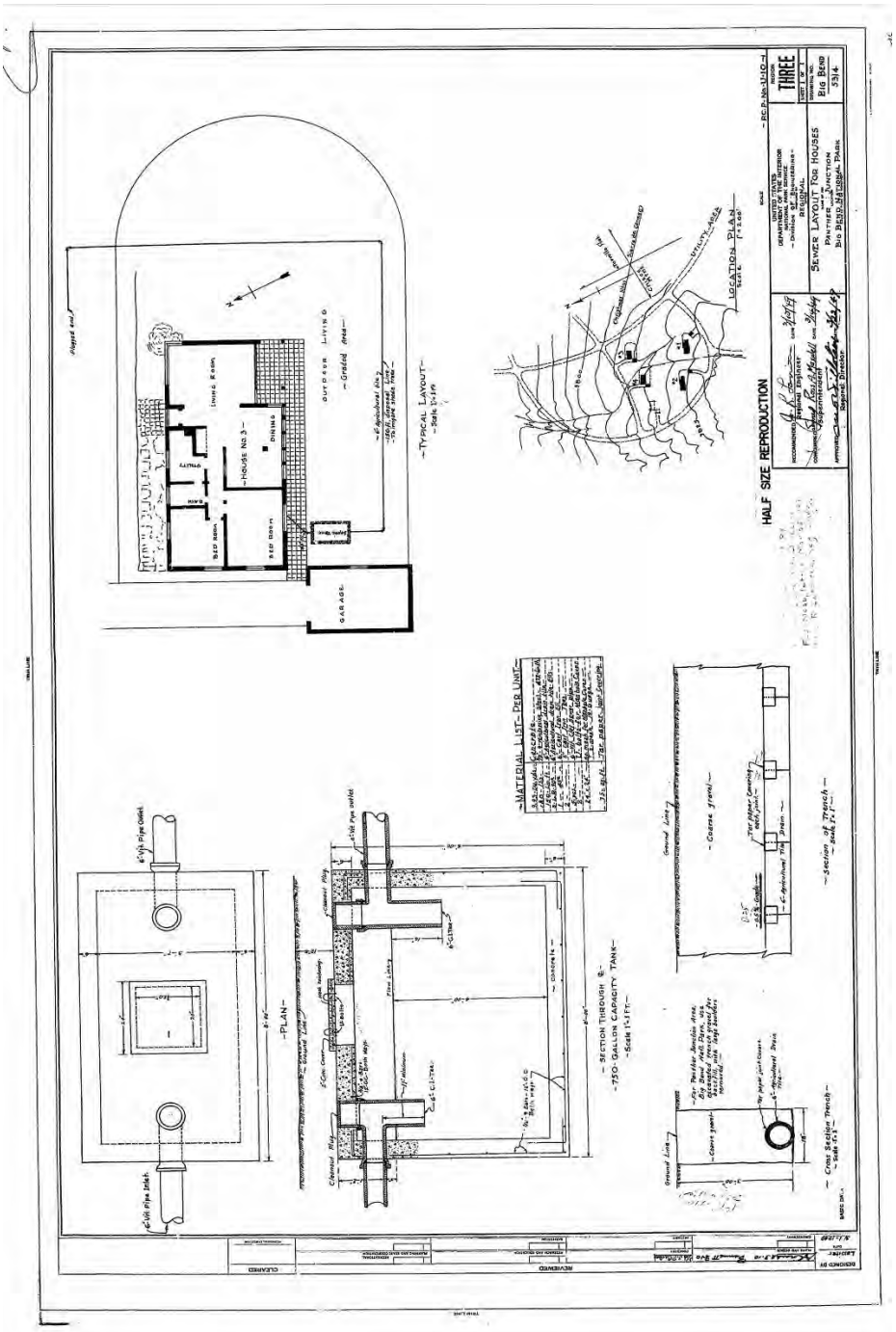
National Register of Historic Places Registration Form
Continuation Sheet

Section Number: Additional Information Figures Page: 13

Name of Property: Panther Junction

City or Vicinity: Big Bend National Park

County: Brewster State: Texas



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

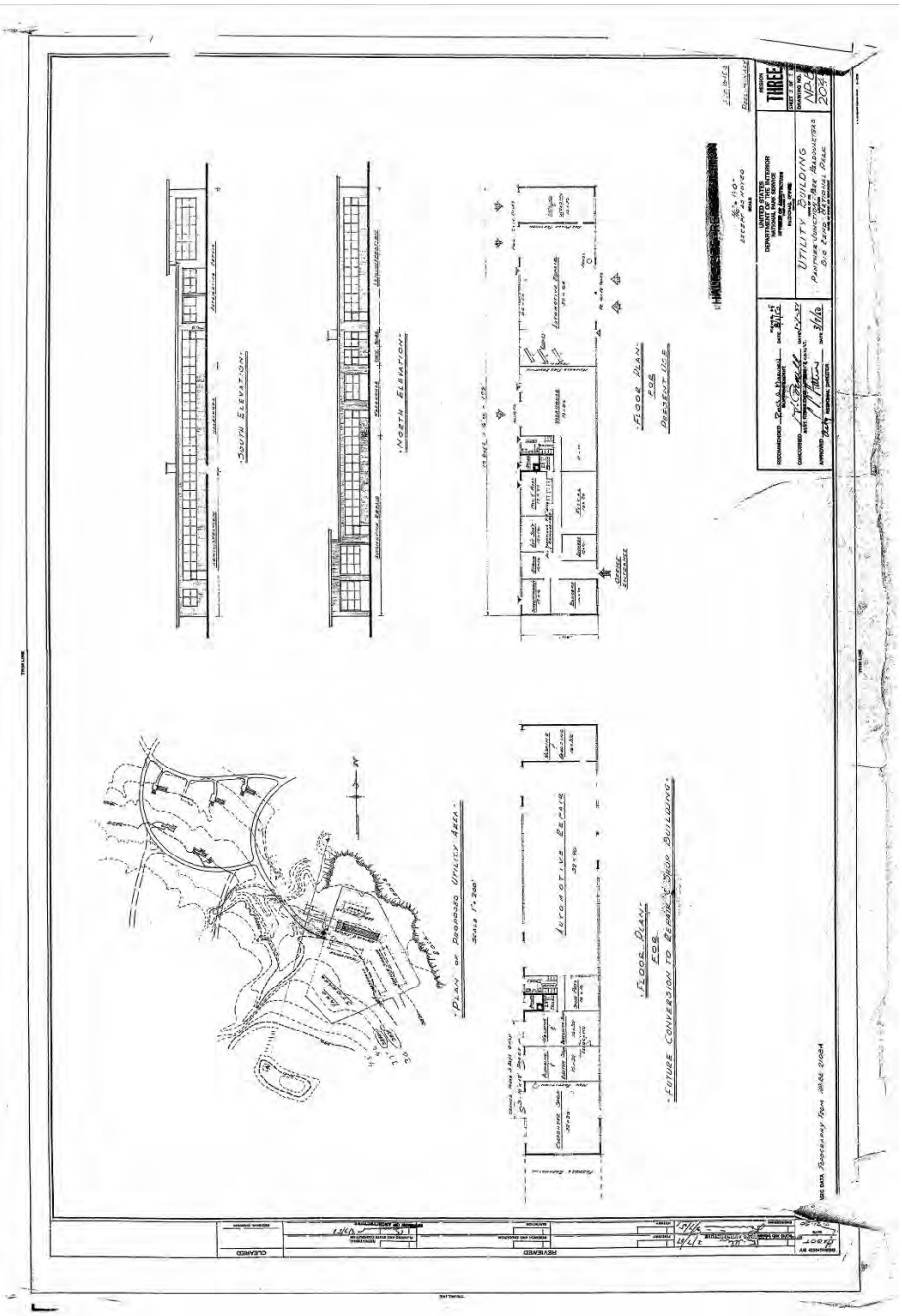
National Register of Historic Places Registration Form
Continuation Sheet

