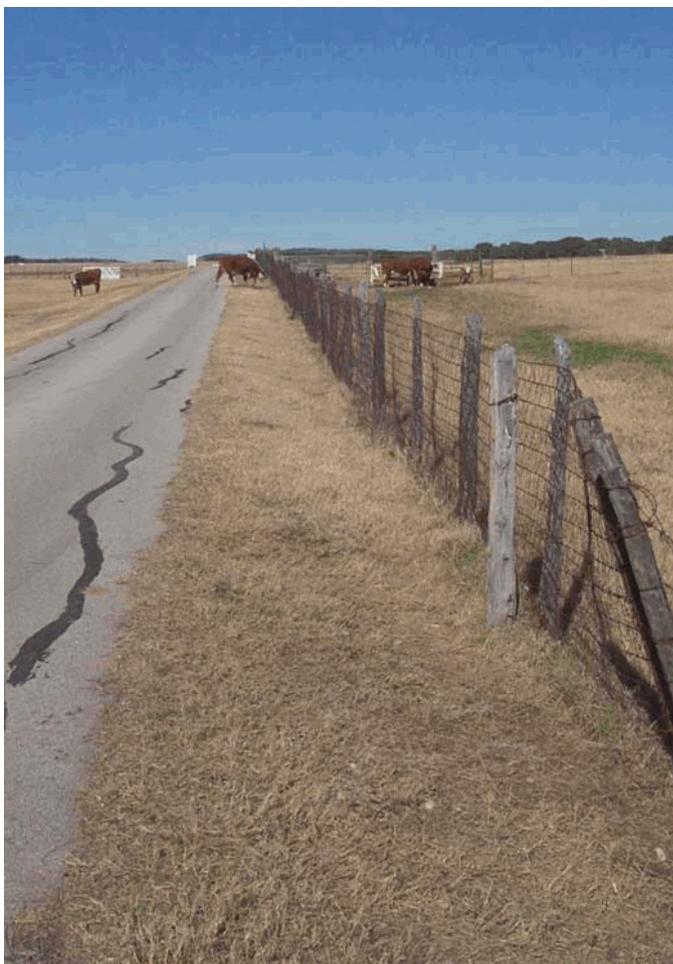


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National Park Service  
Cultural Landscapes Inventory  
2006



Agricultural Complex  
Lyndon B. Johnson National Historical Park

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## Inventory Unit Summary & Site Plan

### Inventory Summary

#### The Cultural Landscapes Inventory Overview:

##### CLI General Information:

##### Purpose and Goals of the CLI

The Cultural Landscapes Inventory (CLI), a comprehensive inventory of all cultural landscapes in the national park system, is one of the most ambitious initiatives of the National Park Service (NPS) Park Cultural Landscapes Program. The CLI is an evaluated inventory of all landscapes having historical significance that are listed on or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, or are otherwise managed as cultural resources through a public planning process and in which the NPS has or plans to acquire any legal interest. The CLI identifies and documents each landscape's location, size, physical development, condition, landscape characteristics, character-defining features, as well as other valuable information useful to park management. Cultural landscapes become approved CLIs when concurrence with the findings is obtained from the park superintendent and all required data fields are entered into a national database. In addition, for landscapes that are not currently listed on the National Register and/or do not have adequate documentation, concurrence is required from the State Historic Preservation Officer or the Keeper of the National Register.

The CLI, like the List of Classified Structures, assists the NPS in its efforts to fulfill the identification and management requirements associated with Section 110(a) of the National Historic Preservation Act, National Park Service Management Policies (2006), and Director's Order #28: Cultural Resource Management. Since launching the CLI nationwide, the NPS, in response to the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA), is required to report information that respond to NPS strategic plan accomplishments. Two GPRA goals are associated with the CLI: bringing certified cultural landscapes into good condition (Goal 1a7) and increasing the number of CLI records that have complete, accurate, and reliable information (Goal 1b2B).

##### Scope of the CLI

The information contained within the CLI is gathered from existing secondary sources found in park libraries and archives and at NPS regional offices and centers, as well as through on-site reconnaissance of the existing landscape. The baseline information collected provides a comprehensive look at the historical development and significance of the landscape, placing it in context of the site's overall significance. Documentation and analysis of the existing landscape identifies character-defining characteristics and features, and allows for an evaluation of the landscape's overall integrity and an assessment of the landscape's overall condition. The CLI also provides an illustrative site plan that indicates major features within the inventory unit. Unlike cultural landscape reports, the CLI does not provide management recommendations or

## Agricultural Complex

### Lyndon B. Johnson National Historical Park

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treatment guidelines for the cultural landscape.

#### **Inventory Unit Description:**

The Agricultural Complex component landscape, located within the LBJ Ranch District at the Lyndon B. Johnson National Historical Park, consists of agricultural fields, a Show Barn complex, the Jordan River Bottom, cattle pens and corrals, a pecan orchard, and an assortment of earthen dams and tanks. The Agricultural Complex is adjacent to the other two component landscapes within the LBJ Ranch District: the Texas White House and the Johnson Family Farm Historic Area.

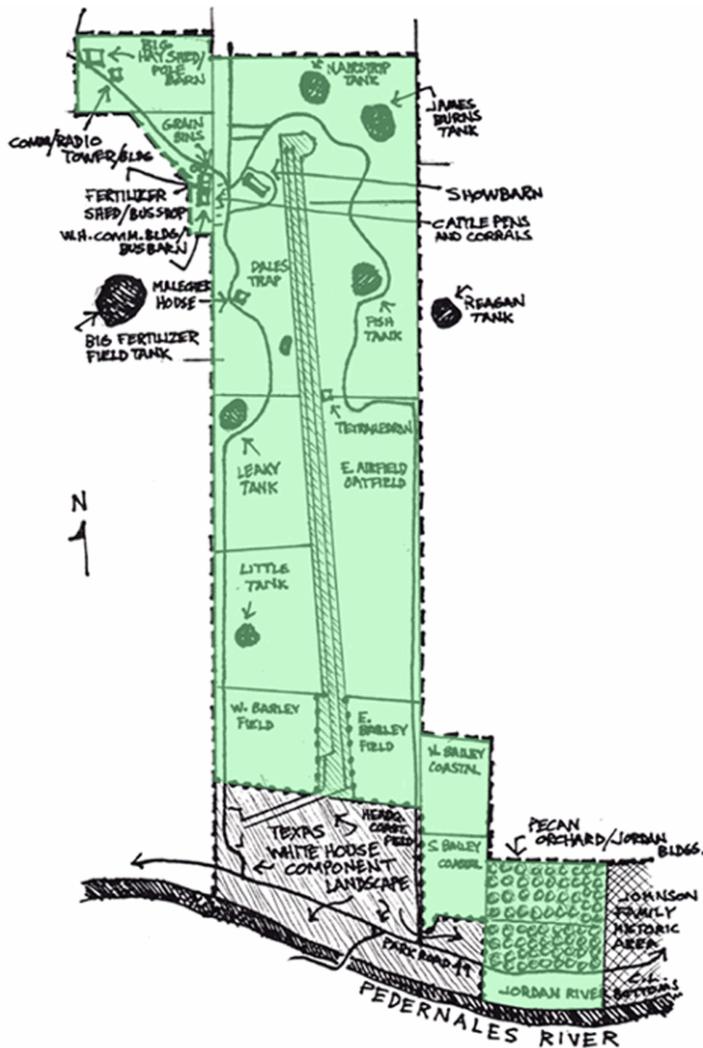
The Show Barn complex functioned during the historic period to display, care for, and transport LBJ's livestock. The complex includes the Show Barn, Malechek House (ranch foreman's residence), Grain Bins, and a network of corrals, cattle pens, scales, and a loading chute. Near the Show Barn complex is the Bus Maintenance Barn, and VIP campsites. Further to the northwest are the Big Hay Shed and the Communication Tower, as well as the boneyard (historic maintenance and discarded materials).

Spreading out from the Show Barn complex are a series of fenced fields, some used for livestock pasture and some for growing crops. The LBJ Airstrip, constructed through the center of the fields by LBJ, divides the Agricultural Complex component landscape. The service roads, Malechek and Bailey, run parallel along both sides of the Agricultural Complex. The Pecan Orchard and the river bottoms serve as a buffer zone between the Texas White House and the Johnson Family Farm Historic Area component landscapes.

It is important to note that there is some overlapping of component landscapes, as some areas and features (such as the Old Martin Barn) within the Texas White House component landscape were used for agricultural purposes historically. Also, there is some overlapping of agricultural features associated with the Jordan farm (previously the Johnson farm operated by Sam E. Johnson, Jr.) that extend into the present component landscapes of the Agricultural Complex as well as the Johnson Family Farm Historic Area. The landscapes of the Agricultural Complex and portions of the Texas White House and Johnson Family Farm Historic Area were actively farmed by various owners, including the Meier family (1882-1906), the Martins (1909-1951), and the Johnsons (1951-present). All these farming periods contribute to the site's significance, as the Meiers built the rock house which forms the core of the Texas White House, the Martins made further additions to the ranch house (as well as being LBJ's paternal aunt and uncle), and, of course, LBJ himself operated the ranch (Bearss 1981; 1986).

In summary, the landscape of the Agricultural Complex, based on the rich floodplain soils and water of the Pedernales River, is the reason that the Johnsons and their predecessors chose the site for settlement. While the Agricultural Complex is perhaps not as glamorous as the other component landscapes, those other landscapes and their features would not exist were it not for the agricultural opportunities afforded by this more subtle component landscape.

### Site Plan



*Agricultural Complex Component Landscape includes the show barn and its associated structures, the pecan orchard, and various agricultural fields. Note: The Tetrahedron is kitty-corner from the location on the graphic. Source: L. Foster, 1999, NPS.*

### Property Level and CLI Numbers

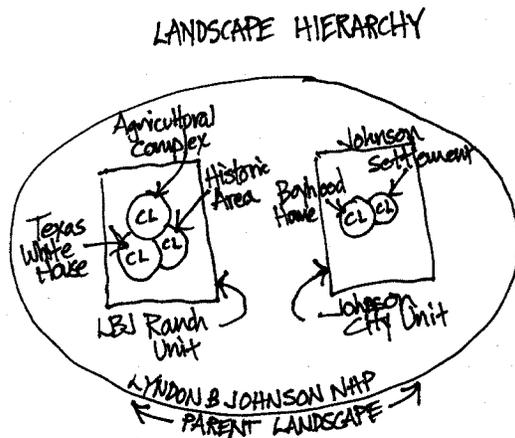
<b>Inventory Unit Name:</b>	Agricultural Complex
<b>Property Level:</b>	Component Landscape
<b>CLI Identification Number:</b>	850135
<b>Parent Landscape:</b>	850067

### Park Information

<b>Park Name and Alpha Code:</b>	Lyndon B. Johnson National Historical Park -LYJO
<b>Park Organization Code:</b>	7350
<b>Park Administrative Unit:</b>	Lyndon B. Johnson National Historical Park

### CLI Hierarchy Description

The Lyndon B. Johnson NHP parent landscape was divided by park staff and the researcher into five component landscapes, with three of these component landscapes in the LBJ Ranch District, and two in the Johnson City District. The three component landscapes of the LBJ Ranch District are: 1) the Texas White House, 2) the Johnson Family Farm Historic Area (containing the reconstructed Birthplace, Junction School, and Cemetery, and 3) the Agricultural Complex. The two component landscapes of the Johnson City District are: 1) the Johnson Settlement Area, and 2) the LBJ Boyhood Home Area.



*Landscape hierarchy at LYJO. The Agricultural Complex is a component landscape within the LBJ Ranch Unit of the Lyndon B. Johnson NHP parent landscape. Source: L. Foster, 1999, NPS.*

## Concurrence Status

**Inventory Status:** Complete

### Completion Status Explanatory Narrative:

A draft Cultural Landscape Inventory for the Ranch Unit of Lyndon B. Johnson NHP (including the Texas White House, Agricultural Complex, Johnson Family Farm Area) was completed in 1993 by student intern Erin Degutis. Later the CLI was finalized in 1999 by Lance Foster of IMR Cultural Landscapes Program. The CLI was updated and revised again in 2005 to reflect new database requirements.

### Concurrence Status:

<b>Park Superintendent Concurrence:</b>	Yes
<b>Park Superintendent Date of Concurrence:</b>	05/15/2006
<b>National Register Concurrence:</b>	Eligible -- SHPO Consensus Determination
<b>Date of Concurrence Determination:</b>	05/16/2006

### National Register Concurrence Narrative:

The Texas Historical Commission (SHPO) concurred with the findings of the CLI on 5/16/2006.

### Concurrence Graphic Information:



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
Lyndon B. Johnson National Historical Park  
P.O. Box 329  
Johnson City, Texas 78636

H4217

May 1, 2006

MAY 16 2006

F. Lawrence Oaks, Executive Officer  
Texas State Historical Commission  
P.O. Box 12276  
Austin, TX 78711

Reference: Determination of Eligibility (DOE) for Cultural Landscape Inventories:  
Texas White House Cultural Landscape Inventory  
Agricultural Complex Cultural Landscape Inventory  
Johnson Family Farm Historic Area Cultural Landscape Inventory

Dear Mr. Oaks:

We are pleased to submit the Texas White House Cultural Landscape Inventory (CLI), Agricultural Complex CLI and Johnson Family Farm Historic Area CLI data for SHPO review. Completions of these CLIs are required by the National Historic Preservation Act, as Amended, Section 110. The LBJ Ranch, containing these three cultural landscapes, became a National Historical Site on December 2, 1969 and a National Historical Park on December 28, 1980, and was subsequently listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1969, with a revised nomination to the NR in 1991.

We are asking for a DOE on these three CLIs, in particular, the contributing and non-contributing features as determined by our analysis of the cultural landscapes. Please see the listing and identification of these features in the "Analysis and Evaluation" section in each of the CLIs (Texas White House, pages 21-37; Agricultural Complex, pages 18-37; and, Johnson Family Farm, pages 19-34). These CLIs find each of these landscapes significant under National Register criteria A, B, C, and D. Please see the CLIs for the Statements of Significance (Texas White House, page 11; Agricultural Complex, pages 11-12; and, Johnson Family Farm, pages 10-11). In the Analysis and Evaluation sections of the CLIs you will find a full discussion of the National Register's aspects of integrity in relationship to this cultural landscape. The period of significance for all three landscapes is 1869-1973.

