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NATIONAL SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

THE CAVES OF TRAVIS COUNTY

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SPELEOLOGICAL SURVEY

Vol. 1, No. 1

Edited by James R. Reddell and William H. Russell

## TEXAS SPELEOLOGICAL SURVEY

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## INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this survey is the collection of all known data on the caves of Texas. It is a well-known fact that much work in locating, mapping, and studying caves is duplicated because of the failure in communicating information on caves. To prevent this duplication and resultant waste of time, energy, and money the Texas Speleological Survey has been organized. It is hoped that the Survey will serve as a clearinghouse for information on Texas caves; to further this the Survey will publish all available information on the caves of one county, with the exception of exact directions to the cave studied. Instead, these caves will be marked on county maps and the owner's name given, whenever it is known.

Each issue of the survey will contain a brief introduction giving the geologic history and the physiography of the county, a county map showing the location of the caves, an index to the caves of the county, a description of the caves, and appendices concerned with filled caves, shelters, and doubtful caves.

Because of the expense of paper, mailing, map reproduction, etc., it has been found necessary to charge a subscription rate of \$2.00 per person for the first eight issues of the Survey. Due to the nature of the contents it is urged that the Survey be restricted to the use of NSS members and NSS Grotto members only! For this reason, that is that the material may reach unqualified members, location of some caves of unusual scientific or scenic value will be omitted altogether.

In reporting caves it is urged that the following information be given: 1. Location as exactly as possible (if you do not want it marked on the county map it won't be, but an exact location is important to use to check against other cave reports); 2. Description of the cave as detailed as you feel the size, beauty, or importance of the cave warrants. In general the more detailed the better, and if the cave has been mapped include the map or perhaps a sketch map; 3. All scientific information available: Geologic age of the rock, how the cave is formed, all animals found in the cave, minerals found in the cave, if the cave is wet, dry, etc. All of this is important, but the very fact that the cave exists is also important, with or without details.

For the purposes of the Survey an arbitrary definition of a cave has been made to the effect that for a cave to be a cave it must be either 25' long or 15' deep and the entrance must be smaller than the cave is long or deep. However, shelters and small holes are important for publication, if for no other reason than to prevent someone else's checking out the same hole.

For the Survey to be a success it will be necessary for all NSS members and all grottoes to be free with their files. Without your cooperation the Survey is bound to be incomplete and a failure; with it it can become an important contribution to our knowledge of speleology.

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## TRAVIS COUNTY

### INTRODUCTION

Travis County is located in central Texas. Its county seat is Austin, which is also the state capitol. It is peculiar economically, containing good farm land in the eastern half and mediocre ranch land in the west. This is due to the fact that it lies across the Balcones escarpment. The Colorado River cuts diagonally across it from northwest to southeast. Tom Miller dam at Austin makes Lake Austin and further upstream Mansfield (Marshall Ford) Dam forms the much larger Lake Travis.

With the exception of one small Cretaceous volcano south of Austin, and a thin line of Tertiary sands and clays on the eastern border, the entire county is composed of Cretaceous sediments. A system of faults, known as the Balcones Fault Zone, extending from north Texas to the Rio Grande, divides Travis County into two definite geologic units. East of Austin the upper Cretaceous rocks are mostly chalks and clays in which there are no caves. The upthrown side of the fault west of Austin is composed of lower Cretaceous marine limestones and is filled with numerous small sinks and caves. The two main cave forming limestones of this area are the Glen Rose formation in the Trinity group and the Edwards formation in the Fredericksburg group. Both are part of the Comanche series of the lower Cretaceous.

The Edwards in Travis County is more thickly bedded than the Glen Rose, but the main distinguishing characteristic is the beds of layered chert which occur in the Edwards and are absent in the Glen Rose.

As a result of large block faulting the Edwards is exposed in a narrow strip extending southwest of Austin. Otherwise it is confined to hilltops and small plateaus. The Jollyville Plateau in northern Travis County is an example of this and reportedly contains numerous caves. However much work remains to be done both in this area and in most of northwest Travis County, although preliminary scouting in the area just north of Lake Travis indicates that there may be few caves to be found.

The known caves are concentrated just north of Austin in the area around Bull Creek, in the city of Austin itself, and just south and west of Austin in the Barton's Creek, Manchaca areas. The largest and most interesting caves of the county are to be found between Barton's Creek and Manchaca, and it is still the most promising area to look for new caves. The area contains Cave X, Goat Cave, and Ireland's Cave, three of the largest and longest caves in the county.

In the far southwest corner of the county, below Lake Travis and in the drainage area of the Pedernales River, the little work that has been done indicates that there are likely to be few caves. A distinctive feature of the area, however, is the occurrence of several creeks draining into the Pedernales ending in steep, high canyons ending abruptly in waterfalls with deep plunge pools at their base, and in at least one instance (that of Hammett's Cave) strong indications of an old cave which has been unroofed by the receding canyon.

In general the caves of Travis County are quite small, occurring either in areas drained largely by sinks, or as small rooms or crawls formed along bedding-planes. It is doubtful if more work in the county will reveal anything of any great size or length.



| NO. | NAME                         | LOCALITY        | LENGTH   | DEPTH | PAGE |
|-----|------------------------------|-----------------|----------|-------|------|
| 1.  | Onion Creek Cave             | Bergstrom AFB   | 30'      | 0'    | 19   |
| 2.  | Railroad Cave                | McNeil          | 30'      | 10' ? | 28   |
| 3.  | McNeil Cave                  | McNeil          | 50'      | 15' ? | 18   |
| 4.  | McNeil Bat Cave              | McNeil          | 100'     | 25'   | 18   |
| 5.  | Cricket Cave                 | McNeil          | 40'      | 10' ? | 13   |
| 6.  | Unnamed cave                 | McNeil          | 25'      | ?     | 23   |
| 7.  | Balcones Sink                | Austin          | 75' ?    | 40'   | 5    |
| 8.  | Dead Dog Cave No. 4          | Austin          | ?        | ?     | 28   |
| 9.  | Dead Dog Cave No. 2          | Austin          | 150' ?   | 40'   | 28   |
| 10. | Dead Dog Cave No. 1          | Austin          | 10'      | 15'   | 13   |
| 11. | Dead Dog Cave No. 5          | Austin          | ?        | 35'   | 13   |
| 12. | Unnamed cave                 | Austin          | 30'      | 10'   | 23   |
| 13. | Salamander Cave              | Austin          | 60' ?    | 15' ? | 20   |
| 14. | Unnamed cave                 | Austin          | 30' ?    | 10' ? | 24   |
| 15. | Cottrell Cave                | Austin          | 80'      | 25'   | 12   |
| 16. | Outhouse Hole                | Austin          | 50'      | 15'   | 20   |
| 17. | Smelly Cave                  | Austin          | 35'      | 0'    | 21   |
| 18. | Snake Trail Cave             | Austin          | 25'      | 0'    | 21   |
| 19. | Bull Creek Cave              | Austin          | 40'      | 0'    | 7    |
| 20. | Shoal Creek Cave             | Austin          | 30'      | 0'    | 21   |
| 21. | Three-J Cave                 | Austin          | ?        | 20' ? | 29   |
| 22. | Perry Park Cave              | Austin          | 45'      | 15' ? | 20   |
| 23. | Flowstone Shelter Cave       | Austin          | 30'      | 0'    | 14   |
| 24. | Mount Bonnell Cave           | Austin          | 40'      | 0'    | 19   |
| 25. | Mills-Zuok Cave              | Austin          | 35'      | 0'    | 19   |
| 26. | Lake Austin Cave No. 3       | Austin          | 35'      | 0'    | 16   |
| 27. | Lake Austin Cave No. 2       | Austin          | 25'      | 0'    | 16   |
| 28. | Lake Austin Cave No. 1       | Austin          | 25'      | 0'    | 16   |
| 29. | Austin Caverns               | Austin          | 200' - ? | 30'   | 26   |
| 30. | Bee Creek Cave               | West Lake Hills | 125'     | 0'    | 6    |
| 31. | Underwater Cave              | West Lake Hills | 30' ?    | 0'    | 21   |
| 32. | Under-the-Road Cave          | West Lake Hills | 70'      | 0'    | 21   |
| 33. | Low Water Bridge Cave No. 1  | Austin          | 60'      | 0'    | 17   |
| 34. | Low Water Bridge Cave No. 2  | Austin          | 40'      | 0'    | 17   |
| 35. | Rocky River Road Cave        | Rollingwood     | 30'      | 10'   | 20   |
| 36. | Bluffington Cave No. 1       | Bluffington     | 25'      | 0'    | 7    |
| 37. | Bluffington Cave No. 2       | Bluffington     | 30'      | 0'    | 7    |
| 38. | Bluffington Shelter Cave     | Bluffington     | 40'      | 0'    | 7    |
| 39. | Unnamed cave                 | Rollingwood     | ?        | ?     | 24   |
| 40. | Johnson Branch Cave          | Austin          | 15'      | 0'    | 16   |
| 41. | Unnamed cave                 | Austin          | ?        | 15'   | 29   |
| 42. | MOPAC Cave                   | Austin          | 65'      | 0'    | 19   |
| 43. | Bandit Cave                  | Rollingwood     | 100' ?   | 10'   | 5    |
| 44. | Zilker Park Cave             | Austin          | 40'      | 0'    | 23   |
| 45. | Campbell's Hole Shelter Cave | Austin          | 25'      | 0'    | 9    |
| 46. | Handprint Cave               | Austin          | 100'     | 0'    | 15   |
| 47. | Barton's Creek Cave No. 1    | Austin          | 100'     | 0'    | 6    |
| 48. | Barton's Creek Cave No. 2    | Austin          | 75'      | 0'    | 6    |
| 49. | Undulating Spider Cave       | Austin          | ?        | 15'   | 23   |
| 50. | Lake Travis Cave             | Volente         | 30'      | 0'    | 17   |