Section Number: Additional Information Figures Page: 14

Name of Property: Panther Junction

City or Vicinity: Big Bend National Park

County: Brewster State: Texas



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

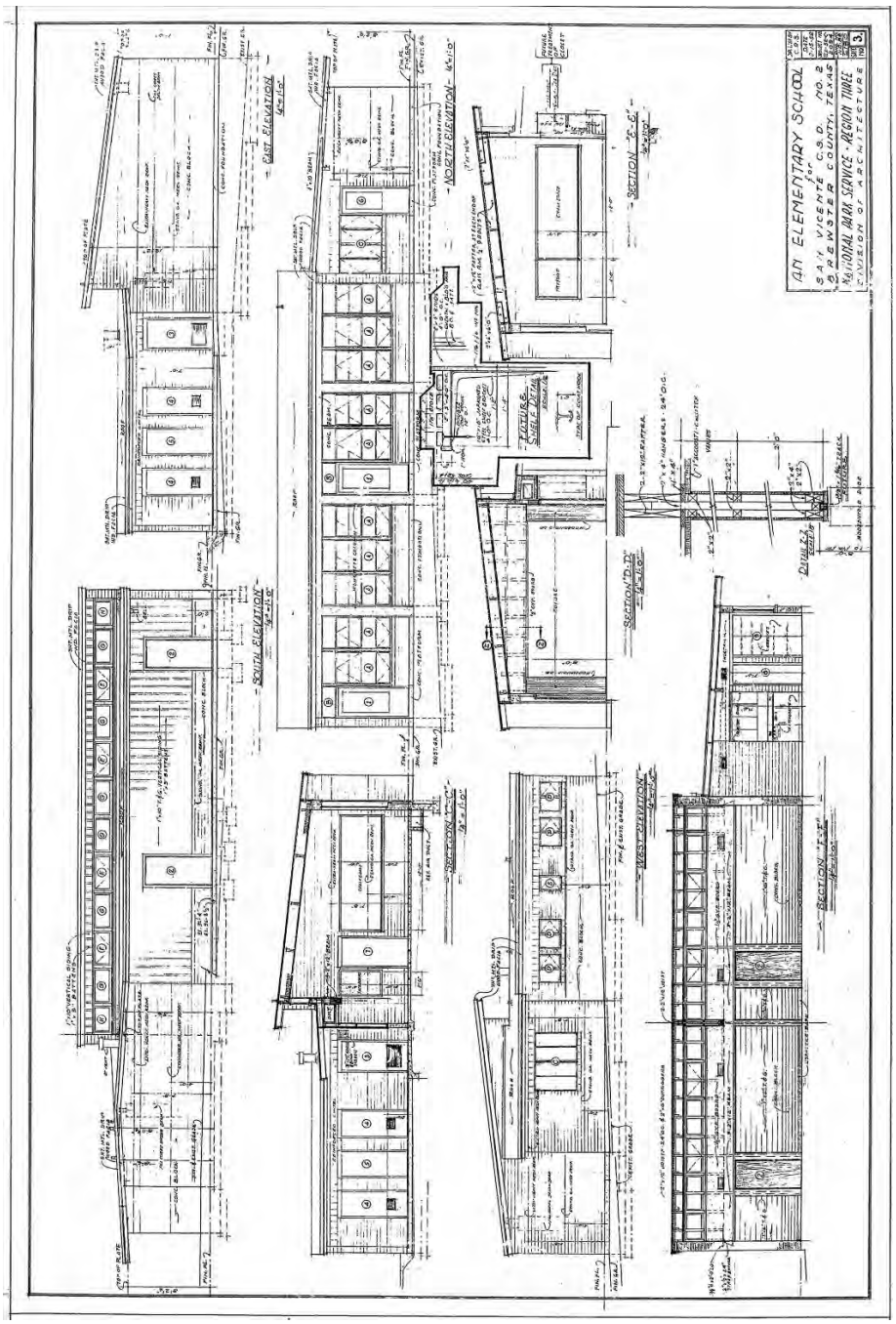
National Register of Historic Places Registration Form
Continuation Sheet