These CLIs were completed for entry into the National Park Service Cultural Landscape CLI database, which is now a web based site. However, the database is not yet available for read-only access—this will be possible within the next year. Please remember the report format of the CLI is produced from the various data fields. As a result, the report format has spacing

*TX SHPO concurrence with Agricultural Complex CLI, 5/16/2006.*

problems, and graphic size limitations. The National Park Service Cultural Landscapes Program requires SHPO review and a determination of eligibility on the CLI. Your concurrence on the findings of the CLI will help the park meet its Section 110 requirements and will provide the park with information important to future Section 106 project evaluations

We are asking you for your written concurrence on a DOE for each of these CLIs. For your convenience, we have included a concurrence signature line below. We appreciate your ongoing technical assistance in our efforts to continuously update our historic resources inventory within the National Parks in the State of Texas. We would also appreciate your response by August 1, 2006 if at all possible. Please feel free to contact the CLI Coordinator, Michele Curran, at (505) 988-6895 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



*for*

David Vela  
Texas State Coordinator/Superintendent

Encl: CLI  
Park Superintendent's concurrence

Concurrence:

  
F. Lawrence Oaks, Executive Officer  
Texas State Historical Commission

*TX SHPO concurrence with Agricultural Complex CLI, page 2, 5/16/2006.*



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
Lyndon B. Johnson National Historical Park  
P.O. Box 329  
Johnson City, Texas 78636

To: IMR Deputy Associate Regional Director, Cultural Resources  
P.O. Box 728  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504-0728

From: Superintendent, Lyndon B. Johnson National Historical Park  
P.O. Box 329  
Johnson City, Texas 78636

Subject: Agricultural Complex Cultural Landscape Inventory (CLI)

I hereby concur with the content and the assessment of the Cultural Landscape Inventory for the Agricultural Complex component landscape.

The CLI has identified the Agricultural Complex component landscape as a "Historic Designed Landscape," a "Historic Vernacular Landscape," and a "Historic Site." The CLI agrees with the National Register listing of the LBJ Ranch District as a "district." The Texas White House, the Agricultural Complex, and the Johnson Family Farm Historic Area are component landscapes within the LBJ Ranch District.

1. The CLI rates the condition of the Agricultural Complex as "Good" (pg. 38) and the Management Category is listed as "Should be Preserved and Maintained" (pg. 10).
2. The period of significance for the Agricultural Complex is 1869-1973. (pg. 12, and Statement of Significance pg. 11-12).
4. The contributing features for the Agricultural Complex that are listed in the "Analysis and Evaluation" (pg. 18-37).

Reba Richards, Acting  
Superintendent, Lyndon B. Johnson National Historical Park

5-15-06  
Date

Cc: Michele Curran, IMR, CLI Coordinator  
Jill Cowley, IMR, Historical Landscape Architect

*Superintendent concurrence with Agricultural Complex CLI, 5/15/2006.*

Agricultural Complex  
Lyndon B. Johnson National Historical Park

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Russ Whitlock/LYJO/NPS  
09/13/2011 09:39 PM

To: Rebecca Renaud/LYJO/NPS@NPS  
cc  
Subject: Re: Fw: Updated Condition updates for CLI landscapes

Becca,

I tend to agree with you on these condition assessments. Before submitting please check with Reba to see what this does to our GPRA goals.

Russ

Russ Whitlock  
Superintendent  
Lyndon B. Johnson National Historical Park  
Johnson City, Texas  
830-868-7128 x226  
830-868-7863 (f)  
512-773-2434 (m)

----- Forwarded by Rebecca Renaud/LYJO/NPS on 09/13/2011 02:38 PM -----

Gus Sanchez/LYJO/NP  
S  
09/13/2011 12:42 PM  
To: Rebecca Renaud/LYJO/NPS@NPS  
cc  
Subject: Updated Condition updates for CLI landscapes

Beca,

Here are the updated condition updates for the CLI landscapes.

**Agricultural Complex:** Fair Condition. The agricultural complex shows clear evidence of minor disturbances and deterioration by natural and/or human forces, and some degree of corrective action is needed within 3-5 years to prevent further harm to its cultural and/or natural values. For example, some mitigation must be applied to historic irrigation equipment and the working/feed pens and corral fence posts need to be replaced within 3 to 5 years. If left to continue without the appropriate corrective action, the cumulative effect of the deterioration of many of the landscape features will cause the inventory unit to degrade to a poor condition.

**Texas White House:** Fair Condition. The Texas White House shows clear evidence of minor disturbances and deterioration by natural and/or human forces, and some degree of corrective action is needed within 3-5 years to prevent further harm to its cultural and/or natural values. For example, most of the rock curbing, stone walkways and stone walls need to be repaired and re-pointed. The wood fencing around the Texas White House and the Secret Service Command Post need to be re-constructed. Many of the aging Oak trees need to be stabilized or removed and replaced. The outside swimming pool needs to have a new filtration system and the concrete deck is cracked and will have to be replaced within 3 to 5 years. While replacement of the Texas White House Roof has been recently completed, the Secret Service Command post has recently been determined to have major structural issues that are being addressed. If left to continue without the appropriate corrective action, the cumulative effect of the deterioration of many of the landscape features will cause the inventory unit to degrade to a poor condition.

**Johnson Family Farm Historic Area:** Fair Condition. The Johnson Family Farm Historic Area shows clear evidence of minor disturbances and deterioration by natural and/or human forces, and some degree of corrective action is needed within 3-5 years to prevent further harm to its cultural and/or natural values. For example, the log structures all need to be rehabilitated. All the stone structures need to be re-pointed. The fields need to be cleared of cactus and mesquite. The prairie should be burned when conditions are right. Approximately 60% of the rails on the cedar fence should be replaced within 3 to 5 years. Structures such as the Bruckner Barn need work that must be addressed within 3 to 5 years. If left to continue without the appropriate corrective action, the cumulative effect of the deterioration of many of the landscape features will cause the inventory unit to degrade to a poor condition.

If you concur as Acting Superintendent, we can forward them on to Carrie Mardorf.

Thanks,

F. Gus Sanchez  
Chief, Interpretation and Resources Management  
Lyndon B. Johnson National Historical Park  
office: 830-868-7128, ext.235  
fax: 830-868-0810  
cell: 830-385-1357

*Superintendent concurrence on updated landscape condition, 9/13/2011.*

**Revisions Impacting Change in Concurrence:** Other

**Revision Date:** 03/21/2006

**Revision Narrative:**

The revision is necessary because of added requirements by WASO in 2003, and because of the length of time since the completion of the CLI in 1999. Superintendent concurrence 5/15/2006. SHPO concurrence 5/16/2006.

**Revision Date:** 07/11/2012

**Revision Narrative:**

Edited text to correct typos and clarified image sources, July 2012.

**Geographic Information & Location Map**

**Inventory Unit Boundary Description:**

The Agricultural Complex component landscape is made up of the areas within the LBJ Ranch District not included within the Texas White House or the Johnson Family Farm Historic Area component landscapes. Since many of these areas overlap, component landscape boundaries were determined through a combination of historic function and park management/ownership.

The northern boundary and western boundary of the Agricultural Complex coincides with the park's legal boundaries. The eastern boundary also coincides with the legal boundary, until it reaches the eastern side of the Pecan Orchard, where it drops south to the Pedernales River. It then runs west along the river bottom until it parallels the western boundary of the Texas White House component landscape (marked here by the presence of the Cedar Guest House). The boundary then runs just north of the guest house, and then follows north around the LBJ Airstrip and the Texas White House area, to close with the western boundary of the park.

**State and County:**

**State:** TX

**County:** Gillespie County

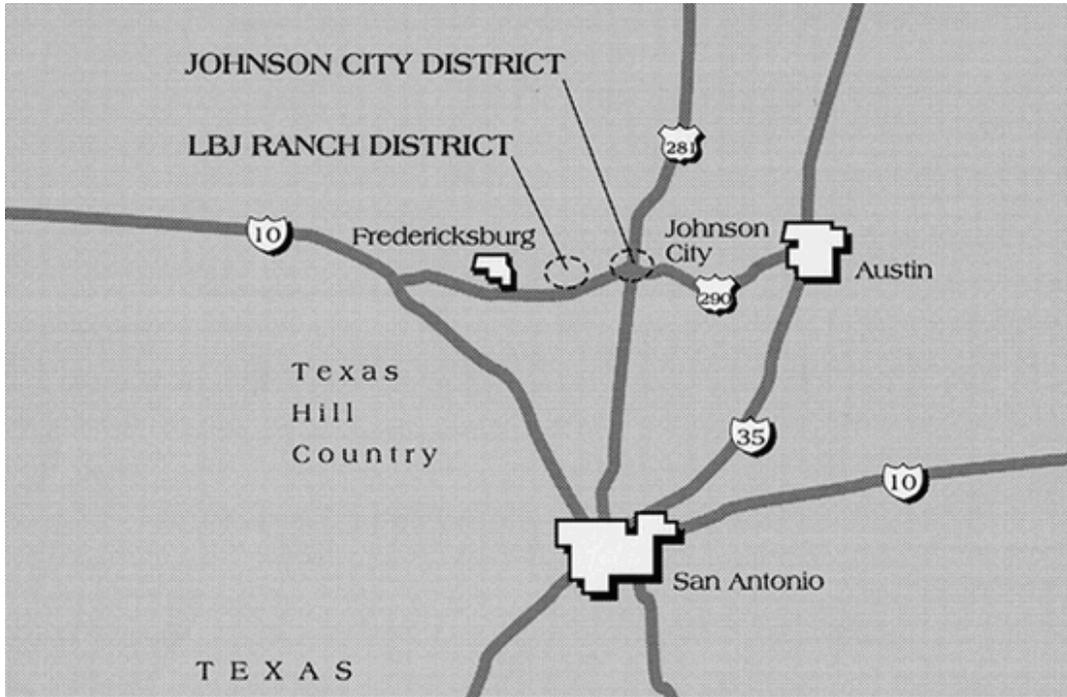
**Size (Acres):** 422.00

**Boundary UTMS:**

<b>Source:</b>	USGS Map 1:62,500
<b>Type of Point:</b>	Point
<b>Datum:</b>	NAD 83
<b>UTM Zone:</b>	14
<b>UTM Easting:</b>	536,019
<b>UTM Northing:</b>	3,345,806
<b>UTM Easting:</b>	536,003
<b>UTM Northing:</b>	3,347,786
<b>UTM Easting:</b>	535,725
<b>UTM Northing:</b>	3,347,786
<b>UTM Easting:</b>	535,591
<b>UTM Northing:</b>	3,347,786
<b>UTM Easting:</b>	535,605
<b>UTM Northing:</b>	3,348,017
<b>UTM Easting:</b>	536,000
<b>UTM Northing:</b>	3,348,014
<b>UTM Easting:</b>	536,001
<b>UTM Northing:</b>	3,347,942
<b>UTM Easting:</b>	536,599
<b>UTM Northing:</b>	3,347,944
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<b>UTM Easting:</b>	536,827
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<b>UTM Easting:</b>	537,208
<b>UTM Northing:</b>	3,345,813

<b>UTM Easting:</b>	537,153
<b>UTM Northing:</b>	3,345,137
<b>UTM Easting:</b>	536,800
<b>UTM Northing:</b>	3,345,172
<b>UTM Easting:</b>	536,818
<b>UTM Northing:</b>	3,345,391
<b>UTM Easting:</b>	536,628
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<b>UTM Easting:</b>	536,625
<b>UTM Northing:</b>	3,345,741
<b>UTM Easting:</b>	536,429
<b>UTM Northing:</b>	3,345,762
<b>UTM Easting:</b>	536,245
<b>UTM Northing:</b>	3,347,649
<b>UTM Easting:</b>	536,283
<b>UTM Northing:</b>	3,347,689
<b>UTM Easting:</b>	536,220
<b>UTM Northing:</b>	3,347,701

**Location Map:**



*The Agricultural Complex is located within the LBJ Ranch Unit of the Lyndon B. Johnson National Historical Park; the park landscape is located within the region known as Texas Hill Country Source: NPS.*

**Regional Context:**

**Type of Context:** Cultural

**Description:**

The Texas Hill Country was first home to Native American tribes including the Tonkawa, Apache, and Comanches. Although Spain claimed the land, there is little evidence to show permanent settlement by the Spanish or Mexicans. The predominant cultural association is with the area's settlement by German farmers and Anglo-American ranchers (primarily from the Southern states), who both contributed to the cultural mix of the Texas Hill Country.

**Type of Context:** Physiographic

**Description:**

The two physiographic regions generally associated with the Lyndon B. Johnson National Historical Park are the Edwards Plateau and the Llano Uplift. The Texas Hill Country, located in central Texas, is defined on the south by the Balcones Escarpment which runs in an arc from north of Austin southwest to Del Rio. The region includes prairies extending to the coastal plains as well as limestone hills, for the which the region is named.

**Type of Context:** Political

**Description:**

Although the Spanish included the Texas Hill Country in their New World empire with the explorations of Coronado (1540-41), little changed politically from the Native American occupation of the land. The Texas Revolution (1835-36) established the Republic of Texas (1836-45). The Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo closed the Mexican American War that resulted in U.S. ownership of the region in 1848. Situated in Gillespie County, the LBJ Ranch was placed under NPS management in 1969. To the immediate south and bordering the NHP is the Lyndon B. Johnson State Historical Park and Historical Site, and 14 miles to the east is the town of Johnson City.

**Management Unit:** LBJ Ranch District

**Management Information**

### General Management Information

**Management Category:** Should be Preserved and Maintained

**Management Category Date:** 05/15/2006

**Management Category Explanatory Narrative:**

As part of the Lyndon B. Johnson National Historical Park, there is a mandate to preserve and maintain the historic conditions of its cultural landscapes. The Agricultural Complex is also listed on the National Register and should be preserved and maintained. Superintendent concurrence was received 5/15/2006..

### Agreements, Legal Interest, and Access

**Management Agreement:**

**Type of Agreement:** Other Agreement

**Management Agreement Explanatory Narrative:**

There is an agreement in place with the Texas State Parks to co-manage the lands of the Ranch Unit.