|                            |             |           |       |    |
|----------------------------|-------------|-----------|-------|----|
| 51. Unnamed cave           | Hickmuntown | ?         | ?     | 21 |
| 52. Washwater Caverns      | Hickmuntown | 0'        | 27'   | 23 |
| 53. City Park Cave         | Austin      | 25' ?     | 0'    | 12 |
| 54. Lost Gold Cave         | Austin      | 100' ?    | 25'   | 17 |
| 55. Backdoor Cave          | Oak Hill    | 55'       | 0'    | 5  |
| 56. Foster Cave            | Oak Hill    | 40'       | 8'    | 14 |
| 57. Cave X                 | Oak Hill    | 1250'     | 100'  | 9  |
| 58. Driskell Cave          | Oak Hill    | 30'       | 30'   | 13 |
| 59. Chicken Cave           | Oak Hill    | 40'       | 20'   | 12 |
| 60. Unnamed cave           | Oak Hill    | 30' ?     | 20' ? | 24 |
| 61. Goat Cave              | Manchaca    | 85'       | 40'   | 14 |
| 62. Midnight Cave          | Manchaca    | ?         | 30'   | 18 |
| 63. County Line Cave No. 1 | Manchaca    | 25' ?     | 15' ? | 12 |
| 64. County Line Cave No. 2 | Manchaca    | 25' ?     | 15' ? | 12 |
| 65. Ireland's Cave         | Manchaca    | 400' plus | 20' ? | 16 |
| 66. Creekbed Sink          | Bee Cave    | ?         | 20'   | 13 |
| 67. Hammett's Cave         | Bee Cave    | 100'      | 0'    | 15 |
| 68. Unnamed cave           | Volente     | ?         | ?     | 25 |

#### SHELTERS AND DOUBTFUL CAVES

|                              |            |  |  |    |
|------------------------------|------------|--|--|----|
| 1. Barton's Creek Cave No. 2 | Austin     |  |  | 29 |
| 2. Bee Cave                  | Bee Cave   |  |  | 29 |
| 3. Cedar Shelter             | Volente    |  |  | 30 |
| 4. Dead Dog Cave No. 3       | Austin     |  |  | 30 |
| 5. Hamilton Pool             | Bee Cave   |  |  | 30 |
| 6. Handprint Shelter         | Austin     |  |  | 30 |
| 7. Levi Rock Shelter         | Bee Cave   |  |  | 31 |
| 8. Rock Shelters (2)         | Austin     |  |  | 31 |
| 9. Trammell Shelter          | Cedar Park |  |  | 31 |
| 10. Stillhouse Cave          | Austin     |  |  | 31 |

#### ALTERNATE CAVE NAMES

Amend's Cave -- Bandit Cave (# 43)  
 Austin Cave -- Austin Caverns (# 29)  
 Dead Dog Cave -- Dead Dog Cave No. 2 (# 9)  
 Flowstone Shelter -- Flowstone Shelter Cave (# 23)  
 JJJ Cave -- Three-J Cave (# 21)  
 McNeil Railroad Cave -- Railroad Cave (# 2)  
 Purple Cave -- Ireland's Cave (# 65)  
 Road Cave -- Under-the-Road Cave (# 32)  
 Rollingwood Cave -- Bandit Cave (# 43)  
 Salamanderless Hill Cave -- Under-the-Road Cave (# 32)  
 777 Cave -- Three-J Cave (# 21)  
 Stone Gate Cave -- Ireland's Cave (# 65)  
 West Cave -- Hammett's Cave (# 67)

Austin West 7.5<sup>o</sup> Quadrangle

Owner: Taylor Gaines

Description: The cave is located at the base of a cliff about 30<sup>o</sup> from Barton's Creek. The entrance is about 6<sup>o</sup> x 6<sup>o</sup> with two passages extending from it. They are joined after a few feet by a 6<sup>o</sup> saddle. The left passage is primarily a 15<sup>o</sup> high chimney to a 20<sup>o</sup> long upper level; the right passage extends for about 20<sup>o</sup> to a crawl to the right. About 10<sup>o</sup> of digging through goat bones, silt, and rocks was done, with another 5<sup>o</sup> of digging necessary before entrance could be obtained to a narrow crack passage through which a  $\frac{1}{2}$ " stream of water issues to the outside about 10<sup>o</sup> from the cave entrance through a very narrow crack. The spring runs year round. The cave is formed in Cretaceous limestone, probably of the Georgetown formation, though it may be Edwards. A few millipeds and cave crickets were the only fauna observed.

Ref: TSS files

BALCONES SINK

Travis County (# 7)

Austin 15<sup>o</sup> Quadrangle

Owner: unknown

Description: The cave is an impressive sink 20<sup>o</sup> or so in diameter and 40<sup>o</sup> deep, with sheer walls on all sides, necessitating the use of rope to reach the bottom. Two man-made tunnels have cut into the side of the sink in search of minerals, which were never found. Local reports that a crawl at the bottom of the sink leads to a lengthy passage have never been validated. The bottom of the cave contains pools of water from which Dr. Bassett Maguire of the University of Texas has taken copepods, ostracods, and amphipods, as well as a clam and a planaria (Dugesia?).

Bibliography: Widener, Donald L., ed. Texas Cave Survey, "Additions and Corrections to the Texas Cave Survey, Vol. I, Nos. 1, 2, & 3, page iii. Reprinted: SpeleoDigest: 1958, page 1-307. Published by the Pittsburgh Grotto of the NSS.

Ref: TSS files, TCS

BANDIT CAVE (ROLLINGWOOD CAVE) (AMEND'S CAVE)

Travis County (# 43)

Austin West 7.5<sup>o</sup> Quadrangle

Owner: Dr. L.L. Amend

Description: The cave has two entrances, one a wlk-in and the other a 2<sup>o</sup> x 2<sup>o</sup> round hole cut in the ceiling. Although rumored to consist of at least 12 rooms several are now inaccessible because silt has closed off some passages. The cave is dry and about 10<sup>o</sup> deep, with seldom more than 3<sup>o</sup> or 4<sup>o</sup> of overburden. The temperature of the cave is a consistent 68 degrees. The bone of a prehistoric elephant and remains of a partially petrified tree trunk were found in the cave.

History and legend: According to legend the cave was used by bandits as a hideout during the time of the Civil War, robbing travellers crossing an old Colorado River ford near Deep Eddy. They dug an escape hatch which along with the original entrance were filled sometime later and remained filled until recently when a bulldozer uncovered part of

-6-

the entrance. A well dug nearby gave off a strong current of air after entering a 15' cave. The entrance was completely opened and the cave opened to the public. It may still be entered by visitors.

Bibliography: Anonymous. "Bats, Caves, and Spelunkers." Micaphone. October 1952.  
Hawkins, Ben. "Pair to Use Cave Wind to Air Condition Home." Austin Statesman.  
Widener, Donald L., ed. Texas Cave Survey, Vol. I, No. 3, page 21.

Ref: TSS files, UTG files

BARTON'S CREEK CAVE NO. 1

Travis County (# 47)

Oak Hill 7.5' Quadrangle

Owner: unknown

Description: The entrance is a 3' x 2' wide crack located about 30' up on the side of a 75' high cliff, some 20' from Barton's Creek. The cave is a tight 100' long crawl ending in flowstone reaching to within a few inches of the ceiling. The limestone is very crumbly and the floor is covered with a very thick layer of powdery dust. Droppings of a bobcat were found at the entrance. Roger Sorrells and Bill Russell were the first to explore the cave, using a dead tree trunk to gain entrance. Explored in the spring of 1960.

Ref: TSS files

BARTON'S CREEK CAVE NO. 2

Travis County (# 48)

Oak Hill 7.5' Quadrangle

Owner: unknown

Description: The entrance to the cave is located about 40' up on the same cliff as Barton's Creek Cave no. 1, about 30' south of it. The entrance is 5' x 4' wide, but quickly narrows to 1' wide x 2' high. Many vines hang down over the entrance. The cave ends in a flowstone bank reaching almost to the ceiling after about 75'. Like Handprint Cave and Barton's Creek Cave No. 1 the floor is covered with a very thick fine powdery dust. It is crusted over so that it settles when weight is placed on it, and in places is several feet thick with no indication of a bottom to the dust. The cave was reached in the spring of 1960 by James Reddell, Bill Russell, Dick Reed, Charles Whiteman, and Bill Irving who used an aluminum extending television antenna with a cable ladder attached to the top, and placed against the cliff.

Ref: TSS files

BEE CREEK CAVE

Travis County (# 30)

Austin West 7.5' Quadrangle

Owner: unknown

Description: The entrance to the cave is located at an elevation of 600', about 100' above Lake Austin and 20' from the top of the cliff in a limestone ledge overlooking Bee Creek. It is about 3' x 3' in diameter, beginning as a 4' x 5' wide and 3' high crawl which extends for 60' where a 6' climb up leads into a 30' long, 15' wide, 10' high room.

The room contains many formations, among which are several 6' stalagmites and numerous small soda straws. Though some of the smaller formations have been broken the cave remains a pretty one. A small crawlway leads off from the back of the room but ends in flowstone after about ten feet. The formations in the cave are almost all alive and a small pool may be found in the room. The only fauna observed were cave crickets, millipeds, and a few small surface-type beetles. The cave is formed either in the Edwards or the Georgetown formation of the Cretaceous. It has been mapped by Dick Smith, Elizabeth Kelley Smith, and James Reddell. (see map, p. 8)  
Ref: TSS files, UTG files

BLUFFINGTON CAVE NO. 1

Travis County (# 36)

Austin West 7.5° Quadrangle

Owners: unknown

Descriptions: The cave is located along a series of sheer cliffs about 70' above the Colorado River. It is nothing more than a 30' long crawlway going straight back into the cliff.

Ref: TSS files, T. Phillips

BLUFFINGTON CAVE NO. 2

Travis County (# 37)

Austin West 7.5° Quadrangle

Owner: unknown

Descriptions: The cave is located only a short distance from Bluffington Cave No. 1 in the same series of cliffs. A small crawlway it is no more than 30'-35' long.

