

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Preparation of National Register of Historic Places

Nominations for the following:

The Conner Swales Site, The Baumann Village Site, The Bird Point Heaven Village Site, The Wise Village Site, The Ranchería Grande Archaeological District, The Ranchería Grande Sites contributing components of San Xavier Mission Archaeology District and Ranchería Grande Sites contributing components of Historic Resources of El Camino Real de los Tejas National Historic Trail

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May 8, 2018

The Milam County Historical Commission (MCHC) is seeking the services of a qualified consultant to prepare a complete National Register of Historic Places Nominations for the following places in Milam County, Texas:

- 1.) Nominations of:
 - a. Conner Swales Site
 - b. The Baumann Village Site
 - c. The Bird Point Heaven Village Site
 - d. The Wise Village Site
 - e. Ranchería Grande Archaeological District
 - f. Ranchería Grande Sites contributing components of San Xavier Mission Archaeology District
 - g. Ranchería Grande Sites contributing components of Historic Resources of El Camino Real de los Tejas National Historic Trail

The contract is to be administered by MCHC and the work prepared for and completed in coordination with the National Park Service (NPS) National Register of Historic Places Program (NRHP Program). Funds for this project have been awarded to the County of Milam by NPS through the Underrepresented Communities Grant Program.

Interested consultants should submit a proposal and cost estimate in response to this RFP to MCHC no later than 5:00 pm CDT on June 15, 2018.

Proposals should be mailed to:
Milam County Historical Commission
102 South Fannin
Cameron, TX 76520

Electronic copies of proposals may be submitted to MilamCoHC@gmail.com.

Project Background:

The El Camino Real de los Tejas Ranchería Grande National Register Nomination Project objectives consist of preparing seven national register nominations for each of the Historic Properties on their own merit and collectively as multiple properties, according to guidelines. Specifically, the Team will follow the National Register Bulletins: 1) How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation; 2) How to Complete the National Register Registration Form; 3) Guidelines for Evaluating and Registering Historical Archaeological Sites and Districts; and 4) How to Complete the National Register Multiple Property Documentation Form.

Project Activities Necessary to Achieve Project Objectives

The in-depth archival research will be prepared and will be developed further as the *Context* for the national register nominations. The Team will define the categories of Historic Properties, which have been classified as four Sites and a District, as well as component of national register listed district associated with Mission San Xavier Archaeological District, and as a component of the national register listed Historic Resources of El Camino Real de los Tejas NHT. The Conner Swale Site, the Baumann Village Site, Bird Point Heaven Village Site, and Wise Village Site possess associative significance as historical events and archaeological contribution to history, and the Team will complete individual national register nominations for each site. The Team will define in the national register nominations how the Historic Properties represent an archaeological district that possesses the significant concentration, linkage, and continuity of the Historic Native American Village Sites and Historic Road and Trail Segment Sites. The Sites are united historically under the narrative that 23 nation groups lived together in the same area west of the Brazos River in Texas, according to the 1716, 1718, and 1724 Spanish entrada written records.

The physical development of the village sites will be defined by the natives' persistent cultural practices of domestic architectural styles and how the local people adopted evolving plan designs aesthetically. In terms of multiple property listing nominations, the Team will identify the number of resources within each Historic Property in consideration with the number of contributing resources previously listed in the national register.

In the case of the National Register listed San Xavier Mission Archaeological District, the Team will quantified through historic court records a regulated distance between missions and villages. The geographical evidence is consistent with other Spanish Missions and native village locations in the San Antonio and Nacogdoches areas, which is a consistent pattern, yet these facts are part of a hidden narrative that can be recognized officially as Historic Property listings in the National Register of Historic Places.

With respect to the Historic Resources of El Camino Real de los Tejas National Historic Trial multiple property National Register listing, the Team will develop a national register

nomination form that demonstrates the Conner Swale Site, Baumann Swale, and Wise Swale are components of El Camino Real de los Tejas.

List of All Tasks and Resulting Products

Aside from the classification of the Historic Properties as Historic Native American Village Sites and Historic Road and Trail Segment Sites, the following list incorporates steps outlined in the National Register Bulletins. Each of the sites will undergo a process of development that results in a national register nomination product.

Function—The Team will develop the function for Baumann Village Site, Bird Point Heaven Village Site, and Wise Village Site as contemporary Spanish Colonial historic native domestic village sites based on verified research, testing, and examination of physical evidence. Similarly, the Conner Swale Site and swale components of the Baumann Village Site and Wise Village Site will be developed as contemporary Transportation pedestrian-related trails based on the historic written record, established swale testing methodology¹ tailored for Texas, and examination of the physical evidence in the swales and its' ridges.

Description—The team will develop the description category and subcategory by emphasizing the cultural material assemblage artifact analysis to justify the descriptive category of Spanish Colonial for each Site, respectively, and as an Archaeological District. In each instance, the Team will present each Sites' physical evidence as support for the summary paragraph and subsequent narrative sections of the national register nominations. The summary paragraphs will include the general characteristics of each Site, which includes each Sites' location and setting within the Spanish Mission historic cultural landscape boundary. The team will emphasize how the local native population developed their sites over time and their domestic dwellings, as well as the significant features, and focus on the Late Prehistoric II/Historic period of significance. The presentation of the physical evidence will demonstrate that the historic integrity of each Site is intact. Each archaeological Site and District narrative will incorporate the environmental setting of the property today and demonstrate how the landscape is consistent during the period of occupation and use. Other sites, such as Caddoan sites and similar contemporary sites will be used to compare the cultural material assemblages and define the period of time when the sites were occupied. The identity of ethnic groups will be based on cultural practices evident at Ranchería Grande Sites and similarly compared cultural practices at other sites. The Team will incorporate the Sites' vertical and horizontal dimensions and cultural practices, such as refuse, to describe the physical characteristics and time periods of occupation. A comparison of other sites, such as the Caddoan Oak Hill Village Site, Ruiz-Herrera Rancho, and southwestern sites will serve as the basis for the likely appearance of the sites during the periods of occupation. Current and past impacts will be incorporated to demonstrate any degree of alteration based on previous investigations. The Team also will include an explanation of how the current physical

