



RECONNAISSANCE- AND INTENSIVE-LEVEL HISTORIC RESOURCES SURVEY ALONG US 281 (MILITARY HIGHWAY) IN CAMERON AND HIDALGO COUNTIES, TEXAS

As consultant to S&B Infrastructure Inc., HHM conducted a reconnaissance-level historic resources survey along a 48-mile segment of US 281 (Military Highway), between Hidalgo and Cameron Counties. Survey teams spent 11 weeks in the field photo-documenting nearly 2,300 historic-age resources along five different alignments. The teams used USGS topographical maps to plot resource locations and create aerial maps. HHM recorded the physical, salient features of each resource using field forms and entered the data into a Microsoft Access database. Upon completion of the survey, HHM documented 2 Recorded Texas Historic Landmarks, 17 Official State Historic Landmarks, 2 Centennial Markers, 13 NRHP-eligible historic districts, and recommended 4 NRHP-eligible rural historic districts, and 41 resources determined individually eligible for inclusion in the NRHP. The reconnaissance survey findings led to an intensive-level survey effort, beginning in 2006. Survey teams recorded resources using a Sokia GPS unit, linked to a Microsoft Access database, to assign special values, property type classification, and physical salient features for use in an ArcView generated map. Using historic maps, HHM generated a series of GIS overlays of the area to show changes over time. HHM and its sub-consultants prepared a methodology for determining NRHP eligibility of irrigation-related resources, registration requirements, a detailed historic context, property types, and NRHP-eligibility determinations. This fast-paced, highly complex, high-profile project required multiple-agency coordination and work with local farmers, ranchers, and ethnic communities.

KEY SERVICES

- ▶ Architectural Survey
- ▶ Multi-Phase Project Documenting Over 2,300 Resources
- ▶ NRHP Eligibility Evaluations
- ▶ Analysis of Land Development Patterns
- ▶ Database Development
- ▶ Development of Project-Specific Survey Forms
- ▶ Integration with GIS
- ▶ NEPA Compliance
- ▶ Documentation within Border Communities
- ▶ Coordination with State and Federal Agencies

PROJECT

- ▶ Client: Texas Department of Transportation, Environmental Affairs Division
- ▶ Location: Cameron and Hidalgo Counties, Texas
- ▶ Date: 2007
- ▶ Contract Type: T&M NTE
- ▶ Contract/Job Numbers:
575 XX SD003 (Reconnaissance)
576 04 SH003 (Intensive)