Ref: TSS files, T. Phillips

BLUFFINGTON SHELTER CAVE

Travis County (# 38)

Austin West 7.5° Quadrangle

Owner: unknown

Description: The entrance to the cave is about 10' high x 20' wide, with a large boulder in front of it. There is a shallow pit near the entrance which is reported to have been much deeper at one time. The cave itself is about 30'-50' long, ending in a dry caliche-like fill.

Bibliography: Widener, Donald L., ed. Texas Cave Survey, Vol. 1, No. 3, page 18. Reprinted: SpeleoDigest: 1958, page 1-307. Published by the Pittsburgh Grotto of the NSS.

Ref: TSS files, TCS

BULL CREEK CAVE

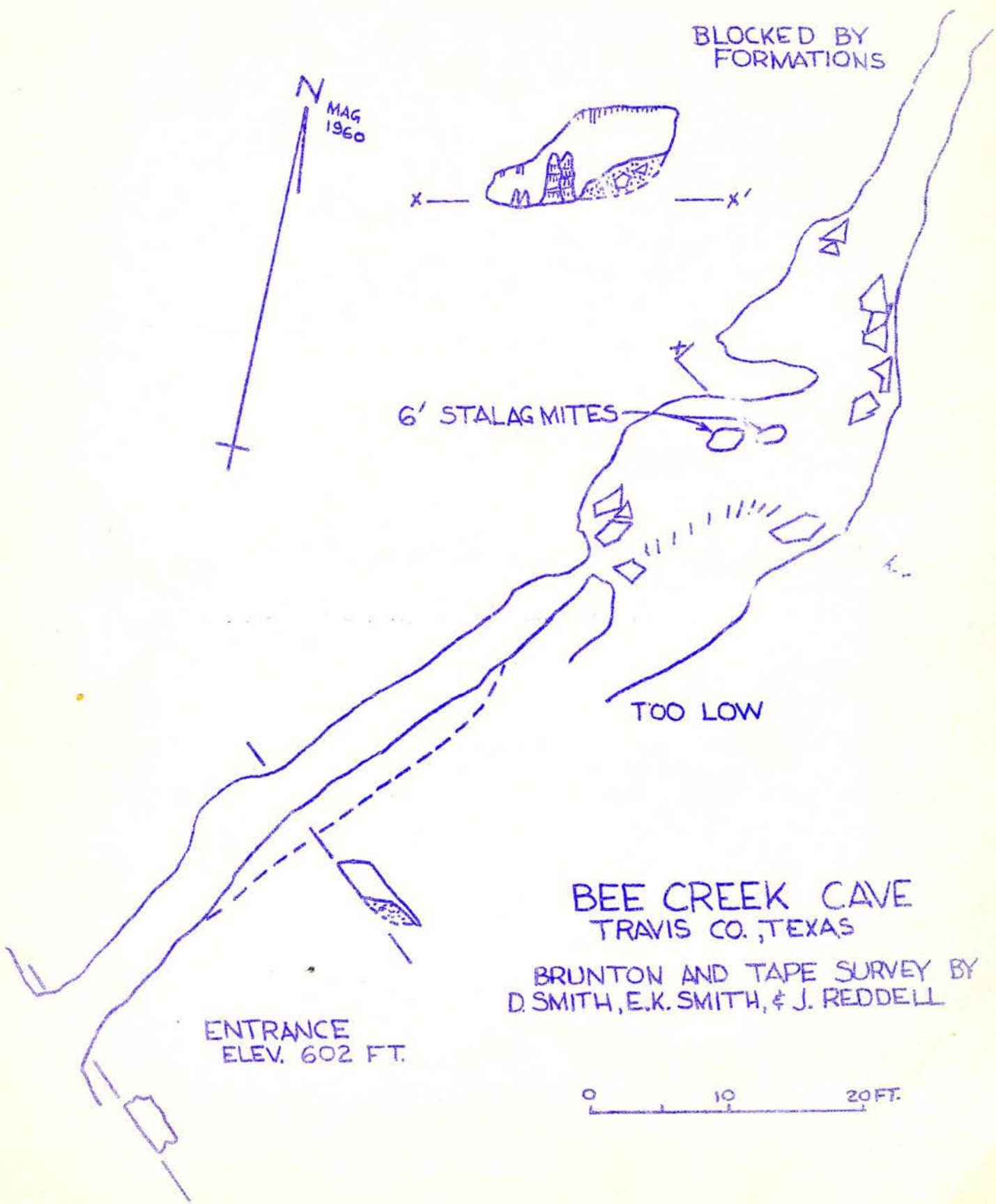
Travis County (# 19)

Austin West 7.5° Quadrangle

Owner: unknown

Description: Located in a cliff above Bull Creek the cave is nothing more than a crawlway dead-ending after about 30'-40'.

Ref: TSS files



BEE CREEK CAVE  
 TRAVIS CO., TEXAS  
 BRUNTON AND TAPE SURVEY BY  
 D. SMITH, E.K. SMITH, & J. REDDELL

ENTRANCE  
 ELEV. 602 FT.

0 10 20 FT.

Austin West 7.5' Quadrangle

Owner: unknown

Description: The cave is located at the head of a talus slope near the bed of Barton's Creek. The entrance is a 5' high x 10' high scramble over breakdown. Inside the cave is somewhat larger, but ends after 25'. The floor is very dry and covered with a black sooty dust. A few dead formations are to be found in the cave.

Ref: TSS files

CAVE X

Travis County (# 57)

Austin West 7.5' Quadrangle

Owner: Silas Foster

Description: The cave is entered by a 16' sink in a small flat wooded area. At the bottom there is a small room from which a crawlway extends for 65' to a 13' drop, then 237' to a 12' drop into a pool of water, with a tight squeezeway directly over the drop. A squeeze over a gravelbank at the bottom of the pit leads into a larger crawl which goes for 145' to the 1st Big Room, after passing over Mystery Hole, a crack in the passage floor too small to permit entrance but about 15' deep and long. It is down this hole that most of the water in the cave runs during floods and from which air comes or into which it goes. The 1st Big Room is a 1'-2' high, 20' wide, 120' long room, going an equal distance from its intersection with the entrance crawl. Numerous 1' long soda straws and a small pocket of cave pearls are to be found in the room. To the left a 2' high crawl along the side of massive breakdown deadends after about 60'. To the right what appears to be two distinct passages, Cave Coral Crawlway to the left and Turtle Turnpike to the right, are really only washed-out areas around massive fill in the center of the room. On the left just past the end of the big room a 6' hole, named the Snake Pit after a small non-poisonous snake was found there, drains this part of the cave. About 100' past the Snake Pit there is a 17' pit, at the bottom of which an old lantern and trowel were found. A small unexplored crawlway, almost filled with loose pieces of cave coral doubles back under the main passage. A crawl over cave coral leads for 30' to Maguire's Misery, a 10" wide, 2' high passage with a few inches of water in it. This small passage opens into a 15' wide, 3' high room, with a 4th drop along one side down which a tiny stream runs. Two tight, clay-filled crawls above the drop and two below it end after a few feet in clay fill. At the bottom of the drop the stream runs into the Water Passage, an 18" high, 2' wide crawl with 6" of water in it. Although at present this passage is blocked by a very recent rock fall, earlier trips found a tight passage, Coffin Crawl, extending for about 50' into a comfortable 100' long crawl to a 5th drop. A passage to the left before the drop remains unexplored. At the bottom of the 5th drop a tight squeezeway led over a 15' drop into the Los Pollietos Room. This room is 50' high, 35' long, and 30' wide with a steep conglomerate slope rising to within 15' of the ceiling. No passages lead off of this room, which is 100' below the entrance and about 1300' from it.

Geology: The cave is formed in Cretaceous limestone of the Georgetown and Edwards formations. The contact between the two limestones may be seen at the top of the second pit. It is strongly controlled by joints, and has been enlarged by a stream. What may be signs of faulting were observed near the bottom of the 3rd pit, where a possible displacement of a foot or more has occurred and what may be slickensides were seen in the Los Pollietos Room. There is much red clay fill in the cave, from the 1st Big

Room on and the 1st Big Room is formed in a white dirt resembling fullers earth. A flinty gravel, similar to that found in Longhorn Caverns is found in the 1st Big Room also. The back of the cave, from the Water Passage to the Los Pollietos Room is in an extremely unstable condition. Three known instances of breakdown within a year are on record. The first occurred in Coffin Crawl while a clay fill was being removed from the passage. It consisted of a 1' in diameter rock falling on the caver as his back brushed against it. Luckily the passage was large enough to accommodate both spelunker and rock. The second instance of breakdown was the filling of a pit in the Los Pollietos room which on the first trip to the room was found to be at least 15' deep, but was not fully explored; the second trip to the room found the pit filled completely by a recent rock fall. The last instance of collapse was found in Coffin Crawl on the last mapping trip when the passage was found to be completely blocked off near the end of the Water Passage. One small rock all but filled the passage while a second much larger rock rested against it. Evidence points to the Los Pollietos Room lying underneath a small creek which runs underground near the cave. A pile of fossil turtle shells was found in Turtle Turnpike and identified by Holmes Semken as *Terrapene Canaliculata*, an extinct Pleistocene turtle.

**Biology:** Dr. Bassett Maguire of the University of Texas has made a study of crustacea taken from the cave. The report of his work on the effect of light on animals from this cave and others has been published in Science magazine. He has collected an ostracod, Canadana, sp., and a copepod, Paracyclops fimbriatus?, from the cave. Insects to be found in the cave include millipeds, cave crickets, and beetles resembling those to be found in Felton Cave. Small black salamanders were observed near the entrance and at the second pit. Other fauna include a small non-poisonous snake, apparently washed-in, at the Snake Pit, and a number of small scorpions found in the entrance passage. Two opossums were seen in the small crawl above the second pit.