¹ Charles Haecker, *Metal Detecting Methodology* (National Park Service Historical Archaeologist, for El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro, near La Bajada, New Mexico, May 2014).

environment and Sites' remains reflect the period of significance, which make the Sites significant and eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

Statement of Significance—The Team will develop the Statement of Significance and provide evidence to support Criteria A and Criteria D. The Areas of Significance will focus on categories of Archaeology/Historic Aboriginal Sites, Ethnic Heritage Native American Sites, Exploration Settlement Sites, and Transportation Sites. The Period of Significance will mirror the dates established for the San Xavier Mission complex archaeological district and the historic resources of El Camino Real de los Tejas NHT circa 1691–1824 A.D. The Team will develop the Narrative Statement of Significance that explains how the Historic Properties meet the National Register criteria, which will include a summary paragraph of the properties' significance and supporting documentation of historic contexts, themes, trends, and patterns of development. The in-depth archival research will serve as the basis for the historic context, which will include images of historic written records and historic maps that support the identification of the Historic Native American Village Sites and Historic Road and Trail Segment Sites as the discovery of historic Ranchería Grande referenced in Spanish exploration journals. The historic context will show why Criteria A and Criteria D are applicable. Events, such as the establishment of the San Xavier Mission complex for Ranchería Grande, and patterns of events, such as Spanish cattle drives through Ranchería Grande, made important contributions to the history of Milam County, the State of Texas and the Nation. Specifically, the Spanish relationships with the Ervipiame and other groups at Ranchería Grande were solidified during the middle 18th-century. In the last quarter of this century 9,000–15,000 heads of Spanish Tejas cattle were transported along El Camino Real de los Tejas through Ranchería Grande territory in support of the American Revolutionary War effort². Safe passage through the territory required family relationships, or commercial relations with the native inhabitants, which would not have been possible without the mission settlements and intermixed and intermeshed relationships between the Spanish Tejanos and the local native people. The Team will expand on the local, state, and national significance in the Historic Context.

Bibliographic References— All major bibliographic references will be incorporated into the national register documentation forms.

Geographic Data—All geographic data will be provided that includes acreage of each Site, UTM references, and Sites' boundary justifications based on subsurface testing, surface observations, topographic and other natural features, and presentation of historical and ethnographical documents. The District boundaries will be based on direct relationships to the significance of the main portion of the district through cultural affiliation and related elements of Spanish Mission historic cultural landscape patterns.

² Ibid, Thonhoff 1981; 2006a; 2006b.

Additional Documentation—The Team will provide additional documentation in the form of prepared geographic, topographic, and aerial maps and photographs

The resulting products will consist of completed draft national register nomination forms. The documents will be submitted to the Milam County Historical Commission, the Texas Historical Commission/Texas State Historic Preservation Office (THC/TxSHPO), and the National Park Services, respectively, and CRM FIRM will attend meetings, if necessary, in Milam County or Austin, Texas to facilitate review and comment processes. The Team will incorporate NPS review comments and work closely with Milam County CLG, THC/TxSHPO, and NPS to facilitate the national register nominations process.

Required Consultant Qualifications - The selected consultant should be a qualified historian and/or archaeologist with demonstrated experience in successful preparation of National Register nominations and/or NPS thematic studies, and have the capability of preparing fully complete National Register nominations for the The Conner Swales Site, The Baumann Village Site, The Bird Point Heaven Village Site, The Wise Village Site, The Ranchería Grande Archaeological District, The Ranchería Grande Sites contributing components of San Xavier Mission Archaeology District and Ranchería Grande Sites contributing components of Historic Resources of El Camino Real de los Tejas National Historic Trail for presentation to the Milam County Historical Commission, Texas Historical Commission and the National Register of Historic Places Program of the National Park System.

The consultant, at minimum, shall meet the following qualification and experience requirements:
a) Meet the qualifications of the Secretary of Interior's Standards for Professional Qualifications and/or a GS-0170-11 Historian and/or Archaeologist as established by the Federal government's Office of Personnel and Management.

b) Have demonstrable experience in preparation of National Register of Historic Places Registration forms. Experience evaluating and preparing nominations for nationally significant properties and demonstrated knowledge of the NRHP Program and nomination process is preferred.

c) Demonstrated expertise and ability to complete a nomination on time and within budget.

d) Demonstrated expertise and/or knowledge of the Spanish Colonial era in Texas and the El Camino Real de los Tejas NHT.

e) Demonstrated expertise in engaging community stakeholders through the life of a project.

f) All consultants must be familiar with and abide by the Secretary of Interior Standards as indicated in the HPF Manual. https://www.nps.gov/preservation-grants/hpf_manual.pdf

If the consultant comprises a consulting firm or team, then a Principal Investigator must be designated for the project. The Principal Investigator must meet the minimum qualification requirements specified above, and must agree to be principally responsible for all work

conducted by other consultant personnel for the project. The individual selected as the Principal Investigator may not change during the project without prior written approval of MCHC.