

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED 11/1/88 SEP 07 1989
DATE ENTERED NATIONAL REGISTER

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Daniels Farm House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Big Bend National Park

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

VICINITY OF

Rio Grande Village

STATE

TX

CODE

48

COUNTY

Brewster

CODE

475

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
			<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 AGENCY

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable)

Southwest Region Office, National Park Service

STREET & NUMBER

P.O. Box 728

CITY, TOWN

Santa Fe

VICINITY OF New Mexico

STATE

87501

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE.

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Brewster County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

P.O. Box 1286

CITY, TOWN

Alpine

STATE

Texas 79830

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Brown & Wauer. Historic Resources Management Plan: Big Bend Nat'l Park

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Daniels Farm House (BBH-443), situated on 0.18 acres of land, is located on the south bank of the Rio Grande approximately three-quarters of a mile west of present Rio Grande Village in Big Bend National Park, Texas. Constructed in the traditional Southwest architectural style, the farm house stands relatively unaltered from its original appearance. Man-made irrigation ditches and open fields, once under cultivation, provide a setting in which the integrity and historic appearance of the farm remains intact. In effect, Daniels Farm House stands as one of the best historical representations of irrigated agricultural production in the Big Bend region.

Daniels Farm House is a simple rectangular two-room adobe structure. Oriented along an east-west axis, the building is approximately 44 feet in length and 15 feet in width. Of the two rooms, the western most is the larger measuring 23'-2", while the smaller room measures 15'-9". The central wall which divides the two rooms is a twelve-inch thick adobe wall with a centrally located opening. Both the east and west elevations also have centrally located doors, so that each room has a door with the exception of the north elevation.

The adobe walls are built on a stone rubble foundation measuring approximately 18" to 24" wide. The south elevation has two doors, one at each end and a single window located just west of the central interior wall. The north elevation is broken by three window openings, two of which open into the western room. The average size of all windows is 3'-6" X 4'9". All window frames and door jambs are constructed of rough-cut, dimensional lumber measuring 2" X 12". The lintels extend through the entire thickness of the wall and are exposed on the interior. None of the window sashes remain and only one of four doors is in existence. The latter is constructed of five equally-sized panels of rough-cut dimensional lumber held together by heavier stiles and rail.

The construction of the exterior walls is adobe brick, which appears rather rough in texture. The parapet along the south is broken by six existing canales that extend beyond the surface of the wall approximately 24". Vigas, which support the roof, are also visible on this elevation, extending to about 10".

The interior finishes of Daniels Farm House are traditionally simple. The floor consists of irregularly shaped flagstones, uniformly dark grey in color and randomly laid on a compacted earth floor. The floor is intact and in generally good condition. All interior walls are finished with an uneven coat of lime and gypsum plaster that is off white in color. While 70% of the plaster is still visible, it must be noted that this layer of plaster is not the original. Rather, it is the result of a National Park Service rehabilitation project conducted in the spring of 1972. At present, the interior walls have been badly scarred by graffiti.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES **1918, 1927, 1937**

BUILDER/ARCHITECT **John O. Wedin; John R. Daniels**

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Daniels Farm House is historically significant under category "A" of the National Register Criteria because of its long-term association with the social, cultural, and economic development of the Big Bend. In the first place, it is one of a few remaining physical structures throughout the entirety of Big Bend National Park that adequately represents the farming activities of early West Texas pioneers. In a region traditionally dominated by stock raisers, flood plain and irrigated farming emerged as a viable economic alternative for both Anglo and Hispanic residents. Secondly, since 1918 the growing dependency of these lower Rio Grande communities upon farming centered around Daniels Farm House. After the establishment of Big Bend National Park in 1944, nearly all evidence of this activity--with the exception of this structure--disappeared. In effect, Daniels Farm House is the last remaining physical representation of a social and economic lifestyle once common along the Rio Grande. While no longer evident in the Big Bend region today, irrigated and flood-plain farming played a significantly historic role in the early settlement of the region.