Section Number: Additional Information Figures Page: 16

Name of Property: Panther Junction

City or Vicinity: Big Bend National Park

County: Brewster State: Texas



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

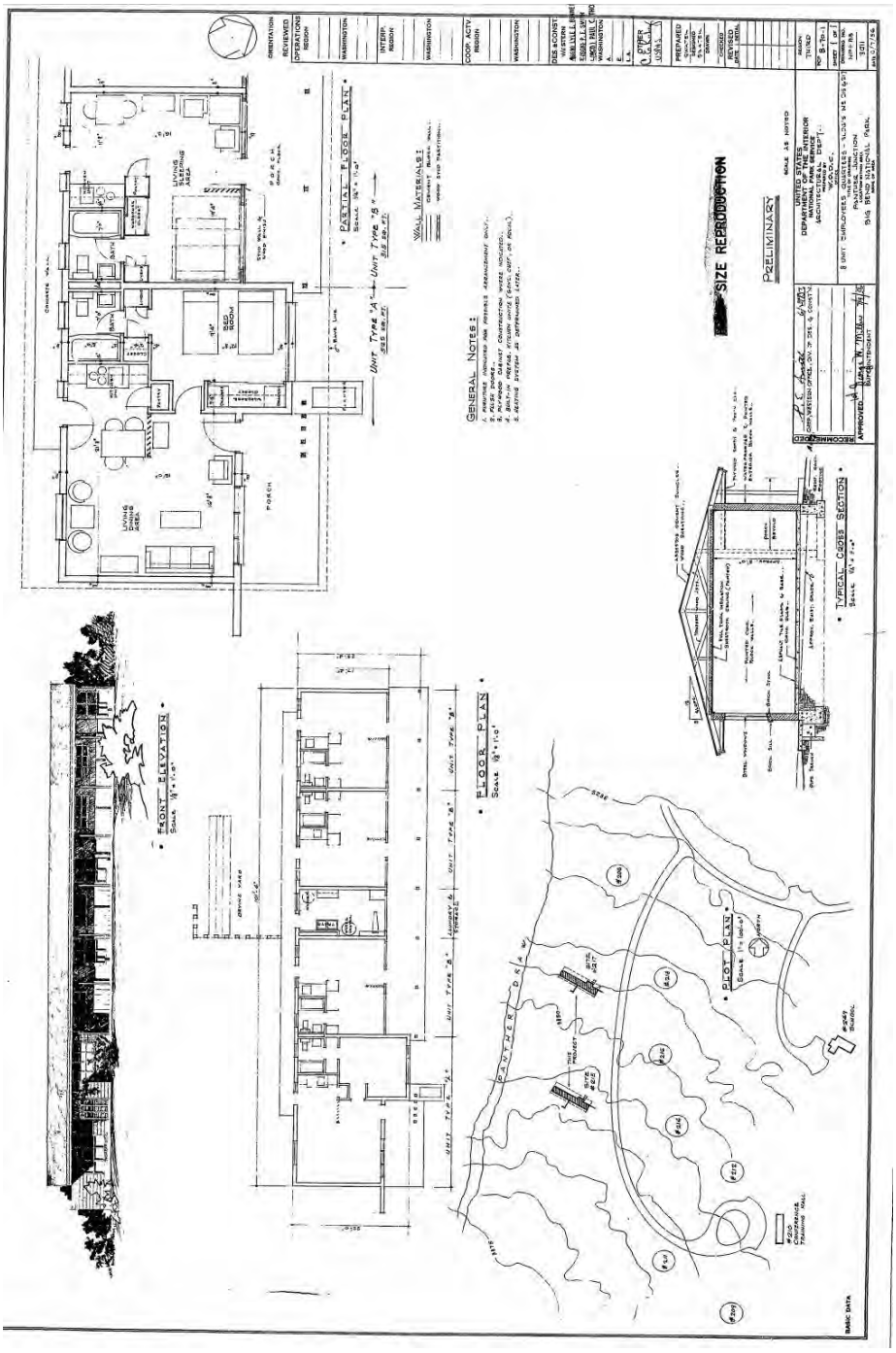
National Register of Historic Places Registration Form
Continuation Sheet

Section Number: Additional Information Figures Page: 18

Name of Property: Panther Junction

City or Vicinity: Big Bend National Park

County: Brewster State: Texas



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

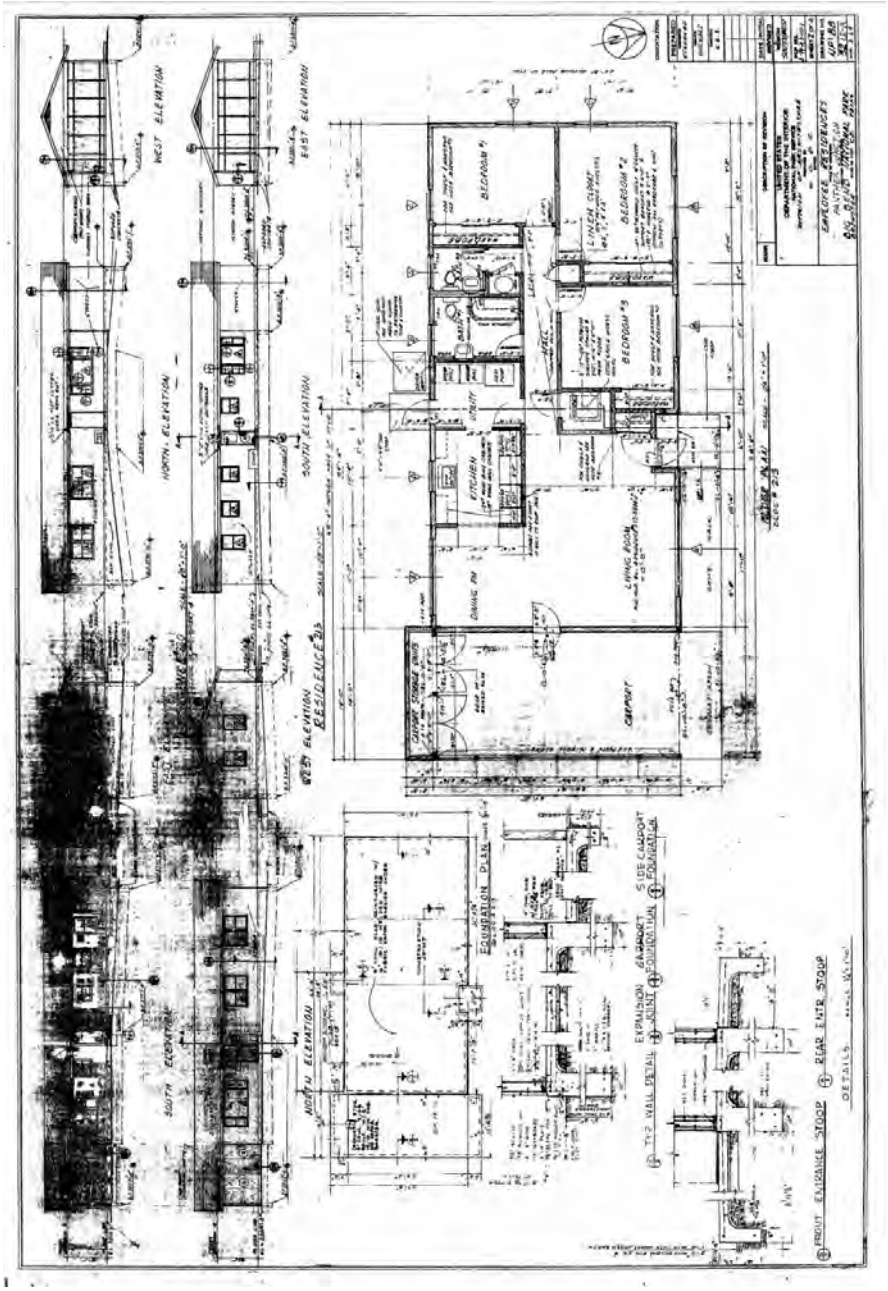
National Register of Historic Places Registration Form
Continuation Sheet