**NPS Legal Interest:**

**Type of Interest:** Fee Simple

**Explanatory Narrative:**

The National Park Service has fee simple ownership of much of the park, but other parts remain in complex ownership situations (see park staff for discussion of this sensitive issue). In addition, the GMP indicates desired scenic easements in adjacent lands.

**Public Access:**

**Type of Access:** Other Restrictions

**Explanatory Narrative:**

Because Mrs. Johnson continues to use the LBJ Ranch as her home, visitor access is restricted to some degree.

### Adjacent Lands Information

**Do Adjacent Lands Contribute?** Yes

**Adjacent Lands Description:**

Adjacent lands contain not only the other two component landscapes that make up the LBJ Ranch District (Texas White House and Johnson Family Farm Historic Area), but also lands within legislated boundaries but not owned by the NPS (see the site plan).

## National Register Information

### Existing National Register Status

#### National Register Landscape Documentation:

SHPO Documented

#### National Register Explanatory Narrative:

Lyndon B. Johnson National Historical Park was designated as a NPS unit in 1969. That same year, the park was also listed on the National Register. The National Register documentation was updated and revised in 1994. However, the nomination focuses largely on the buildings and structures of the park, omitting important landscape features.

As the 1994 NR nomination and CLI were drafted concurrently, the landscape was undocumented prior to the completion of the CLI. The findings of the CLI recommend that the Agricultural Complex component landscape should be considered eligible for the National Register as a historic district.

#### Existing NRIS Information:

<b>Name in National Register:</b>	Lyndon B. Johnson National Historical Park
<b>NRIS Number:</b>	69000202
<b>Other Names:</b>	None
<b>Primary Certification Date:</b>	12/02/1969
<b>Other Certifications and Date:</b>	Additional Documentation - 1/16/1994

### National Register Eligibility

<b>National Register Concurrence:</b>	Eligible -- SHPO Consensus Determination
<b>Contributing/Individual:</b>	Individual
<b>National Register Classification:</b>	District
<b>Significance Level:</b>	National
<b>Significance Criteria:</b>	A - Associated with events significant to broad patterns of our history
<b>Significance Criteria:</b>	B - Associated with lives of persons significant in our past
<b>Criteria Considerations:</b>	C -- A birthplace or grave D -- A cemetery E -- A reconstructed building when accurately executed in a suitable environment and presented in a dignified manner as part

of a restoration master plan, and when no other building or structure with the same association has survived  
G -- A property achieving significance within the past 50 years if it is of exceptional importance

**Period of Significance:**

**Time Period:** CE 1869 - 1973  
**Historic Context Theme:** Shaping the Political Landscape  
**Subtheme:** Political and Military Affairs After 1945  
**Facet:** United States As Leader Of The Free World  
**Other Facet:** None

**Area of Significance:**

**Area of Significance Category:** Politics - Government

**Area of Significance Subcategory:** None

**Statement of Significance:**

“The purpose of Lyndon B. Johnson National Historical Park is to preserve historically significant properties associated with the life of Lyndon B. Johnson” [An act to establish Lyndon B. Johnson National Historical Park, December 2, 1969].

“In the rugged Hill Country just west of here he developed the strength of character, the courage, the vision, the sense of realism, the compassion which enabled him to perform with effectiveness the tasks of his office” [Homer Thornberry, Eulogy before a joint session of the 63rd Texas Legislature, January 25, 1973].

The Lyndon B. Johnson National Historical Park provides a unique perspective of the life span of the 36th President of the United States. The National Historical Park, located in the scenic, wooded Hill Country of south-central Texas, contains the lands, structures, and cultural landscape that represent the ancestry, origins, and life of Lyndon B. Johnson. The resources at the park document President Johnson’s grandparents’ first settlement in the area, as well as Johnson’s own birth, boyhood years, political career, retirement, and burial at the Johnson Family Cemetery. Here, as in few other historical parks, one can see the entire life experience of a major historic figure.

The Agricultural Component of the LYJO cultural landscape represents the functional and pragmatic side of the settlement of the region, the wresting of livelihood from the land by the Johnsons and their predecessors, and the active engagement of President Johnson, even while in office, with the stabilizing experience of running a working ranch. The Agricultural Complex component landscape has retained historic integrity in relation to the historic operation of the LBJ Ranch by the Johnsons under the aspects of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.



**Associated Group:**

<b>Name of Group:</b>	African American
<b>Type of Association:</b>	Historic
<b>Name of Group:</b>	AngloAmerican
<b>Type of Association:</b>	Both Current And Historic
<b>Name of Group:</b>	German
<b>Type of Association:</b>	Both Current And Historic
<b>Name of Group:</b>	Hispanic
<b>Type of Association:</b>	Historic
<b>Name of Group:</b>	Native American (Comanche, and possibly others)
<b>Type of Association:</b>	Historic

**Ethnographic Significance Description:**

A need exists for an ethnographic survey at Lyndon B. Johnson National Historical Park, as no such survey work has been done.

Before settlement by Anglo Americans, Native Americans such as the Comanche considered the area within their traditional territory, a fact that provided for conflict between the Comanches and early settlers like the Johnsons. The naming of the Pedernales River (pedernales means “flint” in Spanish) may mark the importance of the area as a source of flint for artifact manufacture, and indeed archaeological sites have been noted in the area.

The area was within Spanish jurisdiction before Texas independence, and Spanish-Americans still populate the area.

A wave of German immigration into the Hill Country in the late 1800s profoundly transformed the landscape in terms of vernacular design and use. The Meier family established the earliest recorded farm operation (1882) on the site of the LBJ ranch house and associated areas; they built the rock house, a distinctive German architectural element, which formed the core of the Martin and later the LBJ house.

And lastly, the Anglo American culture is often overlooked, but the ranching techniques, architecture, land use, cattle and crops, and other elements mark continuity and change between the earliest white settlers, and the ranching style of LBJ himself.

Exploration of these ethnographic issues through an ethnographic survey can help tell a more complete story at Lyndon B. Johnson National Historical Park.

**Chronology:**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Annotation</b>
-------------	--------------	-------------------

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Agricultural Complex

Lyndon B. Johnson National Historical Park

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CE 1845	Established	Rachel Means headright on land that will become the Meier-Johnson property is established.
CE 1876	Purchased/Sold	Means headright sold to George Zimpelman (Bearss 1971:168).
CE 1882	Purchased/Sold	Zimpelman subdivided the Means headright; Wilhelm Meier bought a 650-acre tract and built a log cabin (Bearss 1986:1).
CE 1894	Built	Meier contracted to build a two-story rock house (the core of the future Texas White House); he conveyed some of the Meier farm acreage to his children (Bearss 1971:168; 1986:2).
CE 1900	Land Transfer	Wilhelm Meier and his wife conveyed the Meier farm to their son William Jr. but retained use of rock house until their deaths (Bearss 1986:2).
CE 1906	Purchased/Sold	William Meier Jr. sold Meier farm to Wagner (Bearss 1971: 57,168; 1986:4).
	Land Transfer	Wagner sold the Meier farm to Odiorne (Bearss 1971:168).
CE 1909	Land Transfer	Odiorne sold the old Meier farm to the Martins (Bearss 1971:168).
CE 1912	Altered	Martins enlarged the rock house (Bearss 1986:5).
CE 1920	Built	Old Martin barn built.
CE 1924	Expanded	Martins added acreage to the farm (Bearss 1986:5).
CE 1936	Land Transfer	Clarence Martin died and wife Frank became the sole owner (Bearss 1971:115).
CE 1946	Purchased/Sold	Mrs. Martin sold a portion of her farm to son Tom (Bearss 1986:5).
CE 1951	Land Transfer	LBJ traded his house in Johnson City to his Aunt Frank Martin for the Meier-Martin farm (Bearss 1986:6-8).

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	Built	Little Tank was built in 1951 or earlier, as it was standing when the Johnsons moved to the ranch.
CE 1952	Built	Leaky Tank built.
	Established	LBJ Ranch was established; the Johnsons moved in; the Johnson Dam and the Low Water Crossing on the Pedernales were built for irrigation purposes (Bearss 1986:12-16).
CE 1953	Built	Fish Tank was built.
CE 1956	Built	North LBJ Airstrip Tank built.
CE 1960	Built	During the 1960s seven Grain Bins, the Classified Documents Incinerator, the East Oat Field Hay Shed, the Headquarters Coastal Hay Shed, West Oat Field Hay Shed, the Tetrahedron, Earthen Dam #1, Earthen Dam #2, Fish Tank, and James Burns Tank were built.
CE 1963 - 1973	Altered	The LBJ Ranch served as the Texas White House and as a working ranch (Bearss 1986), a use which continues to a lesser degree today.
CE 1963	Built	Malechek's (ranch foreman) House built.
CE 1964	Built	White House Communications Building, and Communications Tower were built. (Steely 1984:70).
	Built	Fertilizer Shed/Bus Barn, Fertilizer Shed Water Tower were built.
CE 1966	Built	Show Barn, Show Barn Pens and Corrals, Show Barn Scales and Loading Chute, Big Fertilizer Field Tank, and LBJ Airstrip Tank built.
CE 1969	Established	Lyndon B. Johnson National Historic Site established.
CE 1971	Built	The East Valley Irrigation System, and the West Valley Irrigation System were installed.

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CE 1980

Established

Redesignated Lyndon B. Johnson National Historical Park.  
The NPS continues to operate the unit as a working ranch.

**Physical History:**

1845-1876

Rachel Means headright was established, and passed to the Means children when she died. No record of the Means farming the site was noted. The children sold the land to C.C. Howell, who sold it to George Zimpelman (Bearss 1971:167-168). The landscape was probably used as open range for grazing longhorns.



*LBJ Ranch Pasture Fences and Gates. Photo by Jason Lott, NPS.*



*Pedernales River and riverbank vegetation. Photo by Erin Degutis, 1993.*

1876-1882

George Zimpelman owned the Means headright, and subdivided it. He sold one parcel of 640 acres to Wilhelm Meier (Bearss 1986:1). Although the cattle market collapsed in the early 1870s, Meier probably used the land as open range for longhorns. The Texas Hill Country landscape was slowly fenced and transformed into family farms.

1882-1909

Wilhelm Meier bought a portion of the Means headright, farmed it, built a log cabin on it and, later, built a two-story rock house. As he grew older, he transferred the land to his children, with a final transfer of the Meier farm to his son William Jr. in 1900. William, Jr., who farmed the land until at least 1905. In 1906, William, Jr. sold the Meier farm to Charles Wagner Jr., who then sold it to James Odiorne in that the same year. Odiorne sold the farm to the Martins in 1909 (Bearss 1971:57,186; 1986:4). The land was fenced during this period, and the Martins raised shorthorn varieties for meat, as well as dairy cattle. Crops such as oats, wheat, and pasture were grown in dedicated fields to support both the livestock and the Meier family in a mixed-style of agriculture, primarily developed for subsistence and secondarily for market.

1909-1951

Clarence Martin and his wife Frank farmed the Meier-Martin place. Frank's brother Sam E. Johnson, and young LBJ, lived at the Johnson farm downriver. The Martins expanded and

## Agricultural Complex

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remodeled the rock house. Years after she was widowed, Mrs. Martin traded the Meier-Martin place to LBJ in exchange for his home in Johnson City (Bearss 1986:4-8). Although market farming was probably growing in importance as the region developed economically, the Martins probably continued to engage in a mixed type of agriculture (farming and ranching), and grew cotton as the staple crop.

#### 1951-1973

The Johnsons operated the LBJ Ranch (formerly the Meier and Martin farms) as both a working ranch and home (Bearss 1981, 1986). The Martin house was substantially expanded, and the grounds were landscaped and a swimming pool was built. An airstrip was built and outbuildings such as Klein's Maintenance Shop were constructed. At the same time, the ranching operation was moved away from the residential area to the north fields where the show barn area was located. When LBJ became the President, security and communications structures were installed. During the 1960s, a formal landscape planting around the Texas White House was designed and implemented by Richard Myrick, a prominent Dallas landscape architect (Bearss 1986).

#### 1969-Present

Lyndon B. Johnson NHS was established and then redesignated Lyndon B. Johnson NHP. Following LBJ's death in 1973, Mrs. Johnson has continued to reside at the LBJ Ranch on a part time basis (Bearss 1981, 1986).

## Analysis & Evaluation of Integrity

### Analysis and Evaluation of Integrity Narrative Summary:

The Agricultural Complex component landscape is a functional landscape, defined by onsite agricultural activities, including several clusters and circulation routes, and with important historical and topographical links to the Pedernales River. The Agricultural Complex is made up primarily of features associated with the agricultural operation of the LBJ Ranch during LBJ's lifetime, including his Presidency.

The southern part of the site is the location of the Texas White House complex, which is the Texas White House component landscape. That landscape includes the ranch house itself, U.S. Secret Service buildings, Airplane Hangar, storage, and maintenance facilities. The Johnson Family Farm Historic Area component landscape to the southeast includes structures linked with LBJ's earliest childhood, such as the family cemetery, Sam Ealy Johnson, Jr.'s Farmhouse, and Junction School, as well as the Reconstructed Birthplace. It is certain that LBJ, as a child, visited not only Sam E. Johnson, Sr.'s residence (now called the Sam E. Johnson Farm House), which is included in the Agricultural Complex component landscape, but also his Uncle and Aunt Martin at the stone house (built by the Meiers), which forms the core of the Texas White House, now included in the Texas White House component landscape (Bearss 1971:71).

The Agricultural Complex component landscape is complex. Although the Texas White House and the Johnson Family Farm Historic Area draw the most attention from visitors, the Agricultural Complex is more than a frame for the other two areas. Along with the Pedernales, the agricultural landscape is the prime cause for the settlement of the Meier-Martin-Johnson landscape, which eventually became the Lyndon B. Johnson NHP.

### OVERALL INTEGRITY EVALUATION

The Agricultural Complex component landscape within the LBJ Ranch District of the LBJ NHP retains integrity. The Agricultural Complex represents the functional and pragmatic side of the settlement of the region, the wresting of livelihood from the land by the Johnson's and their predecessors, and the active engagement of President Johnson, even while in office, with the stabilizing experience of running a working ranch.