**Hydrology:** A stagnant pool, 5' in diameter and 6" deep, is found at the bottom of the 2nd pit and a clear pool 2' in diameter and 6" deep beneath a constant drip, Foster's Faucet. This is the only water in the cave before Maguire's Misery where a small stream begins; the stream runs from here to the Los Pollietos Room where it sinks into loose breakdown. Most of the flood water which enters the cave runs down Mystery Hole. The drainage area of the cave covers at least one square mile. A series of sinks on the surface drain much of the area, although quite a bit runs off down a number of steep gulleys which drain into Barton's Creek. The small creek near the cave goes underground in the vicinity of the Los Pollietos Room. Also possibly related to the cave is a small spring which issues into Barton's Creek near Backdoor Cave.

**History:** An old kerosene lantern and trowel in the 3rd pit indicate that the cave was entered many years ago, but nothing more is known nor is there any explanation for the cave's name. The cave was explored beyond the 4th pit by James Reddell, Bartel Morgan, and Bill Russell who also mapped the first half of the cave in February 1960. The same group, plus Elizabeth Kelley, made a trip to the end of the cave in March 1960. The map of the cave was completed by James Reddell, Philip Russell, and Bud Frank in March 1961. Total surveyed length of the cave is 10005'. It is ranked by everyone who has been to the back as one of the ten most difficult caves in Texas. (see map, p. 11)

**Bibliography:** Reddell, James. "Cave X." The Texas Caver, Vol. VI, No. 4, pages 43 and 49. April 1961.

Reddell, James. "Cave X." UTG Newsletter, Vol. I, No. 3, page 1. May 1960.

Widener, Donald L., ed. Texas Cave Survey, Vol. I, No. 3, page 19. Reprinted:

SpeleoDigest: 1958, page 1-307. Published by the Pittsburgh Grotto of the NSS.

Ref: TSS files, UTG files

ENTRANCE

1<sup>st</sup> PIT



SCALE

50 FEET

FOSTER'S  
FAUCET

DIRT FILL

CAVE X  
TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS  
BRUNTON AND TAPE SURVEY  
BY FRANK, REDDELL, B. AND R. RUSSELL

MYSTERY HOLE

TURTLE PIKE

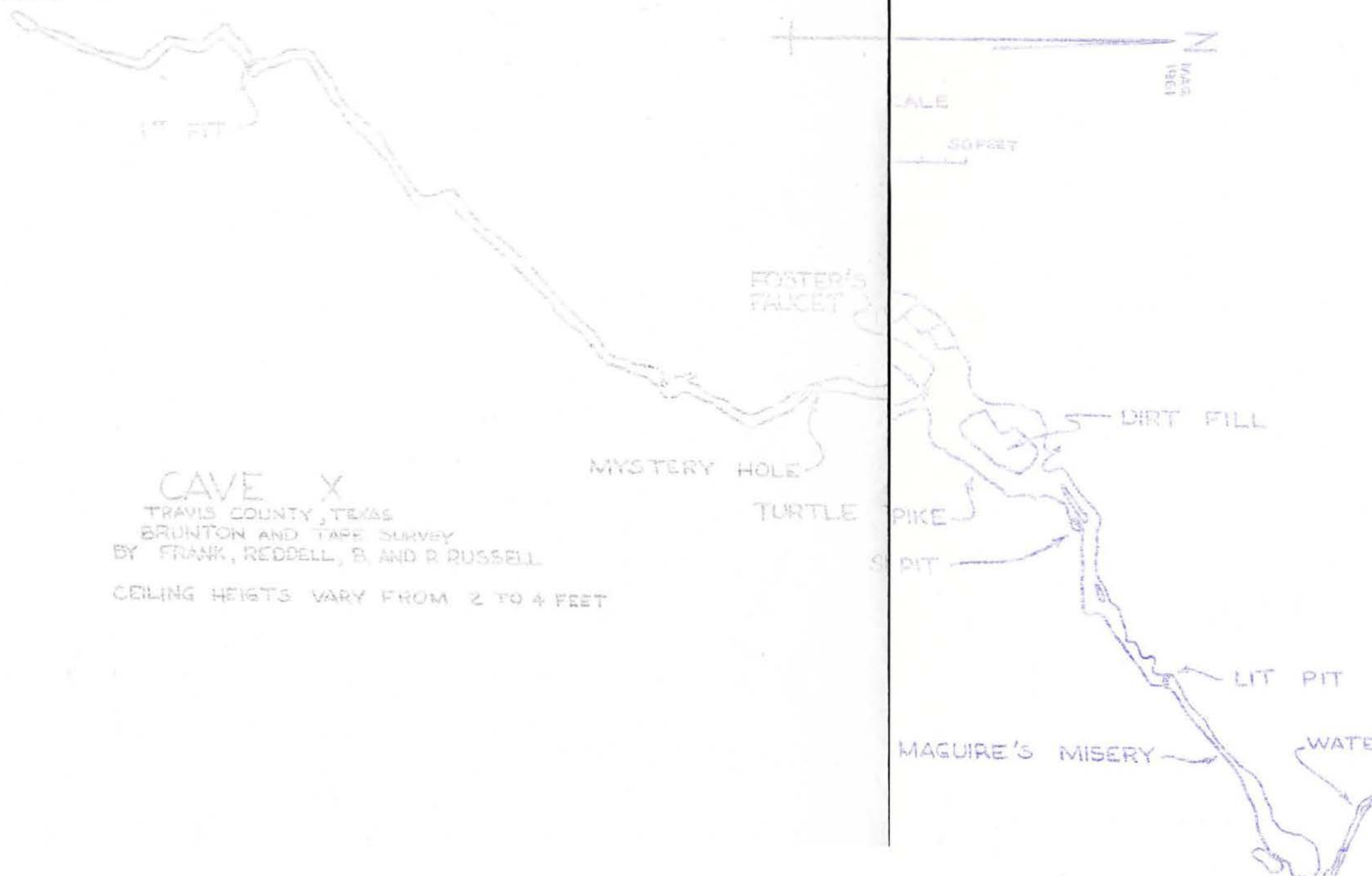
S PIT

CEILING HEIGHTS VARY FROM 2 TO 4 FEET

LIT PIT

MAGUIRE'S MISERY

WATER



CHICKEN CAVE

Travis County (# 59)

Oak Hill 7.5<sup>o</sup> Quadrangle

Owner: unknown

Description: The cave is entered by a tight crawl sloping down from a 10<sup>o</sup> in diameter sink about 5<sup>o</sup> deep. This leads into a 5<sup>o</sup> high, 20<sup>o</sup> x 25<sup>o</sup> in diameter room. No leads, formations, etc. Formed in Cretaceous limestone.

Ref: TSS files, T. White

CITY PARK CAVE

Travis County (# 53)

Lake Travis 15<sup>o</sup> Quadrangle

Owner: City of Austin

Description: The cave is reported to be a crawlway extending only a short distance back into the side of a cliff overlooking the Colorado River at Austin's Metropolitan Park.

Ref: TSS files

COPTRELL CAVE

Travis County (# 15)

Austin West 7.5<sup>o</sup> Quadrangle

Owner: unknown

Description: The entrance to the cave is a 4<sup>o</sup> in diameter hole dropping vertically for about 20<sup>o</sup> to a talus slope. In one direction a small room opens up, about 10<sup>o</sup>-20<sup>o</sup> in diameter. In the other direction a scramble-down slope leads to a 40<sup>o</sup> in diameter room with an 8<sup>o</sup> high ceiling height. The cave is well known and frequently visited.

Ref: TSS files, R. Benfer

COUNTY LINE CAVE NO. 1

Travis County (# 63)

Oak Hill 7.5<sup>o</sup> Quadrangle

Owner: unknown

Description: The cave is located in an area drained almost entirely by sinks and is the northernmost of two caves located quite near each other. It consists of a crawl leading from the bottom of a shallow sink, not explored beyond this point.

Ref: TSS files

COUNTY LINE CAVE NO. 2

Travis County (# 64)

Oak Hill 7.5<sup>o</sup> Quadrangle

Owner: unknown

Description: The cave is the southernmost entrance of two caves located close to each other in an area of numerous sinks. Entrance to the cave is made through a crawl leading out of the bottom of a shallow sink. Not explored for any great distance.

Ref: TSS files

No quadrangle. Blanco Sheet 1/125,000.

Owner: unknown

Descriptions: The cave is a 10' in diameter sink lying in the bed of Lick Creek and is under water at all times, the depth ranging from 4'-10'. It drops sheer for about 20' to the top of a breakdown slope. Total depth is not known. The creek is enclosed on both sides by sheer walls, covered in places with flowstone, including a 30' high travertine waterfall. The area is definitely related to the features surrounding Mammett's Cave and Hamilton Pool. The possibility definitely exists of its having at one time been a cave which has now been unroofed by the stream.

Ref: TSS files

## CRICKET CAVE

Travis County (# 5)

Austin 15' Quadrangle

Owner: unknown

Descriptions: A crawlway leads to a 10' long, 8' wide, 5'-6' high dome-type room, with thousands of crickets in the room.

Ref: TSS files, T. Evans

## DEAD DOG CAVE NO. 1

Travis County (# 10)

Austin East 7.5' Quadrangle

Owner: unknown

Descriptions: The entrance to the cave is located up the hill from Dead Dog Cave # 2, and is a round hole dropping straight down for about 15' to a small room at the bottom.

Ref: TSS files, T. White

## DEAD DOG CAVE No. 5

Travis County (# 11)

Austin East 7.5' Quadrangle

Owner: Unknown

Descriptions: The cave is the farthest up the hill of the Dead Dog Caves, discovered in December 1960 by Bill Russell and Dr. Bassett Maguire. It is a 35' pit.

Ref: TSS files

## DRISKILL CAVE

Travis County (# 58)

Oak Hill 7.5' Quadrangle

Owner: unknown

Descriptions: The cave is a narrow fissure, 2' wide and 4' long, at the bottom of a 6' deep sink, 10' across at the top and 5' across at the top of the fissure. It drops 20'-30' to a room with a narrow crawl leading off along the fissure for about 30', becoming too small. Formed in the Georgetown formation of Cretaceous age.