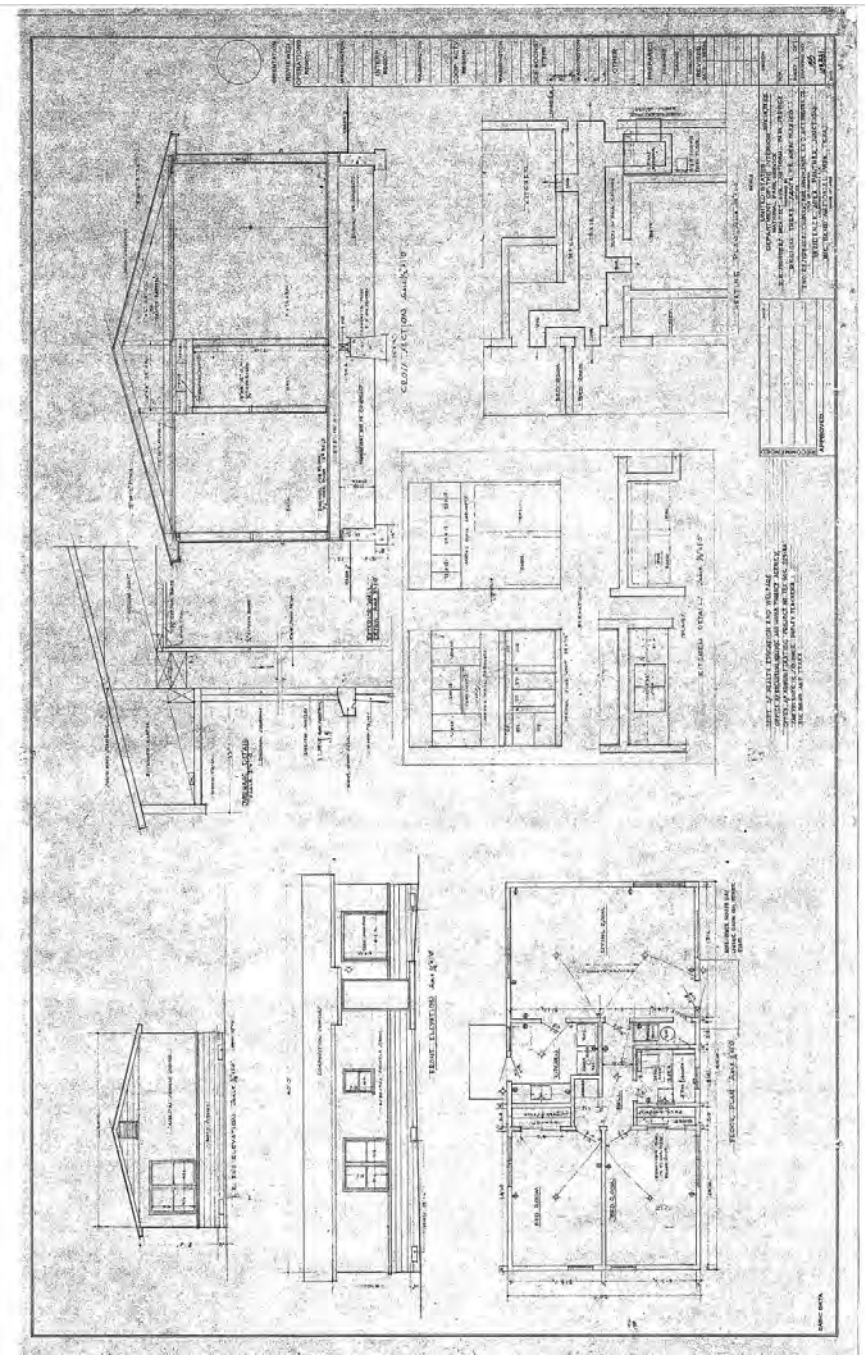
Section Number: Additional Information Figures Page: 19