Location: Retains Integrity

The Lyndon B. Johnson National Historic Park is located in the Texas Hill Country. The Park consists of two units, the Johnson City District and, 15 miles to the west, the LBJ Ranch District. Within the LBJ Ranch District, resides the Agricultural Complex component landscape, which sits adjacent to the Texas White House component landscape.

Design: Retains Integrity

## Agricultural Complex

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Within the Agricultural Complex component landscape, characteristics associated with past and present livestock husbandry and large-scale agricultural practices continue to exist. The organization of the agricultural fields is such that their shape maximizes productivity and utilizes the topography to minimize erosion and maximize the collection of runoff. The geometrically shaped agricultural fields represent the domination of man over the land, controlling and directing runoff as well as the plantings that create vegetative textures and patterns.

#### Setting: Retains Integrity

The general topography of the Agricultural Complex component landscape is of gentle rolling hills underlain by limestone that have been gradually eroded. The LBJ Ranch topography slopes from the high point in the north northwestern corner of the ranch south to the Pedernales River. Within the unit, the topography has been manipulated for agricultural production. As a result, the majority of the native vegetation has been replaced with naturalized imports.

Features constructed for agricultural use include field structures, hay sheds, tanks, the Show Barn, the Grain Bins, and cattle pens/corrals all of which contribute to the setting of a working cattle ranch and farm. Other structures, most notably the Communications Tower and metal Tetrahedron, which are located within the Agricultural Complex, contribute to the setting of the LBJ Ranch during the time of LBJ's political career

#### Materials: Retains Integrity

The materials of the Agricultural Complex component landscape reflect the historic period in which the features were constructed. The indigenous limestone of the region creates a strong tie between the structures in the landscape and the natural color and textural palette that the landscape possesses. For example, the use of *Juniperus* sp. for fencing is indicative of the lack of furnished lumber and also the vernacular use of plant material. Strands of barbed wire, which was replaced with diamond v-mesh wire illustrate the change in use of fencing material over time.

#### Workmanship: Retains Integrity

Different examples of workmanship are evident throughout the Agricultural Complex component landscape. For example, the limestone masonry walls located within the site reflect the cultural influences from the surrounding area. The limestone masonry walls are similar to those constructed in German Texas Hill Country settlements by German settlers who incorporated locally-quarried materials in the construction of the walls.

#### Feeling: Retains Integrity

Overall, the feeling generated at the Agricultural Complex component landscape is composed of many elements. The open agricultural fields contrast with the shaded and sheltered areas of the ranch house core area and the Sam E. Johnson, Sr. farmstead. The core area reflects the land use patterns found

## Agricultural Complex

### Lyndon B. Johnson National Historical Park

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throughout Texas Hill Country. The feeling has been preserved because commercial and strip-type development has not occurred around the ranch, especially south of the national park and the highway.

Association: Retains Integrity

There is a direct association between the Agricultural Complex component landscape, the larger LBJ Ranch District and LBJ, himself. The site encompasses his birth, early childhood, political service, retirement, and death. LBJ owned the property throughout his political career, and used the ranch as an extension of the White House, hence the term coined by the press, “the Texas White House.”

The following is a summary of the character-defining elements for the Agricultural Complex:

- The gently rolling topography of the Texas Hill Country and associated views
- The large, geometrically shaped agricultural fields, and the field terracing that minimizes soil erosion, controls and directs the run-off of water to a series of “tanks” or ponds, and facilitates the use of agricultural machinery
- The Show Barn area, which includes several features that are functionally related – the Show Barn, corrals and run-out pens, the scales and loading chute, the seven round grain bins, the ranch foreman’s house (Malechek House), and the nearby pasture
- The field grasses – once including oats and barley, and now sudan and Coastal Bermuda grass –that undulate across large areas of the ranch
- The 35-acre Pecan Orchard
- The water features, such as the ranch’s irrigation structures and systems, as well as the retention tanks/ponds
- The herd of Hereford cattle which are direct genetic descendents of the original LBJ herd
- The network of roads, paths and fences that tie the ranch together spatially and through circulation patterns, as well as visually reinforce the perception of distance between the various component landscapes

For a more complete discussion and listing of the contributing features, please see the following analysis of the landscape characteristics.

#### **Landscape Characteristic:**

##### **Archeological Sites**

Archeological surveys for the Lyndon B. Johnson National Historical Park have been limited. Because character-defining archeological sites are undetermined at present, a comprehensive archeological overview needs to be completed.

##### CONTRIBUTING FEATURES

- 41 GL 314 Josskey’s Bone Yard: An area used by the Johnsons to discard old farm equipment and construction materials, and is commonly called a “bone yard.”
- 41 GL 315 Hayshed Tract Trash Dump: An area used by the Johnsons to discard household and ranch trash. The trash and discarded items were placed in erosion areas as backfill.
- 41 GL 318 Old Blue’s Burial: Burial site of “Blue,” one of President Johnson’s favorite horses.

There is reputedly another horse, “Lady B,” buried nearby in the same corral. Both horses lived into the mid-1980s.

### **Buildings and Structures**

The Agricultural Complex component landscape is marked more by fields and the open landscape rather than buildings and structures, although the Show Barn complex is a notable exception. The buildings of the Agricultural Complex can be discussed as clusters: 1) Show Barn cluster, 2) Communications cluster, and 3) Field Structures cluster (not physically as much as typologically a cluster).

Some buildings remain from the older agricultural landscape as well, such as the Old Martin Barn, but are today included in the Texas White House component landscape because of a change in function when LBJ operated the ranch. Other older buildings may actually belong to the Johnson Family Farm Historical Area. Two newer structures, the Pesticide Storage Building (Communications cluster) and the Northern Hangar (Field Structures cluster), are non-contributing.

#### **1) SHOW BARN CLUSTER**

The Show Barn cluster includes the Show Barn, associated livestock enclosures, seven Grain Bins, and the Malechek House (ranch foreman’s house), as well as the buildings now used in the NPS tour bus operation.

##### **The Show Barn: (HB-053) (built 1960s) (Contributing)**

The metal-frame, corrugated roof structure was used to display LBJ's champion Hereford cattle. Today, the barn continues to provide the same historical function. Visitors on the LBJ bus tour walk through the barn and view the penned cattle as well as the wayside exhibits that highlight the importance of the Show Barn to LBJ. The Show Barn is oriented slightly off of the north-south axis to maximize air circulation from summer breezes. The Show Barn is near the high point of the site and has views of the southern part of the ranch, the Pedernales River, and the Hill Country beyond.

##### **The Show Barn Pens and Corrals (HB-055) (built 1960's) (Contributing)**

The pens and corrals are an integral part of the ranching operation, both presently and historically. The pens are constructed of hand-cut white cedar posts and woven wire whereas the corrals are wood post and planks, which are painted white. The corrals are made of finished lumber. Both the pens and corrals emphasize the gently sloping topography in addition to creating a more human scale to the agricultural area of the ranch.

##### **Show Barn Scales and Loading Chute (HB-054) (built 1960's) (Contributing)**

The scales and loading chute are near the corrals to the west of the Show Barn and east of the White House Communications Building. The scales are covered by a metal roof supported by four poles, with the structure open on all sides. The loading chute is made of indigenous limestone and has wooden post and plank sides that are painted white. Both the scales and loading chutes are used in the ranching operation today.

Malechek House (HB-075) (built 1963) (Contributing)

The house was constructed by LBJ for his former ranch foreman Dale Malechek and his family. It is of one-story frame construction and is painted white. Large live oaks (*Quercus virginiana*) in the yard frame the views from the house south to the Pedernales River, and also protect the house from summer sun. A cedar post-and-rail fence encloses the yard around the house and prevents cattle from walking up to the house.

Seven Grain Bins (HB-066-073) (built 1960s) (Contributing)

The round corrugated metal bins are 16 feet in diameter and 8 feet high. They are painted "LBJ green" and are situated on concrete slabs. The bins were historically, and are currently used for storing grain, with a capacity of approximately 1500 bushels each. The bins separate the Show Barn and its pens and corrals area from the mechanical uses of the White House Communication Building (Bus Barn) and the Fertilizer Shed (Bus Barn).

White House Communication Building (HB-034) (built 1964) (Contributing)

The original use of the building was as a facility where White House staff could repair and store electronic equipment. Today, it is used for the LBJ bus tour operation, and includes areas for repairs, offices, storage, and a lunchroom. It is painted "LBJ green" and is located west of the Show Barn corrals and pens area.

Fertilizer Shed/Bus Barn (HB-81) (built 1965-66) (Contributing)

The structure is located immediately north of the White House Communication Building and formerly sheltered equipment for the manufacturing of liquid fertilizer for the ranch fields. The interior and exterior have been modified to accommodate the bus operations for the National Park Service. The shop includes a double bay for the repair and service of buses used for the LBJ Ranch tours.

Fertilizer Shed Water Tower: (HB-079) (built 1965-66) (Contributing)

The water tank is located on the northwest side of the fertilizer shed (aka Bus Barn). It is a remnant of a number of tanks that were used in the manufacture of liquid fertilizer.

## 2) COMMUNICATIONS CLUSTER

The Communications cluster is associated with the communication needs of LBJ during his presidency, when he stayed at the LBJ Ranch. It is located in the northwestern corner of the Agricultural Complex.

Communications Tower (HB-058) (built 1963-64) (Contributing)

The 340-foot tall red and white steel tower with a metal base has antennas for broadcast and for receiving high- and low-band radio, television, and microwave communication. The tower is erected on the highest point of the ranch and is a visual landmark up to five miles away. Cables anchored approximately 190 feet away from the base secure it. The tower is

constructed of steel in an open-trusswork (triangular in plan) design. Its historical uses were to provide a communication link for President Johnson and the U.S. Secret Service, and its contemporary use is for continued communication for the U.S. Secret Service and as a communication link for the NPS.

Radio Transmitter Building (HB-059) (built 1963-64) [removed/replaced] (Non-contributing)  
The structure is located at the base of the Communications Tower. The original structure was clad with corrugated metal and painted "LBJ green". Its historical and contemporary use is for housing a radio base station and other electronic equipment. The original structure was removed and replaced with a newer structure.

Classified Documents Incinerator (HB-61) (built 1960s) (Contributing)  
The incinerator is constructed of heavy set steel and sits on a concrete slab. It is near the radio transmitter building and Communications Tower. It was used to destroy classified documents during and after the presidency.

The Pesticide Storage Building (Non-contributing)  
The structure is a small frame building located northeast of the Communications Tower. The entrance consists of a double door with a window on each side of the door that provides some internal illumination.

### 3) FIELD STRUCTURES CLUSTER

The field structures are scattered throughout the fields, and were located as needed for the operation of the ranch.

Hay Sheds (All are Contributing)  
There are four corrugated metal hay sheds, three of which are enclosed on three sides with the south side open. One is open on all sides. All are painted "LBJ green" and were used to store hay and shelter cattle. They are located in different fields.

1. East Oat Field Hay Shed (HB-022) (built 1960s): Located in the East Oat Field.
2. Headquarters Coastal Hay Shed (HB-056) (built 1960s): Located in the Headquarters Coastal Hay Field.
3. West Oat Field Hay Shed (HB-057) (built 1960s): Located in the West Airstrip Field.
4. Big Hay Shed (HB-060) (built 1965): It is open on all sides. It still is used for the storage of hay and some equipment.

East Valley Irrigation System (HB-088) and West Valley Irrigation System (HB-089) (built 1971) (Contributing)  
The irrigation systems were obtained by LBJ, after his presidency ended. The East Valley Irrigation System is located east of the LBJ Airstrip in a coastal Bermuda grass field, and the West Valley Irrigation System is located west of the LBJ Airstrip, also in a coastal Bermuda

grass field. The systems are self-propelled and designed to perform with a minimum of maintenance. Each system makes one clockwise revolution every twenty-seven hours and is propelled by hydraulic pressure. Each system's mechanical assembly includes a pivot assembly, a six-inch main pipe with sprinklers, a pipe drain, individual tower units, and support and truss cables. These structures epitomize the transition to mechanized agriculture.

Presently there is no plumbing equipment at either site. Each irrigation system is approximately 330 feet long with a span of 20 feet from tip to tip of the steel wheels.

#### Earthen Dams and Tanks (All are Contributing)

1. Fish Tank (HB-092) (built 1953): This tank is located east of the LBJ Airstrip in Dale's Trap tract.
2. James Burns Tank (HB-093) (built 1966): The tank is located northeast of the LBJ Airstrip in Dale's Trap tract.
3. North Airstrip Tank (HB-094) (built 1956): The tank is located north of the LBJ Airstrip in Dale's Trap tract.
4. Big Fertilizer Field Tank (HB-095) (built 1966): The tank is located west of the White House Communications Building, in the Big Fertilizer Field Tank tract.
5. Leaky Tank (HB-096) (built 1952): The tank is located west of the LBJ Airstrip near the bend on Malechek Road in the Leaky Tank tract. The tank earned its name because of its tendency to leak. Leaky Tank has since been repaired and no longer leaks.
6. Airstrip Tank (HB-097) (built 1966): The tank is located west of the LBJ Airstrip near the Malechek House.
7. Little Tank (HB-098) (built pre-1951): The tank is located west of the LBJ Airstrip and north of the Hangar in the Little Tank tract. Little Tank existed when the Johnsons purchased the ranch in 1951. The pond has no immediate feed. It receives site drainage from the north and has some erosion occurring due to a lack of plant material on the north side of the bank.

#### Tetrahedron (HB-76) (built 1960s) (Contributing)

The Tetrahedron is a triangular metal structure that is counterbalanced by a weighted bucket and freely pivots on one point. It indicates wind direction to pilots. The tetrahedron is enclosed by a picket fence painted "LBJ green". It is located in Dale's Trap tract west of the LBJ Airstrip. It is 21 feet in length and 9 feet in height.

#### Northern Hangar (b. Mid-1980s) (Non-contributing)

Mrs. Johnson purchased and erected the hangar for the purpose of sheltering an airplane that would not fit into the existing hangar in the southern portion of the ranch. The hangar is located at the northern end of the LBJ Airstrip. The plane has since been sold and the hangar is empty.

All of the above-described buildings and structures are character-defining.