In 1918 Jesus Estrada, the original deed holder of Block G-19, section 6 (Daniels Farm House), sold his land to a Swedish immigrant named John O. Wedin. That same year, Wedin, an experienced wheat farmer from Kansas, leveled the land and installed an 8-inch centrifugal pump irrigation system. Although the Hispanic residents of the area had practiced subsistence, flood plain farming for decades before Wedin's arrival, it was he who introduced one of the earliest commercial, irrigated farms into this portion of the Rio Grande valley. The remains of a flagstone canal still visible near the north elevation of the farm house are all that remain of the original irrigation network.

In addition, in 1918 Wedin built the structure known today as Daniels Farm House (BBH-443). While it appears that he did not use the building as his residence, he did use it to house farming equipment. Wedin's residence was located about one mile farther east of the present Daniels Farm House site. For the next eight years, Wedin raised wheat, alfalfa, hay and other crops that he marketed among Anglo and Hispanic residents living in the near-by mining communities of Boquillas and San Vicente, Texas. In 1926 Wedin sold his farm to Joe H. Graham of Del Rio, Texas.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Brewster County Records of Deed. Vols. 75-76. Brewster County County Courthouse, Alpine, Texas.

Brown, William E. and Roland H. Wauer. Historic Resources Management Plan: Big Bend National Park. Washington, D.C.: United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 1968.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

✓ ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 0.18
UTM REFERENCES

A	13	697240	3230080	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The Northwest corner of the boundary begins west of Rio Grande Village near the junction of the service road leading to Rio Grand Village irrigation pumphouse. This point of the boundary is located on the northeast side of the above road junction, and south of the confluence of the main feeder ditch. This corner bear 195 degrees true azimuth, 21.4 feet from the southeast corner of the stone culvert through which flows the main

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Arthur R. Gomez / Research Historian

February 4, 1986

ORGANIZATION

Southwest Region Office, National Park Service

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

P.O. Box 728

TELEPHONE

(505) 988-6787

CITY OR TOWN

Santa Fe

STATE

New Mexico

12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES

NO

NONE

[Signature]
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

In compliance with Executive Order 11593, I hereby nominate this property to the National Register, certifying that the State Historic Preservation Officer has been allowed 90 days in which to present the nomination to the State Review Board and to evaluate its significance. The evaluated level of significance is National State Local.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

[Signature]

TITLE

Chief Historian, National Park Service

DATE

8/21/89

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

[Signature]

DATE

10/20/89

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

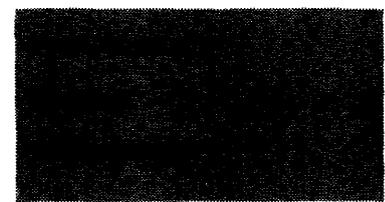
ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet

Item number 7

Page 2

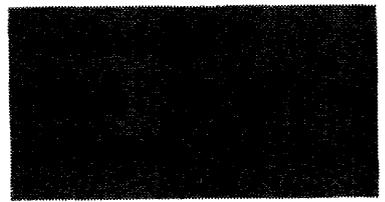
The most striking feature of the interior is the ceiling, which is actually the underside of the roof construction. A series of unevenly spaced aspen vigas, measuring 9-11" in diameter, support the weight of the roof. These supports rest on a dimensional lumber bearing plate that is an integral part of the wall construction. Running perpendicular to the vigas are river cane and reed latillas woven together into a series of mats that give a corrugated look to the ceiling. Above the latillas is a covering of reeds and grass thatching capped with adobe mud. Notably, this roof is also not the original, but also part of the 1972 rehabilitation project. Today, the roof shows signs of serious deterioration. Several of the vigas are fractured and are presently being held by vertical supports. Portions of the latilla ribbing have also deteriorated beyond reuse.