Name of Property: Panther Junction

City or Vicinity: Big Bend National Park

County: Brewster State: Texas





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National Park Service

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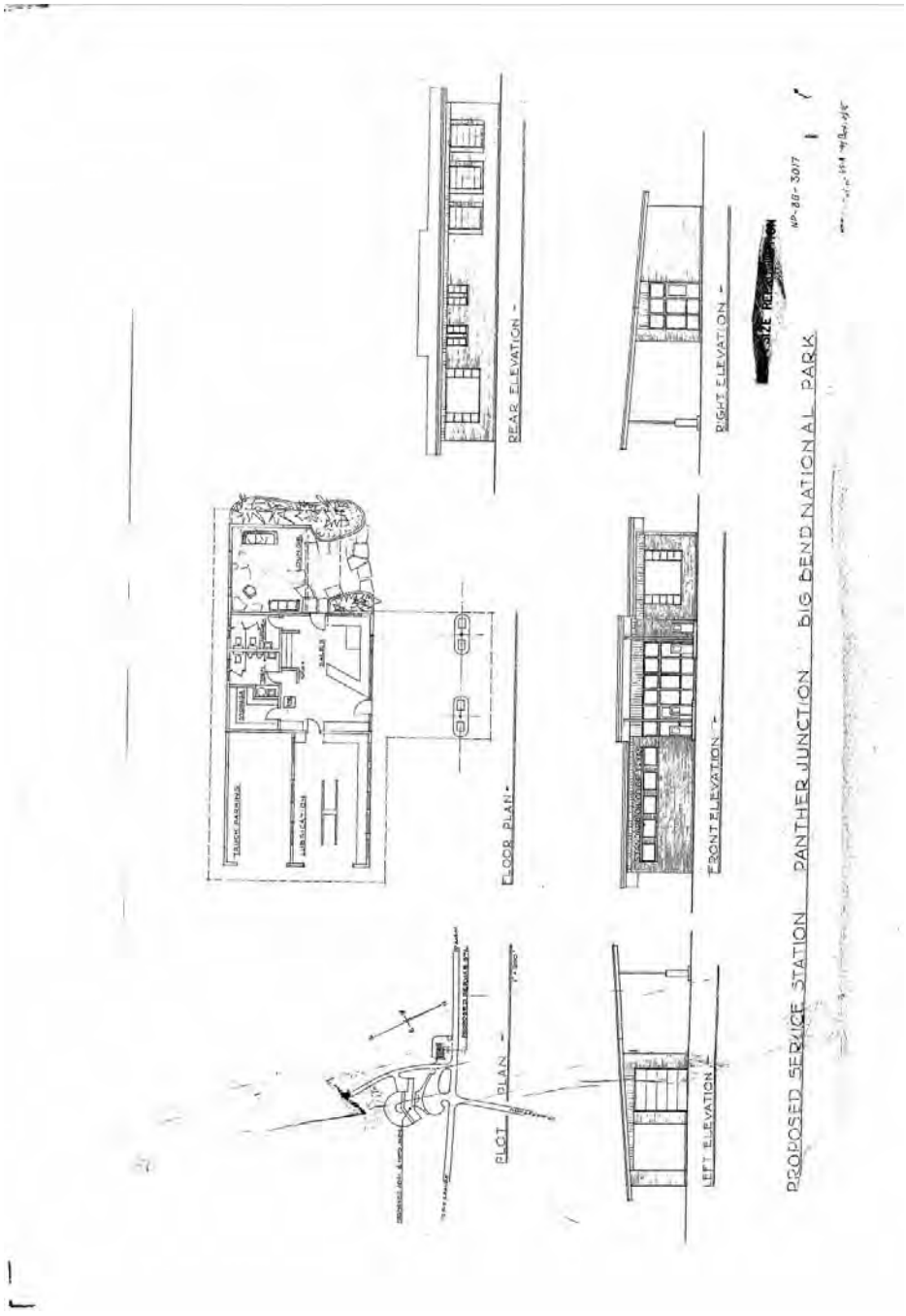
Continuation Sheet

Section Number: Additional Information Figures Page: 21

Name of Property: Panther Junction

City or Vicinity: Big Bend National Park

County: Brewster State: Texas



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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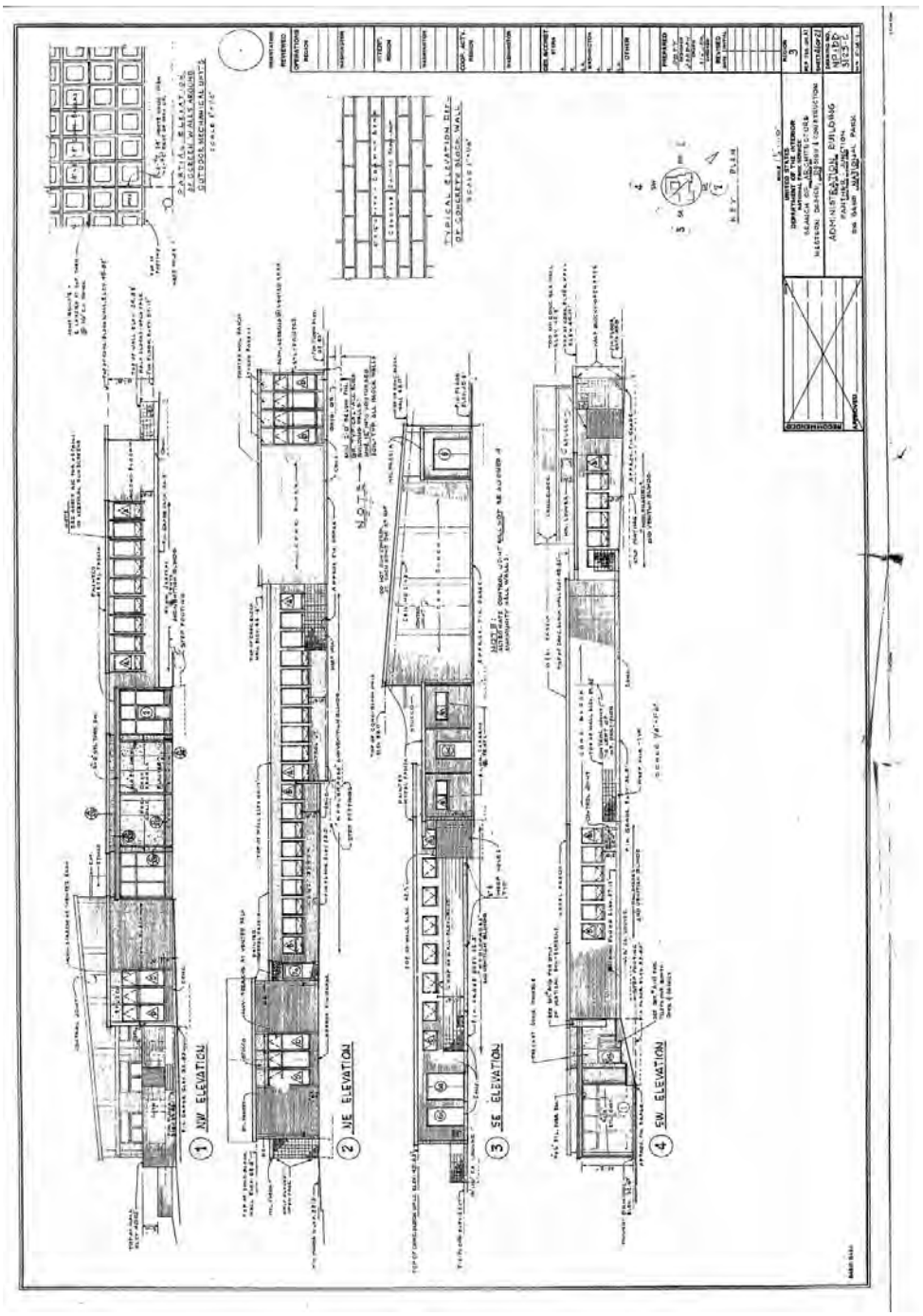
Continuation Sheet