LCS Listings (2006 update):

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Structure Name	Structure #	LCS #	Contributing
1. Show Barn	HB-053	65500	Yes
2. Show Barn Scales and Loading Chute	HB-054	65501	Yes
3. Show Barn Pens and Corrals	HB-055	65502	Yes
4. Headquarters Coastal Hay Shed	HB-056	65503	Yes
5. West Airstrip Hay Shed	HB-057	65504	Yes
6. Communications Tower	HB-058	65505	Yes
7. Big Hay Shed	HB-060	65507	Yes
8. Classified Document Incinerator	HB-061	65508	Yes
9. Grain Bin # 1	HB-066	233618	Yes
10. Grain Bin # 2	HB-067	233619	Yes
11. Grain Bin # 3	HB-068	233620	Yes
12. Grain Bin # 4	HB-069	233621	Yes
13. Grain Bin # 5	HB-070	233622	Yes
14. Grain Bin # 6	HB-071	233623	Yes
15. Grain Bin # 7	HB-072	233624	Yes
16. LBJ Ranch Pasture Fences and Gates	HB-073	271849	Yes
17. Malechek House	HB-075	65515	Yes
18. Tetrahedron	HB-076	65516	Yes
19. Fertilizer Shed	HB-081	65520	Yes
20. Fertilizer Shed Water Tower	HB-081.A	258454	Yes
21. East Valley Irrigation System	HB-088	233627	Yes
22. West Valley Irrigation System	HB-089	233629	Yes
23. Earthen Dam # 1	HB-090	233640	Yes
24. Earthen Dam # 2	HB-091	233642	Yes
25. Fish Tank	HB-092	233644	Yes
26. James Burns Tank	HB-093	233646	Yes
27. North Airstrip Tank	HB-094	233648	Yes
28. Big Fertilizer Field Tank	HB-095	233650	Yes
29. Leaky Tank	HB-096	233652	Yes
30. Airstrip Tank	HB-097	233655	Yes
31. Little Tank	HB-098	233657	Yes
32. East Oat Field Hay Shed	HB-022	5720	Yes
33. White House Communications Building	HB-034	5732	Yes

**Character-defining Features:**

Feature: Big Hay Shed  
 Feature Identification Number: 94460  
 Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing  
 IDLCS Number: 65507  
 LCS Structure Name: Big Hay Shed

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LCS Structure Number: HB-60

Feature: Classified Document Incinerator

Feature Identification Number: 94461

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 65508

LCS Structure Name: Classified Document Incinerator

LCS Structure Number: HB-61

Feature: Communications Tower

Feature Identification Number: 95187

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 65505

LCS Structure Name: Communications Tower

LCS Structure Number: HB-58

Feature: East Oat Field Hay Shed

Feature Identification Number: 95188

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 05720

LCS Structure Name: East Oat Field Hay Shed

LCS Structure Number: HB-22

Feature: Fertilizer Shed

Feature Identification Number: 95189

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 65520

LCS Structure Name: Fertilizer Shed

LCS Structure Number: HB-81

Feature: Headquarters Coastal Hay Shed

Feature Identification Number: 95191

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 65503

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LCS Structure Name: Headquarters Coastal Hay Shed

LCS Structure Number: HB-56

Feature: Malechek House

Feature Identification Number: 95194

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 65515

LCS Structure Name: Malechek House

LCS Structure Number: HB-75

Feature: Nine Earthen tanks: HB-092: Fish Tank, HB-093: James Burns Tank, HB-094: North Airstrip Tank, HB-095: Big Fertilizer Field Tank, HB-096: Leaky Tank, HB-097: Airstrip Tank, HB-098: Little Tank

Feature Identification Number: 95195

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 65527

LCS Structure Name: Earthen tanks

LCS Structure Number: HB-92-98

Feature: Pens and Corrals

Feature Identification Number: 95196

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 65502

LCS Structure Name: Pens and Corrals

LCS Structure Number: HB-55

Feature: Radio Transmitter Building

Feature Identification Number: 95197

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 65506

LCS Structure Name: Radio Transmitter Building

LCS Structure Number: HB-59

Feature: Scales and Loading Chute

Feature Identification Number: 95198

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Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing  
IDLCS Number: 65501  
LCS Structure Name: Scales and Loading Chute  
LCS Structure Number: HB-54

Feature: Seven Grain Bins  
Feature Identification Number: 95199  
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing  
IDLCS Number: 65513  
LCS Structure Name: Seven Grain Bins  
LCS Structure Number: HB-66-73

Feature: Showbarn  
Feature Identification Number: 95200  
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing  
IDLCS Number: 65500  
LCS Structure Name: Show Barn  
LCS Structure Number: HB-53

Feature: Tetrahedron  
Feature Identification Number: 95201  
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing  
IDLCS Number: 65516  
LCS Structure Name: Tetrahedron  
LCS Structure Number: HB-76

Feature: West & East Valleys Irrigation Systems  
Feature Identification Number: 95203  
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing  
IDLCS Number: 65526  
LCS Structure Name: West & East Valleys Irrigation Systems  
LCS Structure Number: HB-89

Feature: West Airstrip Hay Shed

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Feature Identification Number: 95204  
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing  
IDLCS Number: 65504  
LCS Structure Name: West Airstrip Hay Shed  
LCS Structure Number: HB-57

Feature: White House Communication Building/Bus Barn

Feature Identification Number: 95205  
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing  
IDLCS Number: 005732  
LCS Structure Name: White House Communications Building  
LCS Structure Number: HB-34

Feature: Water Tank

Feature Identification Number: 95202  
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing  
IDLCS Number: 065381  
LCS Structure Name: Water Tank at Johnson Settlement  
LCS Structure Number: HB-79

Feature: H.A. Jordan Goat Shed

Feature Identification Number: 95190  
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing  
IDLCS Number: 065454  
LCS Structure Name: H.A. Jordan Goat Shed  
LCS Structure Number: HB-48

Feature: Jordan, H.A. Barn and Working Pens

Feature Identification Number: 95193  
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing  
IDLCS Number: 065451  
LCS Structure Name: Jordan, H.A. Barn and Working Pens  
LCS Structure Number: HB-45

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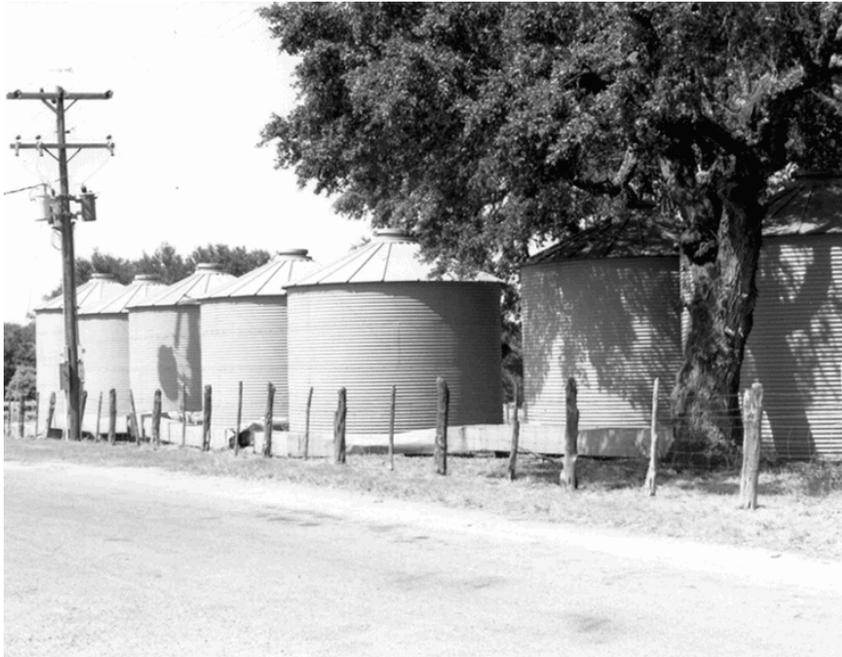
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Feature: Jordan, H.A. Chicken House  
Feature Identification Number: 95192  
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing  
IDLCS Number: 065453  
LCS Structure Name: Jordan, H.A. Chicken House  
LCS Structure Number: HB-47

**Landscape Characteristic Graphics:**



*Malchek House (HB-75; ranch foreman's home). Photo by Erin Degutis, 1993.*



*Seven Grain Bins (HB-66-73). Photo by Erin Degutis, 1993.*



*Communications Tower (HB-58): A 340-foot tall red and white steel tower with a metal base used for broadcast radio, tv and microwave communication. Photo by Erin Degutis, 1993.*



*Tetrahedron (HB-76): The tetrahedron is a triangular metal structure that is counterbalanced by a weighted buck and freely pivots on point. It indicates wind direction to pilots. Photo by Erin Degutis, 1993.*



*HA Jordan Barn and Working Pens (HB-45). Photo by Erin Degutis, 1993.*



*H.A. Jordan Goat Shed (HB-48): The goat shed provided protection for livestock. Constructed of similar materials used for barn: wood posts, corrugated metal siding, and cedar shake roof painted LBJ-green. Photo by Erin Degutis, 1993.*



*View of the Show Barn, July 2011. Source: C. Mardorf, NPS.*

### **Circulation**

The circulation patterns should not only be considered within space, but also within time. The circulation patterns seen today at Lyndon B. Johnson National Historical Park are necessarily a

result of the development of the site as a National Historical Park, overlying older circulation patterns. Some of the historical patterns are recognizable in the contemporary landscape and others are not so discernable and might be reconstructed.

The oldest recognizable patterns relate to the Pedernales River as a travel and settlement corridor, prehistorically and historically. Trails probably followed each bank. These trails developed into roads, which survive today as roads paralleling the north bank (historically known as the River Road to the Johnsons and now called Park Road 49), and the south bank (Ranch Road 1, which now ties into US Highway 290). A period of open range cattle ranching followed, but no circulation pattern from that time is recognizable now, although more research might reveal that the cattle trails of today leading to watering sites along the Pedernales are actually quite old.

The circulation patterns discernable within the LBJ Ranch District come from the time when the Means headright was subdivided, some land bought by Sam E. Johnson Sr. and family, and some (including most of the land found in the present Agricultural Complex component landscape) by the Wilhelm Meier family. The circulation pattern is rooted in the legal divisions of land during settlement as the tracts related to the river and the farmstead clusters.

During the occupation of the site by the Meiers, the Martins, the Johnsons, and the Jordans, the farmstead clusters were small, each typically with a house, a barn, and a few outbuildings, and located near the riverbanks. Some of the roads were developed, or at least were named, during this period, such as Martin Road and, perhaps, Hodges Road (Park Road 49).

With the merging of the properties under LBJ's management, the Meier-Martin farmstead was developed for use as a residence. The nearby older agricultural buildings such as the Old Martin Barn were either torn down or transformed to serve new needs such as for storage or administrative purposes. New agricultural buildings were located further away from the residence area, like the Show Barn and Grain Bins to the north, and service roads were developed for these areas. When the Johnsons purchased the property, Hodges Road was unpaved and seems to have run from the Martin Road on the west to the Junction School/Klein Road on the east. This was a private road. The road section from the Texas White House to Junction School was closed off and improved during the Presidency. The road section from the West Gate to the Martin Road was leased from the Hodges and improved for use as an alternative tour route. The NPS no longer leases the road and it has reverted to the Hodges.

With the construction of the LBJ Airstrip and hangers a new circulation route was established which tied the ranch to the world in a more immediate way than the old foot trails and wagon/automobile roads. During LBJ's time in office, doubtlessly circulation and access control was a security concern. In general, the circulation pattern of the roads remains the same as it was during the presidency; the closures and restrictions were instituted at that time. Thus, the physical road system is contributing, although the current directed use of the roads system for visitor circulation is non-contributing.

Finally, with the establishment of the National Historical Park and the development of park management and interpretive plans, a new layer of circulation use was established, which altered, restricted (for security and management) or promoted (for visitor use) the various older circulation patterns. Some roads were closed, parking areas were added, and visitors were routed according to NPS management and interpretation strategies. Tour buses drive west on Park Road 49, turn right at the Texas White House, left in front of the U.S. Secret Service Command Post, right at the Hangar, and then north on Malechek Road, which runs parallel to the LBJ Airstrip to the east, toward the Show Barn. Traffic involved with the agricultural and livestock operations turn off Park Road 49 to Bailey Road, which travels north and parallel to the LBJ Airstrip to the west, thereby avoiding the Texas White House core area. All remaining vehicular traffic is made up of security and park personnel with most vehicles remaining within the Texas White House core area.

According to the National Park Service Historian associated with the LBJ Ranch, Park Road 49 road had a higher use by traffic before the area was secured because of the presidency. Today, the primary users of Park Road 49 are employees and staff at the LBJ Ranch, U.S. Secret Service Agents, United States government personnel, LBJ Ranch tour buses, and visitors and family members of the Johnson's. The circulation is restricted at the East Guard Shack where people must stop and identify themselves before the gates are opened. The entrance on the west side of the property receives little use. Both the use of the Low Water Crossing and the Ranch Road 1 entrance is prohibited, and these have been blocked off.

The area within and surrounding the Show Barn, located in the northwest corner of the Agricultural Complex component landscape, represents another pattern of circulation. Daily tours stop on the eastern side of the Show Barn, which provides visitors with the opportunity to walk through the barn, view the livestock, and read the wayside exhibits. Visitors enter the barn on the eastern side and proceed to the center aisle. Typically, they walk north to the end of the barn, where the last stalled animal is kept, turn around and return to the buses for the remainder of the tour. Cattle are run in and out of the northern end of the barn to the corrals. The southern end of the barn is blocked off because equipment is parked there.

Another circulation pattern is seen near the location of the Bus Barn where the buses for the LBJ tours are serviced and stored. The buses are parked on the eastern side of the building. The employee parking area is on the west side of the building. The area on the eastern side of the barn is larger, which provides sufficient room for turning and parking buses. Buses move through the maintenance area and can pull around and park on the north side of the barn when refueling.