Ref: TSS files

FLOWSTONE SHELTER CAVE (FLOWSTONE SHELTER)

Travis County (# 23)

Austin West 7.5<sup>o</sup> Quadrangle

Owner: unknown

Description: The entrance to the cave is on a cliff overlooking Lake Austin and is about 10' wide, with much travertine deposited at it. It is only about 30' long.

Bibliography: Widener, Donald L., ed. Texas Cave Survey, Vol. I, No. 3, page 19.  
Ref: TSS files, J. Strickland

FOSTER CAVE

Travis County (# 56)

Austin West 7.5<sup>o</sup> Quadrangle

Owner: Silas Foster

Description: The cave is entered by two 4' in diameter sinks connected by a short crawl. To the right a crawl extends for 10' before ending, while to the left a crawl extends for 20' before it too ends. Two rattlesnakes were seen in the cave, which is formed in the Georgetown formation of Cretaceous age.

Ref: TSS files

GOAT CAVE

Travis County (# 61)

Oak Hill 7.5<sup>o</sup> Quadrangle

Owner: A. L. Wade

Description: The entrance to the cave consists of three small holes within a 10' in diameter radius, all lying in the same shallow sink; they drop 19', requiring equipment, into the center of a 90' long, 40' wide, 20'-30' high room. Several large blocks of breakdown have fallen directly below the entrance creating a 20' high shelf which extends to the east for about 40', with narrow "canyons" along the sides. To the west the shelf ends abruptly, while the cave continues 20' lower for 50' where it ends. There are no passages from this one room. In the area beyond the shelf there is a colony of several hundred or possibly thousand bats, probably Little Brown Bats. On this same lower level there are several 6' high stalagmites which when seen from the shelf are quite nice, though everything in the cave is dead and covered with guano. There is much flowstone and many small formations, only a few of which are alive at all. Everything in the cave was covered with a green mold, light from the entrance being able to reach all parts of the cave. The cave was first reported in 1957 in the Austin Statesman in a much exaggerated form. It was explored at that time by Eli Garza, Bernard Lundelius, Wes Lyles, and Bill Thompson who found a goat at the bottom of the entrance, which they rescued. It was not revisited by cavers until May 6, 1961, when Bill Bell, Ann Wyss, Lynn Larremore, and James Reddell of the UT Grotto visited and mapped the cave. (see map, page 22)

Bibliography: Henderson, Nat. "Nameless Cave Explored by 4." Austin Statesman, Sept 22, 1957.

Ref: TSS files

quadrangle. Blanco Sheet. 1/125,000.

Reference:

Description: The approach to Hammett's Cave is, perhaps, the most beautiful of any in the area. To reach the cave you walk up a wide canyon with a small creek running down the middle. High spruce and oak trees keep out all or almost all of the sun. As you approach the cave the canyon becomes narrower and the walls sheer cliffs. Several grottoes and passages along the sides are fringed with numerous columns and other formations, with vines and moss covering almost everything. The floor of the canyon is littered with huge boulders which may well be the remnants of the ceiling to a cave abandoned by the same stream running through the canyon. The canyon ends abruptly in a heavily undercut cliff, over which a small waterfall drops for about 30' into a very deep pool of murky green water. The stream feeding the waterfall originates about 100' from the waterfall in a spring issuing from a bedding plane. The waterfall itself is framed by two large columns, both about 20' high x 6 or 8' in diameter. The columns on the sides of the waterfall are covered with very green moss and vines. Behind the waterfall a large shelter has been developed containing one large travertine dam 30' long and about one foot high. To the left of this dam a series of dams have been built finally blocking off the cave in that direction, leaving only enough room for water to run over them. To the right of the falls and somewhat behind them the entrance to the cave can be seen about 15' above the dam. This entrance is about 5' wide and 3' high and connects by way of a 100'-150' long passage to a second entrance along the canyon about 100' from the waterfall; this entrance is about 8' wide x 8' high. The passage is 19' wide and 5'-8' high, with rinstone pools and formations along it. The passage is actually almost entirely formed from numerous columns and flowstone having blocked off from the canyon. The cave was at one time commercially operated, but the venture failed after a few months.

Geography: Anonymous. Palaces Under the Earth: A Directory of Commercially Operated Caves, page 13. Compiled by The National Speleological Society. Washington, DC, 1951.  
 Hammett, Victor S. "Commercial Caves of Texas," Page 45. The Caves of Texas. Bulletin Ten of the National Speleological Society. April, 1945.  
 Morgan, Robert E. "Addition to 'Index to All the Known Caves of the World,'" page 31. Bulletin Six of the National Speleological Society. July, 1944.  
 Hammett, J. S. "Commercial Caves," page 63. Bulletin Four of the National Speleological Society. September, 1942.  
 Hammett, Jimmy. "Forgotten Caves." Houston Chronicle Rotogravure Magazine, Aug. 21, 1955.  
 Ref: TSS files

PRINT CAVE

Travis County (# 46)

in West 7.5° Quadrangle

Reference:

Description: The cave is located about half-way up the cliff about 75' above Barton's Creek. The entrance is about 4' x 4', located near Handprint Shelter. There is a small upper level passage 2' x 2' just inside the shelter-like entrance. This is about 30' long where it drops through a small hole into the other passage, the hole being too small to negotiate. The main passage extends for 100' into the cliff face before it ends. The floor of this cave, like that of the two Barton's Creek Caves, is of a powdery "dust" which forms a crust over the floor. This crust has been compacted in the cave so that it settles only a little near the entrance, although it is a bit more towards the back of the cave. The name of the cave comes from the shelter nearby where there is a handprint on the ceiling.

Ref: TSS files

IRELAND'S CAVE (STONE GATE CAVE) (PURPLE CAVE)

Travis County (# 65) <sup>-16-</sup>

Buda 15' Quadrangle

Owner: Mr. Ireland

Description: The cave has a crawl-in entrance, leading to a low room, from which a crawlway--stoopway extends for about 400' where exploration stopped, the cave continuing as a large crawlway. A return trip in 1959 found the owner unwilling to allow exploration.

Ref: TSS files

JOHNSON BRANCH CAVE

Travis County (# 40)

Austin West 7.5' Quadrangle

Owner: unknown

Description: The cave is located in the side of a creek near MOPAC Cave and is entered by a 5' x 5' walk-in entrance. It goes back for about 15' where it makes a right angle bend and continues for 10'-15' before dead-ending.

Ref: TSS files, T. White

LAKE AUSTIN CAVE NO. 1

Travis County (# 29)

Austin West 7.5' Quadrangle

Owner: unknown

Description: The cave is entered by a 1' x 2' wide hole under a ledge above Lake Austin. A low squeeze leads into the cliff for about 25' before ending.

Ref: TSS files

LAKE AUSTIN CAVE NO. 2

Travis County (# 27)

Austin West 7.5' Quadrangle

Owner: unknown

Description: The cave is located upstream from Lake Austin Cave No. 1 at about the same level. It is a 20'-25' long crawl, 1' high and 2' wide. The floor is a fine dust.

Ref: TSS files

LAKE AUSTIN CAVE NO. 3

Travis County (# 26)

Austin West 7.5' Quadrangle

Owner: unknown

Description: The cave lies between Lake Austin Cave No. 2 and Mills-Zook Cave about 60' above Lake Austin. It is a 4' wide crawlway going for about 30'-35' to a 10' in diameter, 3' high room, with no passages leading off. The floor is covered with a fine white powdery dust.

Ref: TSS files

## LAKE TRAVIS CAVE

Travis County (# 50)

-17a-

Lake Travis 15<sup>0</sup> Quadrangle

Owner: unknown

Description: The entrance to the cave is 20<sup>0</sup> wide and 10<sup>0</sup> high and is located about 20<sup>0</sup> underwater along the side of a bluff on Lake Travis. It is at least 25<sup>0</sup>-30<sup>0</sup> long. It was explored in the spring of 1961 by James Strickland of the UT Crotte.

Ref: TSS files, J. Strickland

## LOST GOLD CAVE

Travis County (# 54)

Austin West 7.5<sup>0</sup> Quadrangle

Owner: unknown

Description: The cave is located in a shallow sink surrounded by brush on the sloping side of a draw emptying into Barton's Creek. The sink is about 6<sup>0</sup> in diameter with the cave sloping down from it for 10<sup>0</sup>. A crawl at the bottom leads to a room about 10<sup>0</sup> in diameter and 6<sup>0</sup> high. Past this the cave drops about 10<sup>0</sup>. A ladder may be in place at the drop but it can be climbed with ease. A crawl leads to a smaller room about 5<sup>0</sup> high from which several tight crawls extend. Some dry guano was found in the cave but no bats were seen. Numerous harvestmen occupy the entrance. The cave was rented some years previous by a man who believed that 11 jackloads of gold had been hidden in the cave. He dug both in the cave and in several places nearby, but naturally found nothing and after about six weeks abandoned his search.

Ref: TSS files, T. Warden

## LOW WATER BRIDGE CAVE NO. 1

Travis County (# 33)

Austin West 7.5<sup>0</sup> Quadrangle

Owner: unknown

Description: The cave is located about 100<sup>0</sup> above the Colorado River and 50<sup>0</sup> from the top of a sheer cliff. A 10<sup>0</sup> wide shelf lies in front of the cave, continuing around a gentle bend for about 20<sup>0</sup> where it is only 5<sup>0</sup> wide in front of Low Water Bridge Cave No. 2. This shelf continues back for about 20<sup>0</sup> where it is 40<sup>0</sup> long and connects to the shelter entrance of LWBC # 1 by a small hole. The cave proper is a 5<sup>0</sup> wide, 3<sup>0</sup> high passage connected to a smaller upper level crawl about 10<sup>0</sup> from the entrance. The passage is about 50<sup>0</sup> long where it dead-ends. The floor is a dusty white dirt.