The grounds around the building are not landscaped. They do, however, convey a strong sense of irrigated farming activity in which the rectangular outlines of the fields are still clearly visible. The remains of a small, flagstone irrigation canal--perhaps part of the original system built in 1918--runs parallel to the farm house near the north elevation. In addition, there are several large cottonwood trees and a variety of grasses and carrizo cane outcrops growing along the river bank. On the north elevation there is evidence of a patio or ramada, which no longer exists. Also, there is a clearly outlined rectangular rock foundation adjacent to the main structure measuring 41' in length and 21'-6" in width. Inasmuch as there are no door openings within this outline, it was presumably utilized for outdoor purposes only.

While there is evidence of the existence of a smaller rectangular one-room adobe outbuilding located approximately 100 yards east of the main building, it has deteriorated beyond recognition and no longer retains sufficient integrity required for inclusion in this nomination.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form



Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 2

Joe Graham, a prominent West Texas cattleman and owner of the famous Lou Buttrill Ranch Complex located in the Rosillos Mountains north of Big Bend National Park, expanded the commercial importance of the farm. Graham continued to raise a variety of grains, alfalfa, and other "feed crops" which he used primarily as winter range for his cattle. Graham marketed his cattle in Kansas City and other Midwestern cities. In addition Graham owned feed lots in the Midwest where he fattened his cattle before shipment to the packing houses. By linking his farming operation to his West Texas cattle enterprise, Joe Graham introduced a fully integrated system of ranching into the Big Bend. Thus during the tenure of Graham's ownership the farm assumed regional as well as local economic importance.

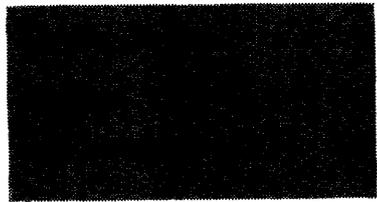
Upon their arrival at the Big Bend in 1927, Graham and his two sons placed more acreage under cultivation, modernized and improved upon Wedin's original irrigation system, and built two or three smaller adobe out-buildings for storage purposes. The Grahams continued to utilize the main structure (Daniels Farm House) for storage and maintenance of equipment.

It was not until 1937, when Joe Graham sold the upper portion of his farm to John R. Daniels, that the building (BBH-443) was utilized as an actual residence. John and Mary Coe Daniels of Presidio, Texas, enlarged the original one-room structure to two rooms in order to accommodate a small mercantile store from which they serviced the needs of local residents living on both sides of the Rio Grande. Known affectionately among the Hispanic population as "Tia Maria," Mrs. Daniels sold the grains, melons, and vegetables grown on their irrigated property to consumers on both sides of the international border.

Shortly after his arrival, John Daniels converted approximately one-half of the 200-acre farm to cotton cultivation. In doing so, he not only introduced the concept of raising cash crops in this section of the Rio Grande valley, but also he provided a means of steady employment for local Hispanic neighbors. By introducing cotton into the region, the Daniels operation--albeit comparatively small-scale--kept pace with economic trends in the late 1930s that witnessed a gradual shift away from cattle ranching in West Texas toward agri-business. While cotton farming in Brewster County declined after W. W. II, it currently retains economic importance in other counties of West Texas. While John and Mary Daniels only occupied their property until the establishment of Big Bend National Park in 1944, they stimulated and diversified a local economy upon which Rio Grande residents became increasingly dependent.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 3

For more than three decades before the establishment of Big Bend National Park, Daniels Farm House, and the rich agricultural farmlands that enclosed it, served the economic and social needs of a bi-cultural community. Just as the mining and ranching pioneers of the early frontier period blazed the way for the eventual settlement of this region, the farmer brought stability and a promise of long-term occupation through the cultivation and irrigation of the land. At present, there is little historical evidence that remains of the farming frontier in the Big Bend. Daniels Farm House, therefore, is a significant reminder of an important episode in the region's diverse historic past. Generally speaking, the overall size of the farm has been reduced and altered through park development projects. Nevertheless, the remarkably well-preserved integrity of Daniels Farm House and the now-abandoned fields that immediately surround it, remain to capture the essence of these early pioneer activities in West Texas.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet

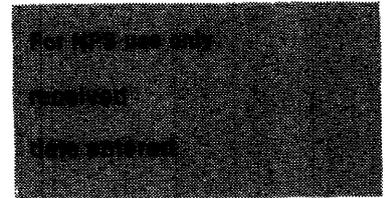
Item number 9

Page 2

- Casey, Clifford B. "The Boquillas-Hot Springs Area." Unpublished paper, 1970. Resources Management History File, Big Bend National Park, Texas.
- Godbold, Susan. "Mary Coe Daniels: Woman of the West." Unpublished paper, 1969. Marfa Historical Society, Marfa, Texas.
- Gomez, Arthur R. "A Most Singular Country: A History of Occupation on the West Texas Frontier." National Park Service report, 1986. Southwest Region Office, Santa Fe, New Mexico.
- Graham, Jeff. Interview with Art Gomez, June 1, 1985, Alpine, Texas. On file with Resources Management Division, Big Bend National Park, Texas.
- Maxwell, Ross A. Interview with Art Gomez, June 6, 1985, Austin, Texas. On file with Resources Management Division, Big Bend National Park, Texas.
- National Park Service Records. Region III. Big Bend Correspondence, Box 932216, File 660-05. National Archives and Records Administration, Federal Records Center, Denver, Colorado.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