Finally, another circulation pattern relates to the behavior of the ranch's cattle. The cattle respond to the hot climate in the summertime by circulating between the sunny open areas of the river bottoms of the old Jordan property to the shade of large oaks. Cattle move to the shady areas by mid-morning when the air begins to heat up. They remain in groups under the

## Agricultural Complex

### Lyndon B. Johnson National Historical Park

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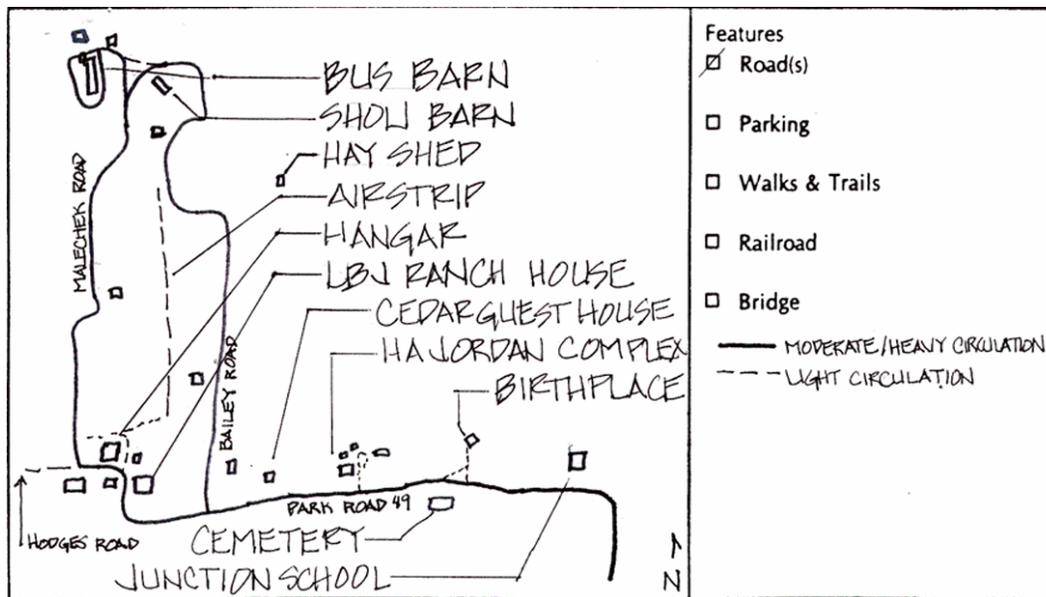
trees until late afternoon to early evening when cooler breezes begin to stir them. Then the cattle move from the shaded areas back to the grassy river bottom. Throughout the night they graze independently or in loosely-formed groups. The shady areas of the river bottom are located near Park Road 49 at the southern end of the Agricultural Complex component landscape. The cattle prefer the shade on the northern side of the road, which provides the visitors to the LBJ Ranch tours to view the cattle, the living history aspect of the ranch.

#### CONTRIBUTING FEATURES

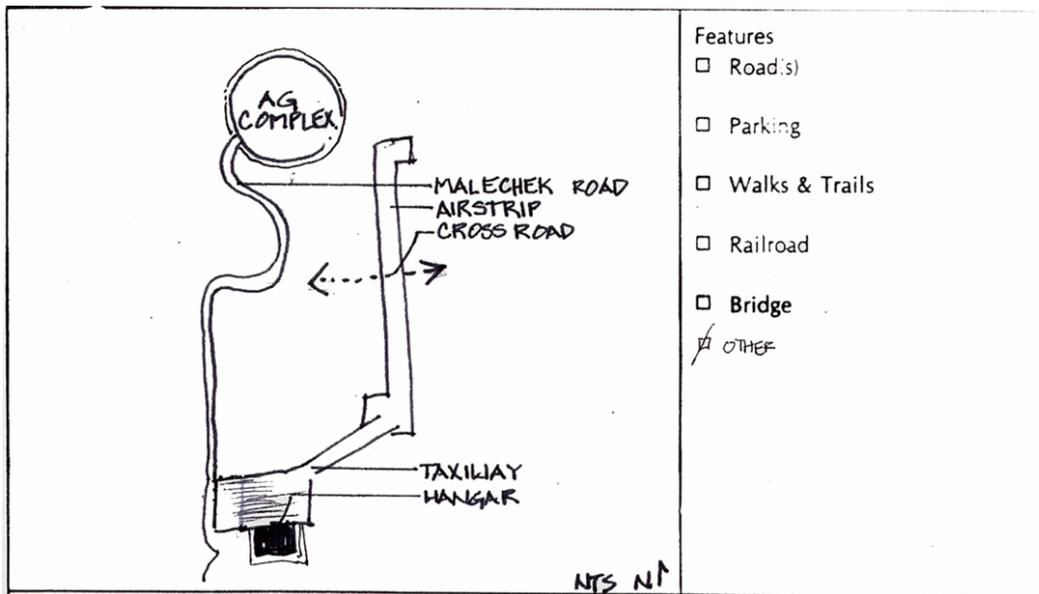
- Park Road 49/Hodges Road (primary access to site)
- Malechek Road (secondary access within site)
- Bailey Road (secondary access within site; specific use: agricultural and livestock operation)
- Bus Barn Area and Show Barn Area (Pedestrian Circulation)
- Cattle paths

Although all the roads are historic, the road systems and their usage have changed to accommodate NPS management needs and for security purposes.

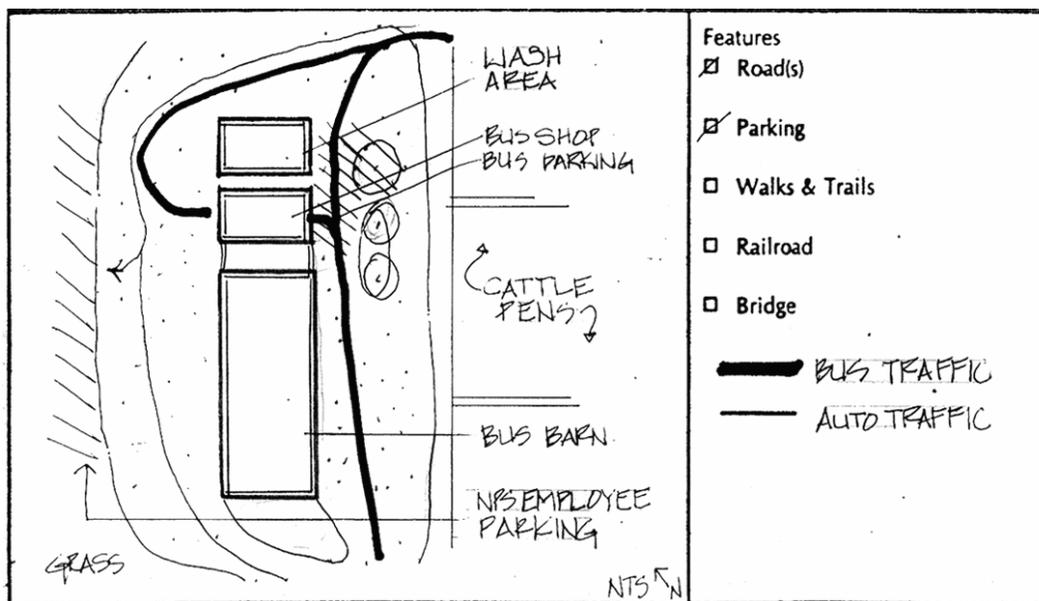
#### Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



*Present circulation of traffic, especially tour buses, at the LBJ Ranch Unit. Source: IMR Cultural Landscapes Program files.*



Circulation relating the airstrip to the showbarn (Ag Complex) area. Source: IMR Cultural Landscapes Program files.



Bus Barn Circulation at the Agricultural Complex, showing bus and auto traffic routes. Source: IMR Cultural Landscapes Program files.



*View of access road and adjacent fences within the Agricultural Complex, July 2011.  
Source: C. Mardorf, NPS.*

### **Cluster Arrangement**

The Agricultural Complex component landscape is divided into four distinct areas of interrelated features (also see Buildings and Structures): 1) Show Barn cluster; 2) Communications cluster; 3) Field Structures cluster; and 4) Johnson/Jordan Farm cluster.

The Show Barn cluster contains a livestock complex and a maintenance complex. The livestock complex focuses on the confinement, feeding, sale, and transportation of livestock. It includes the Show Barn, the Pens and Chutes, and Grain Bins, as well as the Malechek House (ranch foreman's residence). The Show Barn cluster also includes an area presently used in the NPS tour bus operation. The maintenance complex is located west of the livestock complex and the area permits the maneuvering of buses for storage and maintenance as well as parking for other NPS vehicles.

The Communications cluster is located to the far north near the ranch's highest point, and is associated with the period of Johnson's presidency, with the Communications Tower and support buildings.

The Field and Field Structures cluster is located in the middle section of the Agricultural Complex component landscape. The LBJ Airstrip divides the cluster into east and west zones. Each zone is traversed with roads that primarily run north-south. Malchek Road parallels the airfield to the west and Bailey road to the east. Field structures are located throughout the fields, and include storage, watering and irrigation structures.

The Johnson/Jordan Farm cluster includes outbuildings associated with H. A. Jordan's

operation of the Johnson Farm after 1915, as well as the Pecan Orchard on the Pedernales River.

CONTRIBUTING FEATURES

- Show Barn Cluster
- Communications Cluster
- Field Cluster
- Johnson/Jordan Farm Cluster

**Character-defining Features:**

- Feature: Show Barn Cluster
- Feature Identification Number: 120626
- Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing
- Feature: Communications Cluster
- Feature Identification Number: 120628
- Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing
- Feature: Field Cluster
- Feature Identification Number: 120630
- Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing
- Feature: Johnson/Jordan Farm Cluster
- Feature Identification Number: 120632
- Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

**Constructed Water Features**

The constructed water features in the Agricultural Complex relate to the irrigation of crops and the watering of livestock. The central pivot (Valley Irrigation System) and associated trunk lines and pump were installed in 1970-71. The Valley Irrigation Systems are part of the irrigation system covering all the fields from the river to the Show Barn area. Water was originally pumped from the river through trunk lines to central pivots located in the various fields. Prior to that there were extensive trunk and lateral lines using a variety of hand lines and spray devices. The present location of the Valley Systems is not indicative of where they were always placed. Nine earthen tanks are placed throughout the grazing areas.

CONTRIBUTING FEATURES

- West and East Valley Irrigation Systems (LCS: 65526)
- Nine Earthen Tanks (LCS: 65527)

NON-CONTRIBUTING FEATURES

- Park-installed systems

**Character-defining Features:**

Feature: West and East Valley Irrigation Systems

Feature Identification Number: 120634

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Nine Earthen Tanks

Feature Identification Number: 120636

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Park-installed systems

Feature Identification Number: 120638

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

**Landscape Characteristic Graphics:**



*East Valley Irrigation System. Photo by Erin Degutis, 1993.*



*East Valley Irrigation system, July 2011. Source: C. Mardorf, NPS.*

### **Cultural Traditions**

Little is found in the literature on the earliest cultural traditions that made up the first cultural landscape, that of the Native Americans. Some archeological investigation has been completed, which show the area to have been inhabited by Archaic hunting and gathering cultures. The historic Tonkawa may have descended from these groups. With the influx of the Apache, and later the horse culture of the Comanche in the 1700s, these earlier cultures were eventually driven out or decimated. Hispanic cultural traditions also influenced the area, as evidenced by the name “Pedernales,” which is a Spanish word meaning "Flint."

Various cultural traditions are still evident at Lyndon B. Johnson National Historical Park to the careful observer. Some are well documented. Nearby Fredericksburg was founded in 1846 by German immigrants under the Society for the Protection of German Immigrants in Texas. During those early years over 5000 German colonists settled in central Texas. The stone architecture brought by the German immigrants to the area can be seen in the construction of the building core of the Texas White House. German culture continues to influence the Hill Country, and LBJ was partial to German-American culture.

Ranching methods and tools have changed from those of the earliest settlers to the methods LBJ followed, and finally to the range management practices of the National Park Service. For example, during LBJ’s tenure, intensive herbicides and pesticides were used. Today, NPS management has decreased intensive broadcast of agrochemicals. While environmentally sound, the landscape has changed as a result of this shift in cultural tradition, as more weedy species are invading the ranch’s lands.

LBJ's methods were oriented both to practicality and leisure. Although the ranch was operated as a moneymaking enterprise, it also served as a place of recreation and respite for LBJ.

Unlike other ranchers in the area, LBJ was not wholly dependent on the profitability of the ranch, as he had income from his political positions. Where other ranchers were more constrained in their economic choices, LBJ had more freedom to suit his interests and values, as in erecting a personal Show Barn, rather than in taking his stock to regional sales lots as most full-time ranchers did. His political career also necessitated the construction of non-ranching features, such as the LBJ Airstrip, security and communication structures, and the expansion of his residence to accommodate important political guests.

Character-defining features of the landscape associated with cultural traditions include:

**CONTRIBUTING FEATURES**

- The Show Barn and its associated features, e.g., Grain Bins and Malechek House (ranch foreman's house)
- Fencing types
- Water tanks
- Field dimensions and boundaries

**Character-defining Features:**

Feature:	Fencing types
Feature Identification Number:	120640
Type of Feature Contribution:	Contributing
Feature:	Water tanks
Feature Identification Number:	120642
Type of Feature Contribution:	Contributing
IDLCS Number:	65381
LCS Structure Name:	Water Tank
LCS Structure Number:	HB-079
Feature:	Field dimensions and boundaries
Feature Identification Number:	120644
Type of Feature Contribution:	Contributing

**Land Use**

Little is known about the land use of the site before the assignment of the Rachel Means Headright in 1845. Native American use has not been extensively investigated, although the Texas Hill Country was first occupied by Archaic hunter-gatherer cultures, then historic tribes that included the Tonkawa and Apache. Later, these tribes were pushed out by Comanche horse nomads, who dominated the area. The site was also part of the Spanish-claimed lands, and, then territory of Mexico.

At present, no records indicate how Rachel Means utilized the land. Because Texas land was primarily used for open-range cattle grazing from the late 1840s to the 1870s, it is likely that Means used the land in that manner. The first record of agricultural land use is when Wilhelm Meier purchased the property in 1882. After building a log cabin for immediate shelter, Meier must have broke the site's sod. Crops probably included wheat, oats, and vegetables. Livestock would have been part of the mixed agricultural practice, with horses or oxen to do the plowing, a milk cow for dairy products, hogs for meat, and chickens for eggs and meat. Property boundaries would have been established by markers, if not fencing. By the time Meier began farming, fences would have been established out of necessity, either to contain farm animals, or to protect fields of crops. The construction of the stone house implies that the Meier operation was successful. Meier probably built several other outbuildings on the property. With the passing of the farm into his son's hands, and the eventual sale of the land to the Martins, the first farming cycle ended.