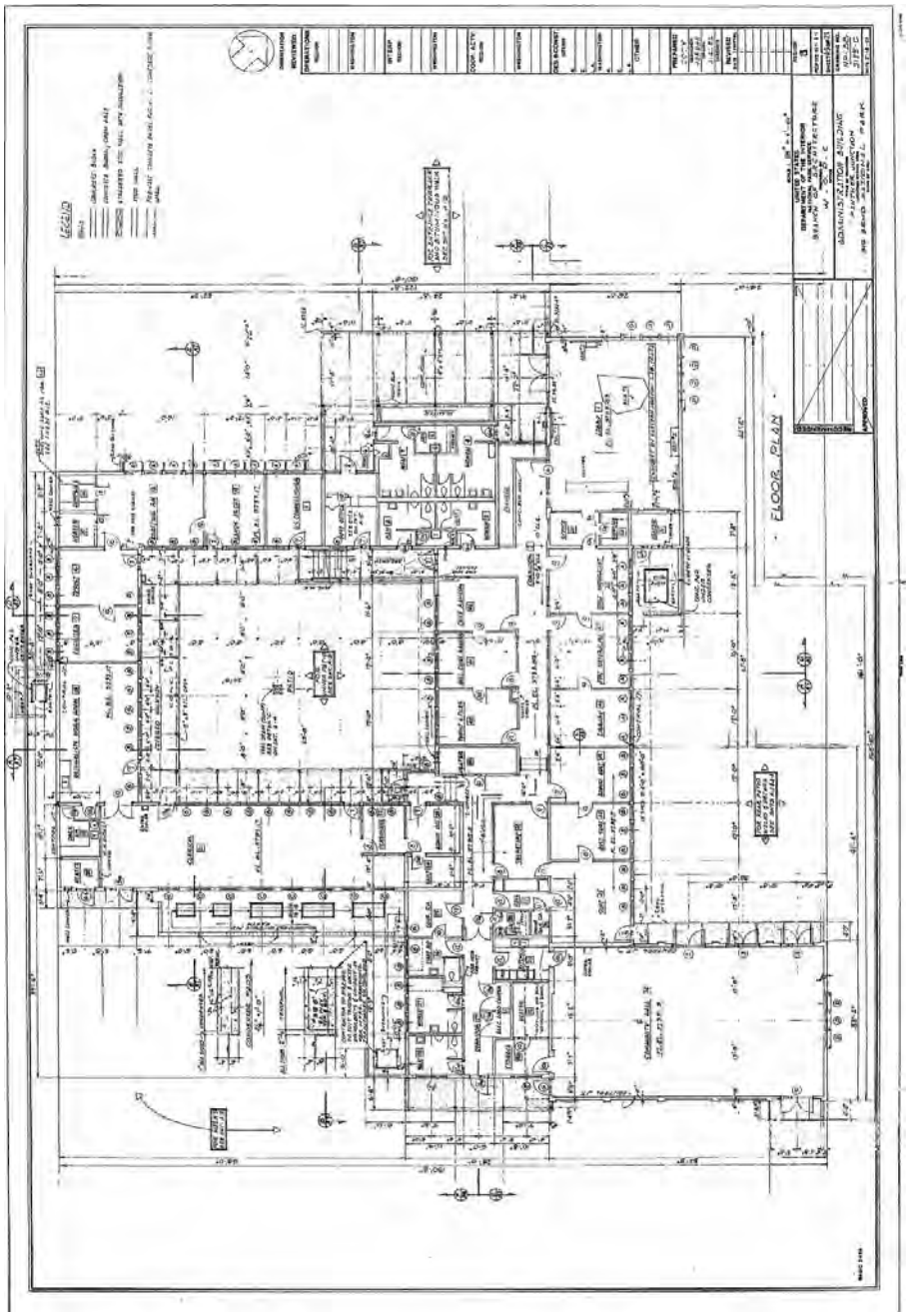
Section Number: Additional Information Figures Page: 23

Name of Property: Panther Junction

City or Vicinity: Big Bend National Park

County: Brewster State: Texas




FLOOR PLAN

CHEVROLET
FORD

Name of Property: Panther Junction

City or Vicinity: Big Bend National Park

County: Brewster State: Texas

Front façade of visitor center and administration building facing southeast

Photographer: Jayne Aaron Date of Photograph: September 18–21, 2012

1 of 75

Front and northeast façades of visitor center and administration building facing southwest

Photographer: Jayne Aaron Date of Photograph: September 18–21, 2012

2 of 75

Southeast and southwest façades of visitor center and administration building facing northeast

Photographer: Jayne Aaron Date of Photograph: September 18–21, 2012

3 of 75

Interior courtyard of administration building facing north

Photographer: Jayne Aaron Date of Photograph: September 18–21, 2012

4 of 75

Interior of visitor contact area of visitor center facing north

Photographer: Jayne Aaron Date of Photograph: September 18–21, 2012

5 of 75

Front and northeast façades of maintenance building facing northwest

Photographer: Jayne Aaron Date of Photograph: September 18–21, 2012

6 of 75

Northeast (back) façade of maintenance building facing southeast

Photographer: Jayne Aaron Date of Photograph: September 18–21, 2012

7 of 75

Interior of maintenance bay facing northeast

Photographer: Jayne Aaron Date of Photograph: September 18–21, 2012

8 of 75

Front façade high bays of maintenance building facing northeast

Photographer: Jayne Aaron Date of Photograph: September 18–21, 2012

9 of 75

Northeast façade of school facing southwest

Photographer: Jayne Aaron Date of Photograph: September 18–21, 2012

10 of 75

Southwest façade of school (hidden by infill) facing northeast

Photographer: Jayne Aaron Date of Photograph: September 18–21, 2012

11 of 75

Northeast façade of school facing south

Photographer: Jayne Aaron Date of Photograph: September 18–21, 2012

12 of 75

Interior of classroom facing south

Photographer: Jayne Aaron Date of Photograph: September 18–21, 2012

13 of 75

North and west façades of gas station facing southeast

Photographer: Jayne Aaron Date of Photograph: September 18–21, 2012

14 of 75

South and east façades of gas station facing north

Photographer: Jayne Aaron Date of Photograph: September 18–21, 2012

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Northwest profile of gas station facing southeast

Photographer: Jayne Aaron Date of Photograph: September 18–21, 2012

16 of 75

Interior sales room of gas station facing east

Photographer: Jayne Aaron Date of Photograph: September 18–21, 2012

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Northwest façade and maintenance bay of gas station facing southeast