Ref: TSS files

## LOW WATER BRIDGE CAVE NO. 2

Travis County (# 34)

Austin West 7.5<sup>0</sup> Quadrangle

Owner: unknown

Description: This cave is entered by a 20<sup>0</sup> wide and 10<sup>0</sup> high walk-in. Located to the north of Low Water Bridge Cave # 1 it is reached by climbing up a 5<sup>0</sup> ledge. The cave itself is nothing more than a 3<sup>0</sup> high, 2<sup>0</sup>-5<sup>0</sup> wide crawl for 40<sup>0</sup> where it ends. Both caves have been mapped by Dick Smith, Elizabeth Kelley Smith, and James Reddell. (see map, page 22)

Ref: TSS files

MCNEIL BAT CAVE

Travis County (# 4)

Austin 15<sup>o</sup> Quadrangle

Owner: unknown

Description: The cave is entered by a shallow sink in a flat field, out of which a tree grows. A mound of breakdown lies at the bottom down which you can walk to a 40<sup>o</sup> wide room about 15<sup>o</sup> down. Many small crawls are found around the periphery of the breakdown on the floor of the room. Along one side an 8<sup>o</sup> drop leads to a very tight crawlway about 20<sup>o</sup> long. This leads to a small room with no passages leading out. Numerous bats, probably Little Brown Bats, inhabit the cave at various times. Much guano covers the floor.

Ref: TSS files, A. Baril

MCNEIL CAVE

Travis County (# 3)

Austin 15<sup>o</sup> Quadrangle

Owner: unknown

Description: The cave is a very small, shallow cave, now filled almost entirely with trash and garbage. It can only be explored for about 50<sup>o</sup>.

Bibliography: Widener, Donald L., ed. Texas Cave Survey, Vol. I, No. 3, page 19.

Reprinted: SpeleoDigest:1958, page 1-308. Published by the Pittsburgh Grotto of the NSS.

Ref: TSS files

MIDNIGHT CAVE

Travis County (# 62)

Oak Hill 7.5<sup>o</sup> Quadrangle

Owner: Mr. Covert

Description: The entrance to the cave is a 30<sup>o</sup> deep pit, in which equipment is useful though not absolutely necessary. At the bottom of the cave there is a dry shelf sloping down to water. The water is well over your head. A passage can be seen going off with about a foot of clearance between ceiling and water, but since the cave had been used as a dump, by the time most of the tin cans and bottles had been removed from the passage the explorers were forced to leave because of lack of time. Although previous trips had been refused admittance to the cave this group consisting of Arthur Carroll, Holmes Semken, and Ken Baker were allowed to explore the cave. No return trips have ever been made. Cave is formed in Cretaceous limestone, probably of the Edwards.

Bibliography: Anonymous. "Trip to Midnight Cave." The Texas Caver, Vol. III, No. 1, page 22. Jan-Feb 1958.

Ref: TSS files, A. Carroll

## HILLS-ZUCK CAVE

Travis County (# 25)

Austin West 7.5° Quadrangle

Owner: unknown

Description: The cave is located about 100' above Lake Austin in a 40' high cliff face about half-way up. The entrance is 3' high x 4' wide, opening immediately into a room 6' high, 10' long and 6' wide. A small squeezeway in the back of the room may be entered for 5' before becoming too small. A passage to the left goes for about 10' as a 4' x 3' wide passage. It then makes a sharp switchback to the right and continues for about 6' before ending in breakdown. The floor of the cave is silt over breakdown. It is used frequently by local children.

Ref: TSS files

## MOPAC CAVE

Travis County (# 42)

Austin West 7.5° Quadrangle

Owner: unknown (Missouri and Pacific Railroad ?)

Description: The cave is located about 20' above the tracks of the Missouri Pacific Railroad in a cut. Attempts to block off the cave by cementing the entrance are evidenced by cement along one side of the 3' wide, 4' high entrance. The cave itself quickly narrows and lowers to 2' wide and 3' high and after about 20' to 2' x 1'. It continues this size for about 40' before becoming too small to negotiate. The floor is dirt throughout and digging at the end might allow further entrance. The limestone is very rotten. The cave is damp throughout and considerable mold has formed over rotting wood in the cave, which is littered with trash. Fauna include some cave crickets and literally hundreds of large spiders, their webs in places completely covering the passage.

Ref: TSS files

## MOUNT BONNELL CAVE

Travis County (# 24)

Austin West 7.5° Quadrangle

Owner: unknown

Description: The cave is nothing more than a short crawl to a dead-end. Is no more than 30'-40' in length. It is located on the slopes of Mount Bonnell overlooking Lake Austin.

Ref: TSS files

## ONION CREEK CAVE

Travis County (# 1)

Montopolis 7.5° Quadrangle

Owner: unknown

Description: This is one of the few caves in Texas formed on the down-thrust side of the Balcones Fault Zone. It is formed probably in the Buda Limestone of Cretaceous age. It is located in the side of a gulley draining into Onion Creek. It is a 30' passage about 6" high with entrances at both ends.

Ref: TSS files

OUTHOUSE HOLE

Travis County (# 16)

Austin West 7.5' Quadrangle

Owner: unknown

Description: The cave consists of a round hole dropping straight down for about 15'. Two crawls lead out from the bottom but both end shortly.

Ref: TSS files

PERRY PARK CAVE

Travis County (# 22)

Austin West 7.5' Quadrangle

Owner: City of Austin

Description: The cave is located near one end of a caliche pit. It is entered by a 2 1/2' high x 3' wide crawl which narrows to 1 1/2' and continues for about 25' where it drops down and the ceiling becomes 4' high. Here a sharp right hand turn occurs with the floor dropping steeply. After about 20' the cave becomes too low to negotiate, even though it widens to about 10' and appears to end after 15' or so. Explored and mapped by Bud Frank and Dick Smith in Spring, 1961. (see map, page )

Ref: TSS files

ROCKY RIVER ROAD CAVE

Travis County (# 35)

Austin West 7.5' Quadrangle

Owner: unknown

Description: The cave is entered by a shallow sink, with a tight squeezeway leading from it into a 3' high, 25'-30' wide, 20' wide room. There is a large block of breakdown in the center of the room. A rattlesnake was killed in the cave.

Ref: TSS files

SALAMANDER CAVE

Travis County (# 13)

Lake Travis 15' Quadrangle

Owner: Mrs. McFadden (?)

Description: The entrance to the cave is a small sink dropping to a stream passage, the water going through a hole too small to negotiate, while the passage continues to an end in breakdown, possibly from a second, now filled entrance. Discovered and explored by Dr. Bassett Maguire and Tom Wright.

Biology: The cave is of considerable scientific value, since it is the farthest point north that the salamander, Eurycea neotenes, has been found. Permission to visit the cave should come from Dr. Maguire and will be strickly restricted to people engaged in scientific research. Also found in the cave was an eyeless millipede.

Ref: TSS files, B. Maguire

SHOAL CREEK CAVE

Travis County (# 20)

Austin East 7.5' Quadrangle

Owner: unknown

Description: The cave is nothing more than a 30' long crawlway in the side of the bank of Shoal Creek in a sheer limestone cliff.

Ref: TSS files, T. Evans

SMELLY CAVE

Travis County (# 17)

Lake Travis 15' Quadrangle

Owner: unknown

Description: The cave is nothing more than a 30' or so crawlway in the side of a hill in the brushy drainage area of Bull Creek.

Ref: TSS files

SNAKE TRAIL CAVE

Travis County (# 18)

Austin West 7.5' Quadrangle

Owner: unknown

Description: The entrance to this small cave is in a bluff above Bull Creek's East Fork.

Ref: TSS files

UNDER-THE-ROAD CAVE (ROAD CAVE) (SALAMANDERLESS HILL CAVE)

Travis County (# 32)

Austin West 7.5' Quadrangle

Owner: unknown

Description: The cave is located near the head of a prominent gully crossing under the road and about 50' above the floor of the gully. The entrance is about 10' wide and 8' high, with several large boulders lying in front of it. The cave consists primarily of one room about 15' wide and 25' long and a 30' long crawlway to the right of the room. Much massive and unstable breakdown blocks the cave both on the left side and at the back where a 15' long crawl extends through the breakdown. The cave has been mapped by Dick Smith, Elizabeth Kelley Smith, and James Reddell. (see map, page 22)

Bibliography: Widener, Donald L., ed. Texas Cave Survey, Vol. I, No. 3, page 21.