The Martins modified the farmstead with additions to the stone house, but probably continued the mixed agriculture (farming and ranching) of the period. It was probably during the Martin's occupation of the site that horse farming was phased out and tractor use was adopted. Tractor farming increased tillable acres, which changed the original form/shape of the fields and required access roads. Irrigation history is also not evident from available records, until the occupation of the site by LBJ. World War II spurred many technological shifts, such as the development of powerful herbicides and pesticides. Mrs. Martin may have utilized some of these new agro-chemicals, and it is certain that LBJ did.

With LBJ's occupation of the ranch in 1951 and the general increasing specialization of ranching, land use entered a new phase. LBJ developed the ranch to accommodate his interest in raising show-quality Herefords. This led to the development of a system of pastures, watering facilities, and enclosures, with the Show Barn as the focal center of the operation. Along with the construction of new water tanks, LBJ planted coastal Bermuda grass in the pastures for grazing, and raised oats for cattle feed. LBJ also experimented with new farming techniques such as field terracing to stem soil erosion. The experimental bent of LBJ and his ranch crew in developing the ranch, including the inclusion of hunting and the raising of exotic species. The LBJ LBJ Airstrip was added in the 1950s.

With LBJ's became President in 1963, another layer of land use was added to the landscape. The new aspect of land use was required to fulfill the security, communication, and transportation needs of the President of the United States. New structures such as the U.S. U.S. Secret Service facility and Communications Tower were added to the agricultural landscape. Older structures were modified for adaptive re-use to suit these needs. For example, the Old Old Martin Barn was no longer used as an agricultural building, but became a storage facility for gardening and other residential purposes.

Finally, with the addition of the LBJ Ranch to the National Park System, the ranch's land use shifted from that of a ranch and Presidential home, to the tradition of NPS management and

interpretation of the site for public visitation. This last layer further modified the landscape, by restricting and redirecting access, modifying structures for adaptive re-use (such as the use of the Old Old Martin Barn for NPS maintenance), developing bus tour routes and facilities, and modifying the LBJ-era ranching practices, such as the intensive use of agrochemicals. The following land uses are character-defining for the period the ranch was under LBJ's management, and which continue in that spirit under the NPS management:

**CONTRIBUTING FEATURES**

- Grazing of Hereford cattle in the various pastures
- Controlled movement of cattle from one fenced pasture to another
- Use of the water tanks as stock watering features
- Crop rotation in the fields, with oats and Bermuda grass as typical crops, for use as livestock feed
- Use of the Show Barn complex and associated features for Hereford production and display
- Experimental adoption of agricultural innovations aimed both at conservation and commercial viability, as LBJ's showpiece ranch

**Natural Systems and Features**

The Pedernales River is the primary natural feature at the Lyndon B. Johnson National Historical Park. Historically, the river provided adequate drainage for the rich-soil in the area's rolling topography. The presence of water, drainage, and good soil proved attractive to the early settlers, including the Johnsons, who farmed and ranched the area.

**CONTRIBUTING FEATURES**

- The Pedernales River

**Character-defining Features:**

Feature: The Pedernales River  
Feature Identification Number: 120646  
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

**Landscape Characteristic Graphics:**



*Pedernales River. Photo by Erin Degutis, 1993.*

### **Small Scale Features**

Small-scale features in the Agricultural Complex give the component landscape its own character and feeling. Degutis (1993) noted the following character-defining small scale features in the agricultural areas.

#### **Tanks**

The tanks represent the manipulation of topography to minimize erosion and control runoff. The tanks are a source of water for livestock and irrigation as well as home to aquatic animals. Each tank is sited at the lowest part of the parcel of land.

#### **Fencing/Maze fence**

A variety of materials were used to make livestock fences. Most of the posts were left rough, with the bark on. Barbed wire was strung between the posts and pulled tight. Woven wire was also used in conjunction with square-mesh hog wire. That type of hog wire was later replaced with diamond-V mesh. The holes in the diamond-V mesh are smaller and less apt to trap an animal's leg or to permit a large animal pest to go through it. Fencing was also used to enclose the Pecan Orchard and agricultural crop areas. The fence prevents cattle and other livestock from wandering into the agricultural fields and destroying the crops. The maze fence is a vernacular solution to a circulation problem. The fence is designed so that a person can make the narrow tight turns to get to the other side of the fence. But, livestock are too wide and not flexible enough to get through the maze.

#### **Bone Yard**

A bone yard is located in the Big Hay Shed tract, and east of the Communications Tower. The

following items were identified in the bone yard: fencing, a generator, cattle guards, Classified Documents Incinerator, a squeeze stock, livestock watering tanks, irrigation piping, a mower, barbed wire, wooden posts, fuel tanks, livestock feeding trays, and old hay rolls. The area is used for the general storage of these derelict items, some of which are salvageable. The current bone yard as described here belongs entirely to the NPS. The historic ranch bone yard, Josskey's Bone Yard is located further east and north of the runout pens. Time constraints did not allow for the examination of that bone yard.

#### Cattle Guards

Cattle guards were used where fence lines meet roads. The pipes or slats are perpendicular to the road. The spacing between the parallel elements is such that larger livestock can not walk across them. Cattle guards are a fundamental part of a working ranch. They prohibit livestock from wandering into an adjoining pasture while eliminating the need for a gate on the road.

#### Drainage Pipe and Bollard

The drainage pipe and bollard are used in combination to indicate a terrace and to control runoff. The bollard is a hand-cut trunk of *Juniperus* sp. shrub painted white. The culvert is a length of piping spanning the width of the road and made of corrugated steel.

#### CONTRIBUTING FEATURES

- Tanks
- Fencing/Maze Fence
- Bone Yard
- Cattle Guards
- Drainage Pipe and bollard

#### Character-defining Features:

Feature:	Tanks
Feature Identification Number:	120648
Type of Feature Contribution:	Contributing
Feature:	Fencing/Maze Fence
Feature Identification Number:	120650
Type of Feature Contribution:	Contributing
Feature:	Bone Yard
Feature Identification Number:	120652
Type of Feature Contribution:	Contributing
Feature:	Cattle Guards
Feature Identification Number:	120654

Type of Feature Contribution:           Contributing

Feature:        Drainage Pipe and bollard

Feature Identification Number:       120656

Type of Feature Contribution:           Contributing

**Landscape Characteristic Graphics:**



*Earthen water tank are a source of water for livestock and irrigation as well as the home to aquatic animals. Photo by Erin Degutis, 1993.*



*Wooden signs name each field and its acreage, as well as naming the owner or co-owners of the property. Photo by Erin Degutis, 1993.*



*The Maze Fence is a vernacular solution to a circulation problem. The fence is designed so that a person can make the narrow turns to get to the other side but livestock are unable to gain access. Photo by Erin Degutis, 1993.*

### **Spatial Organization**

The overall spatial organization at the LBJ Ranch District has been divided into three parts: the Johnson Family Farm Historic Area, the Texas White House, and the Agricultural Complex component landscapes. Defined circulation routes connect the three areas. The Texas White House and the Agricultural Complex are closely linked and each had a significant role in the life of LBJ during his presidency.

The spatial organization of the Agricultural Complex is based on the locations of the fields in relationship to the Show Barn and the LBJ Airstrip. The Show Barn is the most important structure in the Agricultural Complex. Corrals and pens spread to the northeast, north, and north-northwest of the barn. The scales and loading chute are in the center of a long line of corrals. Nine round feed bins are north of the end of the line of corrals.

The LBJ Airstrip is a paved area running north and south, bisecting the Agricultural Complex unit into east and west portions. Thus, the LBJ Airstrip plays a significant role in the spatial organization of the site. Each area on either side of the LBJ Airstrip is traversed with roads that primarily run north-south. Malchek Road parallels the airfield to the west and Bailey Road to the east. Fields run alongside the LBJ Airstrip, along each road.

#### **CONTRIBUTING FEATURES**

- Agricultural Fields

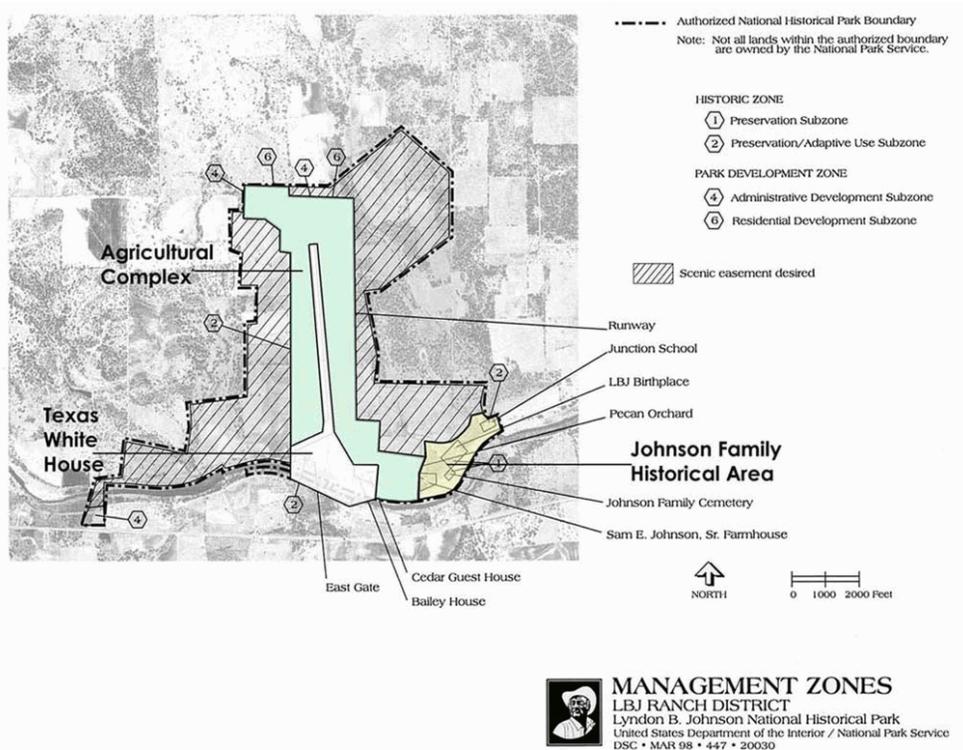
#### **Character-defining Features:**

Feature:	Agricultural Fields
Feature Identification Number:	120658
Type of Feature Contribution:	Contributing

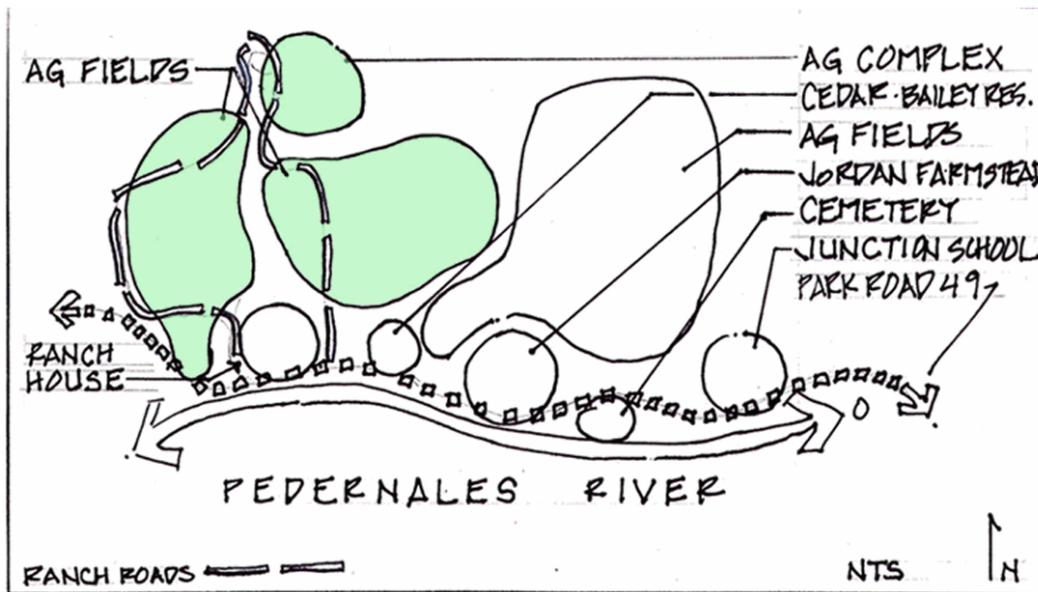
#### **Landscape Characteristic Graphics:**

Agricultural Complex

Lyndon B. Johnson National Historical Park



Overall Spatial Organization. The LYJO ranch unit is divided into three parts: The Texas White House/LBJ Ranch House, the Agricultural Complex, and the Johnson Family Historical Area. Source: NPS.



Spatial Organization of the Agricultural Complex Component Landscape. Drawn by Lance Foster, March 1999, NPS.

### **Topography**

The Texas Hill Country is characterized by rolling topography. Underlying limestone formations eroded to create the existing land surface, which is cut by meandering streams and rivers. The topography of the LBJ Ranch District at Lyndon B. Johnson NHP slopes from the northwest to the south, from the highest point at the northwestern corner of the site to the Pedernales River. The slope percentage increases as the distance increases from the Pedernales River.

The highest point of the LBJ Ranch Unit is the location of the Communications Tower, which adds another 340-feet to the area's highest point. The Show Barn, Pens and Corrals are located on another small rise with unobstructed views to the south.

Although topography that occupies the middle part of the site has been manipulated for agricultural purposes, it still retains the rolling slope of the Texas Hill Country. To compensate for the sloping topography of the agricultural fields, a series of terraces were created to minimize erosion and to maximize the collection of runoff water. The runoff is collected in a series of "tanks" or ponds, which are used to water livestock and irrigate cropland. Although the overall site design corresponds to the underlying legal land grid rather than following site topography, there are several roads that follow the existing topography.

Two floodplain terraces have been identified, the lowest immediately along the Pedernales, and a second higher one which is the location of the Junction School and the Reconstructed Birthplace. The Pecan Orchard north of the road is virtually flat with little or no apparent slope or drainage.