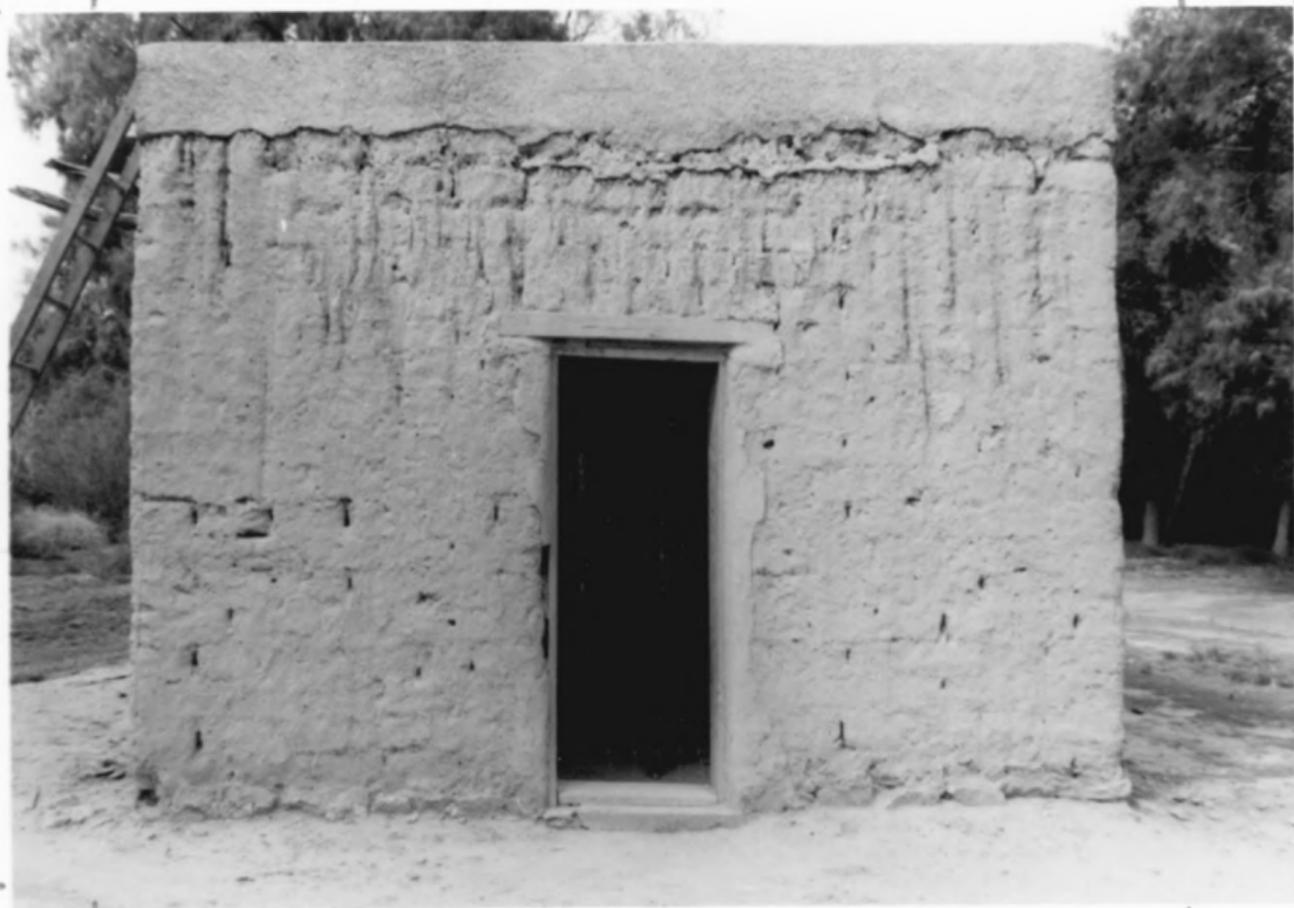
Continuation sheet

Item number 10

Page 2

irrigation feeder; and bearing 150 degrees true azimuth, 9.7 feet from the southeast corner of the secondary feeder ditch culvert. A large tamarisk tree grows due north of this point. The northeast corner bears 90 degrees true azimuth, a distance of 75.0 feet from the northwest corner. This point is approximately 18 feet south of the present centerline of the main feeder ditch. The southeast corner of the boundary bears 180 degrees true azimuth and a distance of 120 feet from the northeast corner. The southwest corner runs southward from the northwest corner, bearing 180 degrees true azimuth at a distance of 90 feet. From the southeast corner, a line bearing 293 degrees true azimuth, a distance of 79.3 feet. The southwest corner of the Daniels adobe structure bears 36 degrees true azimuth, a distance of 16.1 feet from the southwest boundary corner.

Since the establishment of Big Bend National Park in 1944, this area of the park has undergone substantial development. Thus the original size of the Daniels Farm has been reduced to 0.18 acres which has remained relatively unaltered. The above boundary, therefore, includes only the main structure (BBH-443) and that portion of land that has been the least altered.



Daniels Farm House

Big Bend National Park, Texas

Tom Vitanza November 1984

NPS/ Southwest Region Office

Santa Fe, New Mexico

East elevation view of doorway (facing west)

Photo Number 1



Daniels Farm House

Big Bend National Park, Texas

Tom Vitanza November 1984

NPS/ Southwest Region Office

Santa Fe, New Mexico

View of southern elevation exposed vigas &
caneles. (camera facing north)

Photo Number 2



Daniels Farm House

Big Bend National Park, Texas

Tom Vitanza November 1984

NPS/ Southwest Region Office

Santa Fe, New Mexico

View of NW corner showing both north elevation and west elevation. (facing southeast)

Photo Number 3



Daniels Farm House

Big Bend National Park, Texas

Tom Vitanza November 1984

NPS/ Southwest Region Office

Santa Fe, New Mexico

View of west elevation showing doorway.

(camera facing east)