Ref: TSS files

UNDERWATER CAVE

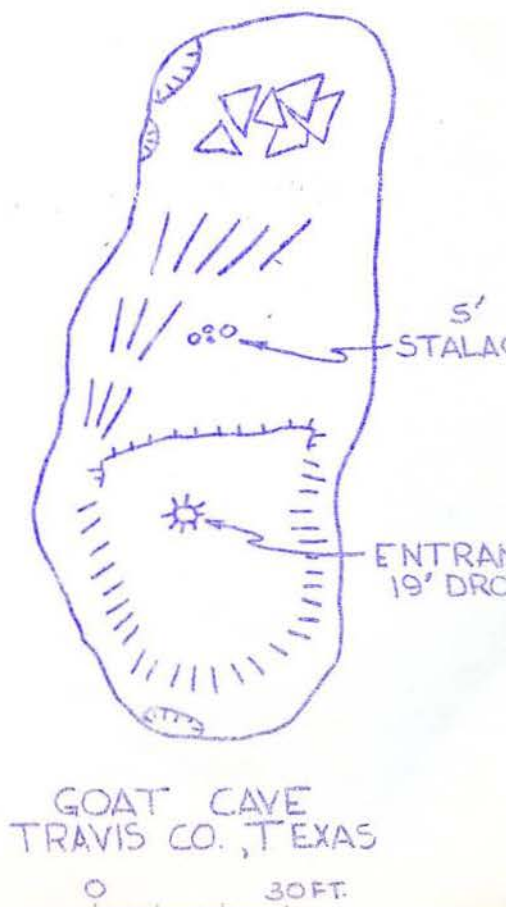
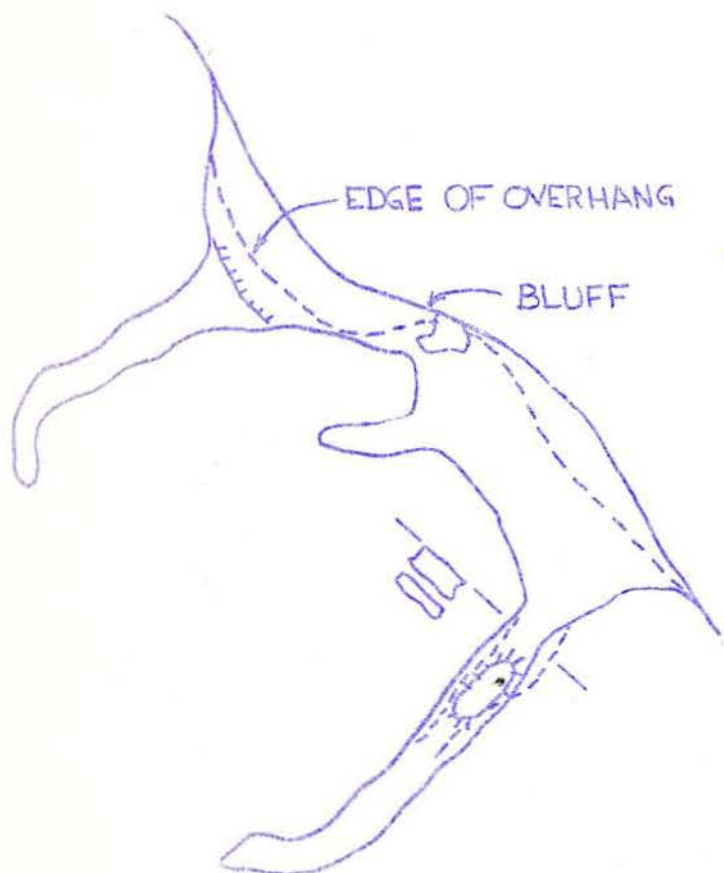
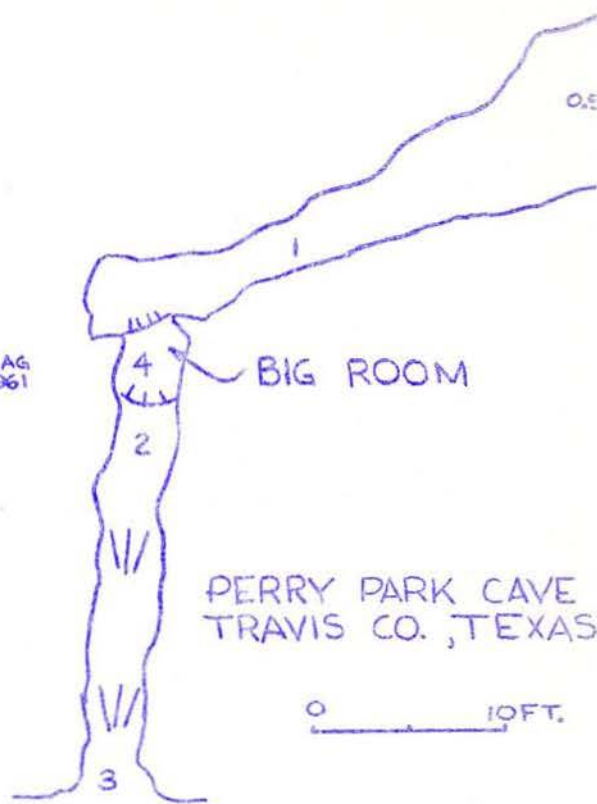
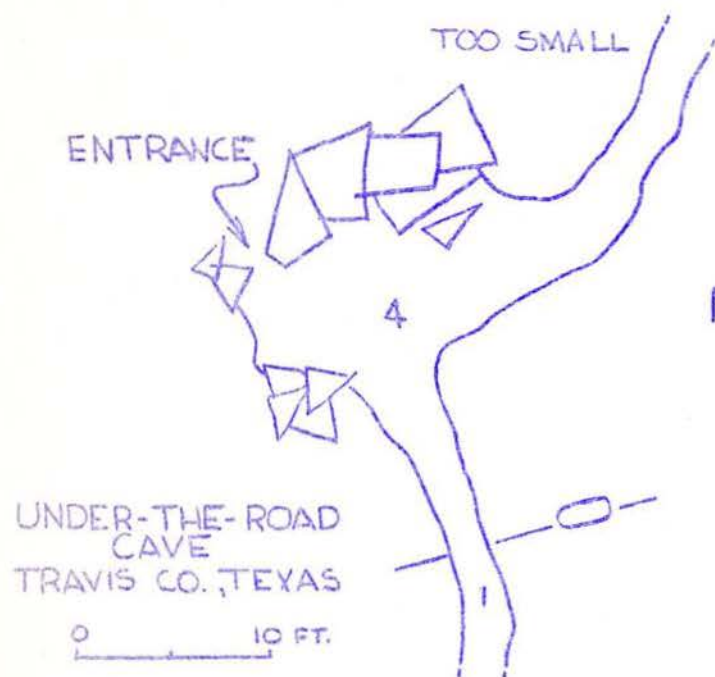
Travis County (# 31)

Austin West 7.5' Quadrangle

Owner: unknown

Description: Although the cave was at one time enterable and may be still be entered when the lake level is lowered, unless it has been filled with mud recently, it lies under the waters of Bee Creek, the result of backwater from Lake Austin. A small cave it is little more than a short crawl.

Ref: TSS files



UNGLAZING SPIDER CAVE

Travis County (# 49)

Oak Hill 7.5<sup>o</sup> Quadrangle

Owners: unknown

Description: The entrance to the cave is a 2<sup>o</sup> x 2<sup>o</sup> square hole located in a small depression along the side of a creek. The cave drops sheer for 15'. Although chimneyable there is a ladder in place. A crawlway goes off to the north, but was unexplored because of the presence of literally millions of spiders completely filling the entire cave.

Ref: TSS files

WASHWATER CAVERNS

Travis County (# 52)

Lake Travis 15<sup>o</sup> Quadrangle

Owners: unknown

Description: The cave was discovered by a woman throwing washwater into a pile of rocks and afterwards hearing the water dripping down into the cave. The rocks were removed and a 4<sup>o</sup> in diameter shaft discovered dropping 27' to a sandy bottom, from which a small hole continued too small to enter. The soapy water could be detected in a spring some distance from the cave.

Ref: TSS files, A. Carroll

ZILKER PARK CAVE

Travis County (# 44)

Austin West 7.5<sup>o</sup> Quadrangle

Owners: City of Austin (?)

Description: The cave is entered by a 6<sup>o</sup> in diameter walk-in passage which becomes a crawl after a few feet and continues to a dead-end after about 35'. There are a few formations in the cave.

Ref: TSS files, B. Benfer

UNNAMED CAVE

Travis County (# 6)

Austin 15<sup>o</sup> Quadrangle

Owner: unknown

Description: The cave is a 2<sup>o</sup> high, 25<sup>o</sup> long crawlway, located near Cricket Cave.

Ref: TSS files, T. Evans

UNNAMED CAVE

Travis County (# 12)

Lake Travis 15<sup>o</sup> Quadrangle

Owner: unknown

Description: The cave is entered by a 10<sup>o</sup> deep fissure. It consists of a 20'-30' long crawlway at the bottom.

Ref: TSS files, T. Evans

## UNNAMED CAVE

Travis County (# 14)

Lake Travis 15<sup>o</sup> Quadrangle

Owner: unknown

Description: The cave is entered by a sink, and though little of the cave is now open, it is rumored to connect to the fabled Indianhead Cave system (as are most of the caves of the area).

Ref: TSS files

## UNNAMED CAVE

Travis County (# 39)

Austin West 7.5<sup>o</sup> Quadrangle

Owner: unknown

Description: This cave has been reported by many people to be under the bluff opposite Deep Eddy Swimming Pool, which is itself fed by numerous small springs. Large springs in the river issue from this cave, which was enterable at low water before the LGRA dams were built and now control the river flow. The cave is reportedly connected with a filled sinkhole in Rollingwood. A well drilled in the bluff over the spring hit a 80' space before dropping into water.

Ref: TSS files

## UNNAMED CAVE

Travis County (# 51)

Lake Travis 15<sup>o</sup> Quadrangle

Owner: R. O. Kretschmarr

Description: The cave was not visited during the course of this survey, but a report on the geology of the Jollyville Plateau mentions the cave and includes two pictures taken of the entrance. This report states that the entrance has been enlarged to 5' x 3' wide. It was formed in Edwards limestone of the Cretaceous age and contains alluvial fill. It is also located near a well.

Bibliography: Culbertson, Thomas Milton. Areal Geology of the Jollyville Plateau and the Regional Ground Water. Unpublished MA Thesis. University of Texas, Austin, Texas. May, 1948.

Ref: TSS files

## UNNAMED CAVE

Travis County (# 60)

Oak Hill 7.5<sup>o</sup> Quadrangle

Owner: unknown

Description: The entrance is a scramble-in down a slope to a 20' long x 10' wide x 8' high room with a sloping crawl to a second room about the same size. It is located near Chicken Cave.

Ref: TSS files, T. Evans

Lake Travis 15' Quadrangle

Owner: unknown

Description: This cave is reported as being a bat cave located on Cypress Creek about a mile downstream from the old site of Anderson Mill. The cave was mined for guano for some years before and after 1863 and the guano used to make gunpowder for the Civil War. The cave was mined by Thomas Anderson, Ephriam Toungate and Nick Hays and processed at Anderson Mill. At present the cave is probably under the waters of Lake Travis, as is the mill. Cypress Creek was flooded in the early 1940's when Mansfield Dam was constructed.

Bibliography: Anonymous. "Anderson Mill Helped Make South's Powder." Austin American, May 25, 1958.

Anonymous. Kingdom in the Hills. Program for a lecture presented by Anderson Mill Gardeners. Austin Area Garden Center Flower Show. City Coliseum. April 18-19, 1959.