The Pedernales River has steep cuts on the northern banks of the river. This is caused primarily by the river meanders, and accelerated erosion through the burrowing of nutria. The riverbanks are in a constant state of flux due to flooding, erosion, and the presence of nutria. Nutria, a large (20-lb.) non-native nocturnal aquatic rodent, exacerbates the side cutting of the banks along the Pedernales River. The burrows created by nutria weaken the riverbanks, causing the banks to collapse and erode away during flood events. The fluctuations and ornery character of the Pedernales was noted long ago by pioneers and early settlers. Access to the river's edge is attained either at the dams or areas where there are sandbars and the cattle have access to the river. Character-defining features of the landscape associated with topography include:

#### **CONTRIBUTING FEATURES**

- General slope from the northwest to the southeast
- Gently rolling surface
- Floodplain and terraces of the Pedernales River

#### **Character-defining Features:**

Feature: Gently rolling surface

Feature Identification Number: 120660

Type of Feature Contribution:

Contributing

### **Vegetation**

The Agricultural Complex component landscape can be divided into four distinct spaces or areas: the Wildflower Space, the Cultivated Fields, Tank Vegetation, and the Pecan Orchard.

#### **Wildflower Space**

Mrs. Johnson's interest in wildflowers is evident at several locations of the ranch. The plot east of the vegetable and cutting garden is dedicated to wildflowers and the wildflower experiments of the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center. The bloom time of these flowers is during the spring and early summer. By mid-summer, the flowers have finished blooming and are mowed. A strip south of the wall in front of the Texas White House is planted in wildflowers that bloom in early spring. At one time, some of the agricultural fields were planted exclusively with wildflowers. Although no longer grown in the fields, a number of wildflower species persist along the side of the road. Small areas of the vegetable and cutting garden are interspersed with clumps of wildflowers and sunflowers that have been cultivated. There were also several wildflower plots adjacent to the LBJ Airstrip.

#### **Cultivated Fields**

The vegetation of the cultivated fields is the same as that cultivated during the Johnson Presidency. The ranch grows Coastal Bermuda Grass, a non-native grass, as well as small grains such as sudan and other hybrid maizes. Most of the crops grown on the ranch, such as oats and barley, are used to feed the cattle. Mechanization of agriculture permits more than one type of crop to be grown on a large area of land. The schedule of repeated application of fertilizer, herbicides, and improved irrigation techniques made the land more productive. With the decreased use of herbicides under NPS management, invasive weedy species have increased in the cultivated fields.

#### **Tank Vegetation**

The vegetation around the "tanks" or ponds is a mixture of various species. The cultivated species in the field tends to thin out at the edge as the number and diversity of other plant species, especially unwanted "weeds," increases. Wildflower species are common to the banks of the tanks. Several native species of wildflowers are found. The few shade trees that are present are most likely to be located near the tanks.

#### **Pecan Orchard**

The orchard is approximately 35 acres. It is reported to have been planted in the 1930s, after the Johnsons sold the farm. LBJ leased the associated land from H.A. Jordan between 1965 and 1972. Mr. Jordan reserved the Pecan Orchard and operated it himself. In 1972, Johnson acquired the orchard and began to maintain and harvest the grove. The Pecan Orchard is currently maintained to preserve the health of the trees.

#### **CONTRIBUTING FEATURES**

- Wildflowers
- Crops: Corn, oats, barley, and pasture in Coastal Bermuda grass

- Pecan Orchard
- Scattered shade trees in the fields

NON-CONTRIBUTING FEATURES

- Invasive weeds located around tanks and in agricultural fields

**Character-defining Features:**

Feature: Wildflowers

Feature Identification Number: 120662

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Pecan Orchard

Feature Identification Number: 120664

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Scattered shade trees in the fields

Feature Identification Number: 120666

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

**Landscape Characteristic Graphics:**



*Riverbank Vegetation. Photo by Erin Degutis, 1993.*



*Pecan Grove. Photo by Erin Degutis, 1993.*

### **Views and Vistas**

The Texas White House and the Agricultural Complex are located on a south/southeastern facing slope. The northern extent of the site is a regional high point and the southern boundary of the site meets the Pedernales River. Views to the southeast, south, and southwest from the northern section of the site are typical of those of the Texas Hill Country. The character of the rolling topography lends itself to panoramic views from regional high points and separate compartmentalized views at lower elevations. The higher the elevation, the longer and broader the view appears.

The view from Malechek Road south of the Malechek House illustrates a typical Hill Country view. In the middle ground, clusters of trees break up the agrarian landscape. The background is a mix of partially forested areas and geometric openings that indicate agricultural use. Structures and buildings appear as small gray dots in the distance.

The view from the agricultural fields opens to the south and is defined by the livestock facilities to the north. Similar partitioning of land can be seen in the ranchland to the south and southwest.

Clumps of shade trees block the horizon in some areas and define smaller viewsheds at lower elevations. Agriculture fields compartmentalize the views into geometric patterns of vegetation. Transportation arteries bisect each other. Landmarks that are situated on regional high points can be seen up to five miles away.

## Agricultural Complex

### Lyndon B. Johnson National Historical Park

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Degutis (1993) defined a series of views during her fieldwork at the LBJ Ranch District. The following viewshed relate to the Agricultural Complex component landscape:

#### Views of the Pecan Orchard

When walking from the Reconstructed Birthplace to the Johnson Family Cemetery, visitors pass through the arching canopies of pecan trees. The geometric layout of the orchard creates a vista of the Johnson Family Cemetery and the Pedernales River beyond. The walk through the Pecan Orchard is shaded and cool, providing a respite from the summer heat.

#### View of the Texas White House from the LBJ Airstrip

This view is one of the first ones that visitors saw upon arriving at the ranch by air.

#### View north toward the Agricultural Complex

The telephone poles and fence line are elements from the LBJ presidential era and reinforce some of the site's geometry. The lines created by the road, fence line and telephone poles visually delineate the distance between areas of the LBJ Ranch.

#### View north of the LBJ Airstrip

The view from the end of the LBJ Airstrip looks north looks into the surrounding Hill Country landscape. Areas of fields and woodland create a pattern that is repeated randomly in the background. The LBJ Ranch District landscape is open and partially wooded, like other areas in the region.

#### CONTRIBUTING FEATURES

- Open views of Texas Hill Country and Pedernales River bottom from high points north to south
- View to the north of the gradual rise in elevation
- View of the Pecan Orchard
- View north toward the Agricultural Complex: agricultural features and setting

#### **Landscape Characteristic Graphics:**



*View from the end of the airstrip looking north into an area that possesses characteristics of the surrounding Hill Country landscape. Photo by Erin Degutis, 1993*



*View north toward the agricultural complex. The telephone poles and fenceline add geometry to a gently rolling landscape, as well as adding perspective that emphasizes the scale of the landscape. Photo by Erin Degutis, 1993*



*The pecan orchard is a buffering axis between the agricultural fields, the historic Johnson farm area, and the LBJ ranch house. Photo by Erin Degutis, 1993*

## Condition

### Condition Assessment and Impacts

**Condition Assessment:** Fair

**Assessment Date:** 01/01/1993

**Condition Assessment Explanatory Narrative:**

The landscape was assessed in fair condition. No details were provided regarding this condition assessment.

**Condition Assessment:** Good

**Assessment Date:** 04/20/2001

**Condition Assessment Explanatory Narrative:**

Condition upgraded from fair to good. The park has implemented the integrated pest management plan for the pecan orchard and resume harvesting in 1999. In FY2000, a major restoration of the grove was undertaken and 267 mature trees were removed in order to improve the overall health and productivity of the grove. A cultural cyclic project to complete the removal of designated trees and plant additional trees has been tentatively selected for funding in FY2002. In addition, the west boundary fence has undergone extensive repair and replacement, and the park has regraded the lower half of the Malechek waterway to restore the original drainage capacity. Landscape condition was changed per a memo from the Chief of Resources Management and Visitor Protection, Brian Carey, in a memo dated 4/20/2001. Hardcopy on file in LYJO CLI binder.

**Condition Assessment:** Good

**Assessment Date:** 03/20/2006

**Condition Assessment Explanatory Narrative:**

The landscape remains in good condition. Superintendent concurred on 5/15/2006.

**Condition Assessment:** Fair

**Assessment Date:** 09/13/2011

**Condition Assessment Explanatory Narrative:**

The landscape was downgraded to fair condition. The agricultural complex shows clear evidence of minor disturbances and deterioration by natural and/or human forces, and some degree of corrective action is needed within 3-5 years to prevent further harm to its cultural and/or natural values. For example, some mitigation must be applied to historic irrigation equipment and the working/feed pens and corral fence posts need to be replaced within 3 to 5 years. If left to continue without the appropriate corrective action, the cumulative effect of the deterioration of many of the landscape features will cause the inventory unit to degrade to a poor condition. Superintendent concurred on 9/13/2011.

**Stabilization Measures:**

PMIS 23759	Rebuild Jordan Barn Working Corrals	\$ 4928
PMIS 58265	Maintain Roofs at the Jordan Farm	\$12500

Agricultural Complex

Lyndon B. Johnson National Historical Park

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PMIS 63250	Upgrade Junction School Steps to ADA Standards	\$ 7000
PMIS 87482	Provide Game Management Options for LBJ Ranch	\$ 6250
	(50%)	
PMIS 69070	Maintain Communications Tower	\$12300
PMIS 122665	Establish Historic Vegetation Management Plan	\$ 9600
	for LYJO (33%)	
PMIS 60213	Remove Exotic Plants and Restore Riparian	\$ 9750
	Vegetation along Pedernales River (50%)	
PMIS 96396	Replace East Boundary Fence at LBJ Ranch	\$19980
PMIS 122665	Establish Historic Vegetation Management Plan	\$ 9600
	for LYJO (33%)	
PMIS 39162	Mitigate River Bank Erosion at LBJ Ranch (25%)	\$62500
PMIS 69229	Maintain Historic Pecan Grove (50%)	\$17000
PMIS 86544	Maintain Show Barn Area Working Corrals and Pens	\$39000
PMIS 2676	Repair Fence To Reduce Cattle Trespass	\$47900
PMIS 116821	Protect Park Resources with YCC Crew	\$49600
PMIS 63372	Rebuild 6.1 Miles LBJ Ranch Fences Along Tour Route	\$77000
PMIS 63246	Chip/Seal LBJ Ranch District Roads (33%)	\$50635

**Impacts**

**Type of Impact:** Adjacent Lands  
**External or Internal:** External  
**Impact Description:** Possible development by adjoining property owners within the legislated boundaries, but not owned by the NPS, could threaten the rural landscape of the park.

**Type of Impact:** Erosion  
**External or Internal:** Both Internal and External  
**Impact Description:** The Pedernales River banks continue to erode, which requires constant stabilization measures.

**Type of Impact:** Impending Development  
**External or Internal:** External  
**Impact Description:** Adjacent lands may be developed by owners, which will threaten the rural nature of the landscape.

**Type of Impact:** Vegetation/Invasive Plants  
**External or Internal:** Both Internal and External

**Impact Description:** The landscape is threatened by invasive weedy species.

### **Stabilization Costs**

**Landscape Stabilization Cost:** 385,943.00

**Cost Date:** 04/11/2006

**Level of Estimate:** C - Similar Facilities

**Cost Estimator:** Park/FMSS

### **Landscape Stabilization Cost Explanatory Description:**

Stabilization cost derived from PMIS project statements.

### **Treatment**

#### **Treatment**

**Approved Treatment:** Undetermined

**Approved Treatment Document:** Cultural Landscape Report

#### **Approved Treatment Document Explanatory Narrative:**

As of 2006, a Cultural Landscape Report with treatment plan was planned for the LBJ Ranch Unit; PMIS 51111 A & B (33% of cost).

**Approved Treatment Completed:** No

#### **Approved Treatment Costs**

**Landscape Treatment Cost:** 45,000.00

### **Bibliography and Supplemental Information**

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**Citation Title:** A Study of Historical Vegetation in Lyndon B. Johnson National Historical Park  
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**Source Name:** CRBIB  
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- Citation Author:** Tunnell, Curtis D. & Jensen, Harald P., Jr.  
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**Citation Number:** 600280
- Citation Author:** Staff  
**Citation Title:** Development Concept Plan, Johnson City Unit, LBJ Ranch Unit  
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**Citation Number:** 600274

- Citation Author:** Staff  
**Citation Title:** Development Concept Plan Amendment, Environmental Assessment for Lyndon B. Johnson National Historical Park, Johnson City Unit  
**Year of Publication:** 1992  
**Source Name:** CRBIB  
**Citation Number:** 600275
- Citation Author:** Staff  
**Citation Title:** Final Master Plan, Lyndon B. Johnson National Historic Site, Texas  
**Year of Publication:** 1977  
**Source Name:** CRBIB  
**Citation Number:** 011270
- Citation Author:** Bearss, Edwin C.  
**Citation Title:** Historic Resource Study - Lyndon B. Johnson and the Hill Country 1937-1963  
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**Source Name:** CRBIB  
**Citation Number:** 600279
- Citation Author:** Bearss, Edwin C  
**Citation Title:** Historic Resource Study including Historic Base Maps and Historic Structure report, Lyndon B Johnson National Historic Site, Blanco & Gillespie Counties, Texas  
**Year of Publication:** 1971  
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**Citation Number:** 003501

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**Year of Publication:** 1977  
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**Citation Number:** 014055

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**Year of Publication:** 1987  
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**Citation Number:** 014646

**Citation Author:** Staff  
**Citation Title:** Statement for Management, Lyndon B. Johnson National Historic Site  
**Year of Publication:** 1976  
**Source Name:** CRBIB  
**Citation Number:** 014030

**Citation Author:** Erin A. Degutis  
**Citation Title:** Lyndon B. Johnson National Historical Park, LBJ Ranch Unit:  
Cultural Landscape Inventory, Levels 1 & 2. Final Draft (Sept. 10,  
1993).  
**Year of Publication:** 1993  
**Source Name:** Other  
**Citation Type:** Both Graphic And Narrative  
**Citation Location:** Intermountain Support Office, Santa Fe, NM

**Citation Author:** James Wright Steely  
**Citation Title:** A Catalog of Texas Properties in the National Register of Historic  
Places  
**Year of Publication:** 1984  
**Source Name:** Other  
**Citation Type:** Both Graphic And Narrative  
**Citation Location:** Intermountain Support Office, Santa Fe, NM