Photographer: Jayne Aaron Date of Photograph: September 18–21, 2012

18 of 75

West and south façades of laundry/shower building facing northeast

Photographer: Jayne Aaron Date of Photograph: September 18–21, 2012

19 of 75

West and north façades of laundry/shower building facing southeast

Photographer: Jayne Aaron Date of Photograph: September 18–21, 2012

20 of 75

Interior of laundry building facing south

Photographer: Jayne Aaron Date of Photograph: September 18–21, 2012

21 of 75

Front of superintendent's residence (building 203) facing north

Photographer: Jayne Aaron Date of Photograph: September 18–21, 2012

22 of 75

Rear of superintendent's residence (building 203) facing west

Photographer: Jayne Aaron Date of Photograph: September 18–21, 2012

23 of 75

Front of assistant superintendent's residence (building 205) facing north

Photographer: Jayne Aaron Date of Photograph: September 18–21, 2012

24 of 75

Front of residence 201 (3 bedroom, 1 and 1/2 bath) facing northwest

Photographer: Jayne Aaron Date of Photograph: September 18–21, 2012

25 of 75

Front of residence 208 (3 bedroom, 1 and 1/2 bath) facing southwest

Photographer: Jayne Aaron Date of Photograph: September 18–21, 2012

26 of 75

Front of residence 213 (3 bedroom, 1 and 1/2 bath) facing southwest

Photographer: Jayne Aaron Date of Photograph: September 18–21, 2012

27 of 75

Front of residence 220 (3 bedroom, 1 and 1/2 bath) facing northwest

Photographer: Jayne Aaron Date of Photograph: September 18–21, 2012

28 of 75

Front of residence 232 (2 bedroom, 1 bath) facing southwest

Photographer: Jayne Aaron Date of Photograph: September 18–21, 2012

29 of 75

Front of residence 234 (2 bedroom, 1 bath) facing south

Photographer: Jayne Aaron Date of Photograph: September 18–21, 2012

30 of 75

Front of residence 238 (2 bedroom, 1 bath) facing southwest

Photographer: Jayne Aaron Date of Photograph: September 18–21, 2012

31 of 75

Front of residence 223 (3 bedroom, 1 bath) facing northwest

Photographer: Jayne Aaron Date of Photograph: September 18–21, 2012

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Front of residence 224 (3 bedroom, 1 bath) facing southwest

Photographer: Jayne Aaron Date of Photograph: September 18–21, 2012

33 of 75

Front of residence 227 (3 bedroom, 1 bath) facing northeast

Photographer: Jayne Aaron Date of Photograph: September 18–21, 2012

34 of 75

Front of residence 228 (3 bedroom, 1 bath) facing southeast

Photographer: Jayne Aaron Date of Photograph: September 18–21, 2012

35 of 75

Front of residence 230 (3 bedroom, 1 bath) facing north

Photographer: Jayne Aaron Date of Photograph: September 18–21, 2012

36 of 75

East elevation of residence 233 (3 bedroom, 1 bath) facing northwest

Photographer: Jayne Aaron Date of Photograph: September 18–21, 2012

37 of 75

Front of residence 237 (3 bedroom, 1 bath) facing northwest

Photographer: Jayne Aaron Date of Photograph: September 18–21, 2012

38 of 75

Front of residence 248 (3 bedroom, 1 bath) facing southwest

Photographer: Jayne Aaron Date of Photograph: September 18–21, 2012

39 of 75

Front of residence 309 (3 bedroom, 1 bath) facing north

Photographer: Jayne Aaron Date of Photograph: September 18–21, 2012

40 of 75

Front of residence 312 (3 bedroom, 1 bath) facing south

Photographer: Jayne Aaron Date of Photograph: September 18–21, 2012

41 of 75

Front of residence 313 (3 bedroom, 1 bath) facing north

Photographer: Jayne Aaron Date of Photograph: September 18–21, 2012

42 of 75

Front of residence 319 (3 bedroom, 1 bath) facing northwest

Photographer: Jayne Aaron Date of Photograph: September 18–21, 2012

43 of 75

Front of residence 222 (2 bedroom, 1 bath) facing south

Photographer: Jayne Aaron Date of Photograph: September 18–21, 2012

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Front of residence 225 (2 bedroom, 1 bath) facing northwest

Photographer: Jayne Aaron Date of Photograph: September 18–21, 2012

45 of 75

Front of residence 226 (2 bedroom, 1 bath) facing south

Photographer: Jayne Aaron Date of Photograph: September 18–21, 2012

46 of 75

Front of residence 231 (2 bedroom, 1 bath) facing northwest

Photographer: Jayne Aaron Date of Photograph: September 18–21, 2012

47 of 75

Front of residence 235 (2 bedroom, 1 bath) facing northeast

Photographer: Jayne Aaron Date of Photograph: September 18–21, 2012

48 of 75

Front of residence 250 (2 bedroom, 1 bath) facing southeast

Photographer: Jayne Aaron Date of Photograph: September 18–21, 2012

49 of 75

Front of residence 320 (2 bedroom, 1 bath) facing northwest

Photographer: Jayne Aaron Date of Photograph: September 18–21, 2012

50 of 75

Front of teacherage (residence 236a/236b – duplex with two (2 bedroom, 1 bath units) facing south

Photographer: Jayne Aaron Date of Photograph: September 18–21, 2012

51 of 75

Front of teacherage (residence 236a/236b – duplex with two (2 bedroom, 1 bath units) facing southwest

Photographer: Jayne Aaron Date of Photograph: September 18–21, 2012

52 of 75

Front of apartment 215 facing west

Photographer: Jayne Aaron Date of Photograph: September 18–21, 2012

53 of 75

Front of apartment 217 facing north

Photographer: Jayne Aaron Date of Photograph: September 18–21, 2012

54 of 75

Visitor center parking lot facing southeast

Photographer: Jayne Aaron Date of Photograph: September 18–21, 2012

55 of 75

Visitor center parking lot facing northwest

Photographer: Jayne Aaron Date of Photograph: September 18–21, 2012

56 of 75

Water tank and pump house facing south

Photographer: Jayne Aaron Date of Photograph: September 18–21, 2012

57 of 75

Telephone exchange building (271) facing northeast

Photographer: Jayne Aaron Date of Photograph: September 18–21, 2012

58 of 75

Stone-faced culvert under Alsate Drive facing northeast

Photographer: Jayne Aaron Date of Photograph: September 18–21, 2012

59 of 75

Alsate Road from residential area toward administration building facing northeast

Photographer: Jayne Aaron Date of Photograph: September 18–21, 2012

60 of 75

Javelina Drive facing west

Photographer: Jayne Aaron Date of Photograph: September 18–21, 2012

61 of 75

Tecolote Drive to laundry building facing southwest

Photographer: Jayne Aaron Date of Photograph: September 18–21, 2012

62 of 75

Escuela Drive facing southwest

Photographer: Jayne Aaron Date of Photograph: September 18–21, 2012

63 of 75

Bobcat Loop facing southwest

Photographer: Jayne Aaron Date of Photograph: September 18–21, 2012

64 of 75

Residence 225 – interior details in living room and entry (windows and floor not original) facing south