Photo Number 4



Daniels Farm House

Big Bend National Park, Texas

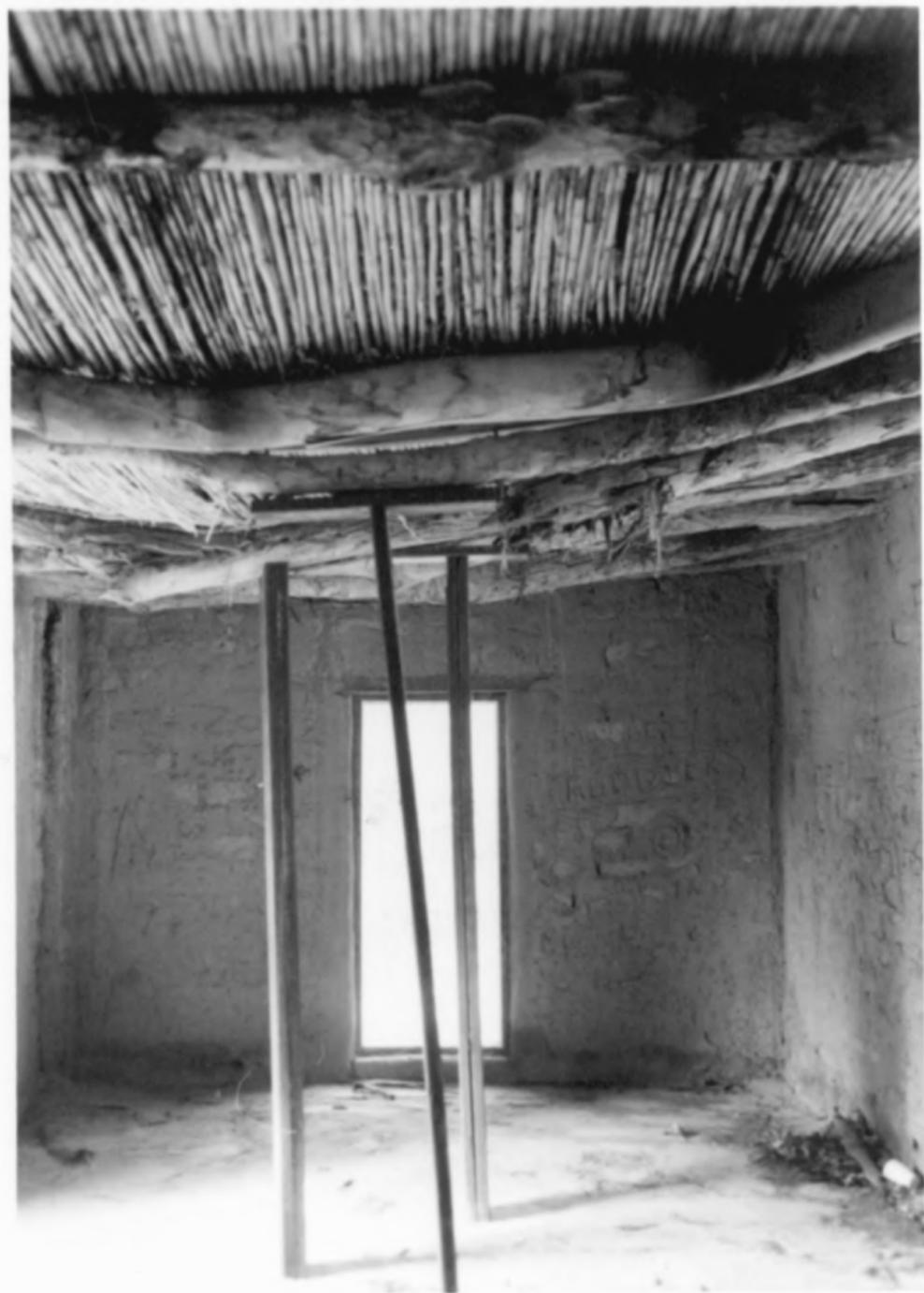
Tom Vitanza November 1984

NPS/ Southwest Region Office

Santa Fe, New Mexico

View of SE elevation (camera facing NW)

Photo Number 5



Daniels Farm House

Big Bend National Park, Texas

Tom Vitanza November 1984

NPS/ Southwest Region Office

Santa Fe, New Mexico

Interior view of cane and viga roof construction. Note deterioration & graffiti (facing east). Photo Number 6



Daniels Farm House

Big Bend National Park, Texas

Tom Vitanza November 1984

NPS/ Southwest Region Office

Santa Fe, New Mexico

View of roof construction (restabilized in
1972).

Photo Number 7