Photographer: Jayne Aaron Date of Photograph: September 18–21, 2012

65 of 75

Residence 228 – back patio facing west

Photographer: Jayne Aaron Date of Photograph: September 18–21, 2012

66 of 75

Residence 309 – clothes lines facing south

Photographer: Jayne Aaron Date of Photograph: September 18–21, 2012

67 of 75

Residence 309 – sidewalk

Photographer: Jayne Aaron Date of Photograph: September 18–21, 2012

68 of 75

Residence 312 – redwood privacy screen facing northeast

Photographer: Jayne Aaron Date of Photograph: September 18–21, 2012

69 of 75

Detail – shared driveway between 225 and 227 facing north

Photographer: Jayne Aaron Date of Photograph: September 18–21, 2012

70 of 75

Superintendent's living room facing southwest

Photographer: Jayne Aaron Date of Photograph: September 18–21, 2012

71 of 75

Barbeque at superintendent's residence facing north

Photographer: Jayne Aaron Date of Photograph: September 18–21, 2012

72 of 75

Superintendent's residence back yard facing east

Photographer: Jayne Aaron Date of Photograph: September 18–21, 2012

73 of 75

Residence 229 in 2012 (noncontributing feature) facing southwest

Photographer: Jayne Aaron Date of Photograph: September 18–21, 2012

74 of 75

Stone Oil Tank pad in maintenance storage area (contributing landscape feature), looking southwest

Photographer: Jayne Aaron Date of Photograph: September 18–21, 2012

75 of 75

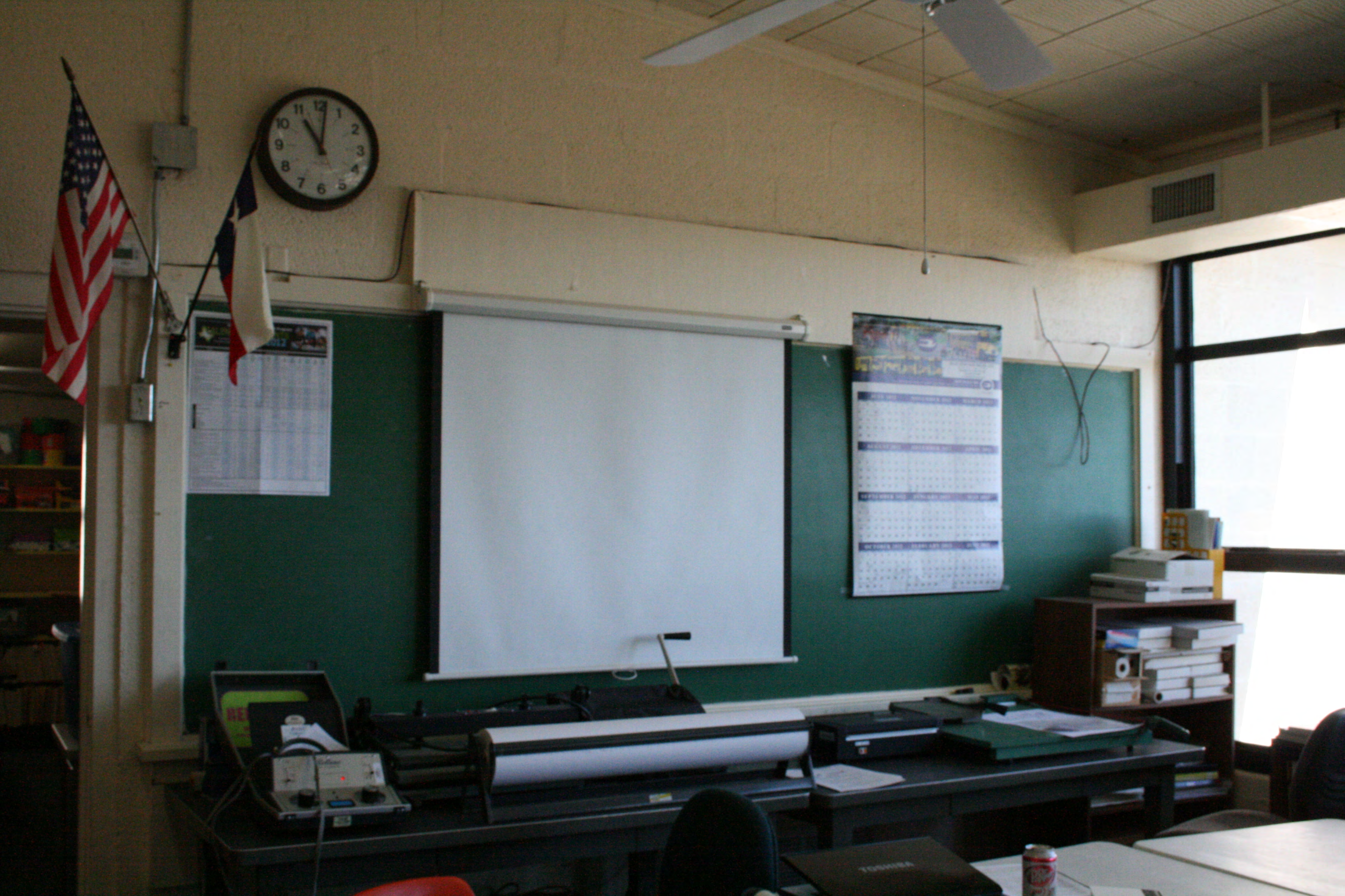
VISITOR CENTER

STOP

SUPER DUTY
Ford
I513913

DELTA
DEWALT

AUTO SHOP


TOSHIBA

ICE
ICE ICE
ICE

MEN
FINA

EMERGENCY
STOP
Pop Sicles
Calling Card
EVEREADY
BIG BEND
TEXAS
Hiking
Big Bend
BEER SALT
BUD LIGHT
30
PACK
CANS

Phone
Phone
FINA
DANGER
KEEP OUT

Dirt Devil
DANGER
HOT

213
RANCHO ABAJO
LONE STAR
LSTAR

238

P21

GONZALEZ

222

2368
LIPSCOMB

TOYOTA
TACOMA
4x4

VISITOR CENTE

BigBend
800.592.4781

SCHOOL
ESCENIC VISTA