Temple, Mary Toomey. "Travis County Hills Again to Help in War." Dallas Morning News, Feb. 8, 1942.

Ref: TSS files

#### NOTE

The following caves have at one time been reported to be in Travis County, but upon investigation have been found to be in neighboring counties:

MERRILL CAVE (MERRILL CAVE). Located near McNeil, the cave is about  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile north of the Travis County line, in Williamson County. Ref: Texas Cave Survey, Vol. 1, No. 3.

QUARRY CAVE (MCNEIL QUARRY CAVE). Located near McNeil. The cave is in Williamson County. Ref: UTG files

SPELLING CAVES 1-3. These caves were reported in the Texas Cave Survey as in Travis County. Upon investigation SPELLING CAVE No. 2 (OLD AIRLESS CAVE) is found to be identical with BAD AIR CAVE and SPELLING CAVE NO. 1 with ROCK BRIDGE CAVE, reported (correctly) to be in Burnet County. Ref: Texas Cave Survey, pages 21-23; pages 51 and 53.

WATERFALL CAVE. Located near Spicewood, the cave is in Burnet County.

AUSTIN CAVERNS (AUSTIN CAVE)

Travis County (# 29)

Austin West 7.5<sup>o</sup> Quadrangle

Owner: unknown

Description and history: Although Bulletin Ten quotes a description of a cave printed in 1840 and cites this as belonging to Austin Caverns there is almost no evidence to indicate that this is true and everything to point to its belonging to Bandit Cave. The location given definitely does not belong to the cave known as Austin Caverns. Also the entrance to Austin Caverns was uncovered in a limestone quarry. The description of the cave given in the 1840 report mentions nitre, bear bones, etc., all of which have been found in Bandit Cave. I think, therefore, that it is safe to assume that the reference in Bulletin Ten has confused the two caves, both of which are or have been commercial, and both of which are surrounded by legend. The main entrance to Austin Caverns was discovered while quarrying limestone. In 1932 Frank Chote of Houston leased the land surrounding the quarry and started developing it as a commercial venture. A shaft was blasted down to the beginning of the larger portion of the cave, a staircase was built, and electric lights were installed. However, after several months, the project failed financially, and the cave was abandoned. Shortly thereafter the city declared the cave a hazard and ordered it closed; the engineering department blasted the entrance to the two tunnels at the bottom of the shaft, then poured rocks and concrete into the shaft. Several years later, after a little girl was hurt when she fell into the hole, the cave was boarded over and a wire enclosure was erected. By 1948 the old entrance had reopened itself and much of the cave could be visited. They appeared, however, to have been much altered by the blasting. "The largest room is about 50 feet by 30 feet by 6 feet high. Stalagmites throughout the room have been curiously ~~altered~~ altered off in such a way as to show clearly that they once were taller than the present height of the room... Although the formations are badly weathered, there are some interesting displays of fresh white calcite crystals and flint outcroppings. The preponderant color throughout results from iron. There are a few small travertine and flowstone deposits. No fauna was observed although there were numerous stands of spider web in evidence." (Bul. 10, p. 44) At this time the cave is described as being entered by "a vertical swallow hole about 50' deep...the rock is heavily weathered and provides ample hand and footholds. At the bottom a large crack strikes southward, and a tiny hole northward. Follow the small northward crawlway about 30 feet into the cave. (The large southward fissure terminates in a dead-end after about 40 feet.)" (Bul. 10, p. 61) To solve the "mystery" of Austin Caverns the newly-formed University of Texas Grotto of the NSS, in 1952, set out on a full-scale exploration of the cave. The results of their exploration were published in four articles in the Austin Statesman. Among the people who explored the cave at that time were Mackie Brown, Bob Hudson, David Stauffer, Carroll Slemaker, and Roy Pietsch. The cave as they found it is described in the second of the articles by Carroll Slemaker, "The entrance to the cave is at one end of the quarry, a boarded-over hole enclosed by barbed wire. Beneath the boards the hole drops 30 feet into the limestone; at the bottom a large crack leads off to the west, and a small squeezeway drops down and goes to the east. The westward crack leads to a small passageway which comes out at the base of a bluff about 150 feet south of the entrance. But the squeezeway takes one into a different world. Beyond the tiny entrance is a 20-foot slope of rock and debris leading to a place where the tunnel opens onto a wide, low-ceilinged chamber filled with cascading flows and peculiar pillars frozen in translucent rock. Just past this is an apparent end of the cave. But by kneeling down you

notice a small corridor leading back under a ledge. Here you lie down and wiggle through the passage. Finally the ceiling rises and the walls recede to disclose another large room. Immediately to the right, in a small circular chamber, is the largest formation in the cave, a stalagmite whose bulk almost fills the small room in which it is located. At the opposite side of the room two small openings permit access to still another room on a higher level. At one end this room narrows to an extremely small size and leads off, unexplored, to the east. Back in the second large room a trail wanders farther into the cave. After following the trail several minutes you enter the last of the accessible portions of the cave, a large room in which huge sheets of rock have fallen or have been jarred loose from the ceiling, blocking a possible extension of the cave beyond this point." During the early 1950's the sink entrance to the cave was filled-in and a house built over it. The cave at this time was explored by Bill Russell, Tom White, and other members of the UT Grotto, who found that only about 200' of the cave was accessible and this only from the westernmost crawl-in entrance, the filling of the sink entrance having blocked the rest of the cave. By 1959 bulldozers had finished the work of obliterating Austin Caverns by completely covering over the crawlway entrance, so that at present there are no known entrances to the cave. Other rumored entrances along Lake Austin, Taylor Slough, and elsewhere, have all resulted in the discovery of dead-end crawls or filled entrances but not to Austin Caverns.

Legends: Hundreds of legends about Austin Caverns are in existence, ranging from wild tales about coming up in the Capitol Building to its having been used by frontier-day bandits. This last legend is also applicable to Bandit Cave, which may also be a result of the confusion existing over the identity of the two caves. Other tales tell of a fraternity pledge who was left overnight in the cave and returned with a weird tale of having wandered for hours in an apparently endless maze of tunnels, encountering waterfalls and deep lakes. The story is also told of three people who died far back in the cave and whose bodies have never been found. Somewhere in the cave there is also supposed to be a wall, built of bricks. Of course exploration by qualified cavers have revealed that all of the legends are untrue, at least about this cave, though the presence of numerous small caves throughout the city make it highly possible that the rumors may be true, but the extent of Austin Caverns will probably always be a matter of speculation because of the successive blastings and fillings which have completely blocked the cave from all access.

Bibliography: Anonymous. "An extensive cave has been discovered..." Unentitled. Telegraph and Texas Register, February 5, 1840. Page 5.  
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 Anonymous. "Cave Explorers Reach Head of Lost Cavern: Underground Network." Austin Statesman. 1952. (Second of four articles)  
 Anonymous. "Cave Rat's Nest," page 5. NSS News, Vol. 10, No. 8. August, 1952.  
 Anonymous. "'Lost Cavern' Search Ends in Blind Alley: Dangerous." Austin Statesman. 1952. (Last of four articles)  
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 Anonymous. "Principle Caverns in Texas," page 483. The Texas Almanac and State Industrial Guide: The Encyclopedia of Texas. 1936.  
 Anonymous. "UT Students Explore Austin Cave Mystery: 'Lost Cavern' Sought." Austin Statesman. 1952. (First of four articles)  
 Craun, Victor S. "Commercial Caves of Texas," page 44. The Caves of Texas. Bulletin Ten of the National Speleological Society. April, 1948.  
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 Nicholson, Frank E. "Caves of Texas," page 191. The Texas Almanac and State Industrial Guide: The Encyclopedia of Texas. 1933.

Walker, Jimmy. "Forgotten Caves." Houston Chronicle Rotogravure Magazine, August 21, 1955.

White, Patrick J. "Caves of Central Texas," page 61. The Caves of Texas. Bulletin Ten of the National Speleological Society. April 1948.

Ref: TSS files, UTG files

DEAD DOG CAVE NO. 2 (DEAD DOG CAVE)

Travis County (# 9)

Austin East 7.5' Quadrangle

Owner: Mr. Rowe

Description: This may be the same Dead Dog Cave as is listed in the Texas Cave Survey, since the description fits the cave before it was fully explored. There is, however, a note in the files to the effect that this cave was blown up. The continuous discovery and destruction of caves on the land of the neighboring quarry makes this a definite possibility. The cave as it is known is a fairly wide 15'-20' deep sink dropping down to a very tight crack passage, with a drop at the end into a large room. The passage formed an 18" or narrower fissure 20' deep wide enough to chimney only in the middle. To slide down was to become hopelessly wedged. The room at the end is about 20' x 40' x 30' high. Among the explorers of the cave are Bill Russell, Tom White, Tommy Evans, and Dr. Bassett Maguire. It is formed in Cretaceous limestone, probably of the Edwards formation. Because of the dangerous nature of the fissure the cave has been completely filled by the owner.

Biology: The cave was primarily important because of the crustacea found in it. Dr. Bassett Maguire has collect from a pool at the end a cyclopid copepod, Paracyclops fimbriatus, and amphipods. He has used these in his studies of the effects of light on cave fauna.

Bibliography: Anonymous. "Texas Caves: 1959. Most Difficult," page 14. The Texas Caver, Vol. V, No. 1. Jan-Feb 1960.

Widener, Donald L., ed. Texas Cave Survey, Vol. 1, No. 3, page 19. Reprinted: SpeleoDigest: 1958, page 1-307. Published by the Pittsburgh Grotto of the NSS

Ref: TSS files, B. Maguire

DEAD DOG CAVE NO. 4

Travis County (# 8)

Austin East 7.5' Quadrangle

Owner: unknown

Description: The cave consisted of a deep crack in a sinkhole. It was unexplored when it was filled at the building of the American Metal and Iron Company Parking Lot.

Ref: TSS files

RAILROAD CAVE (MCNEIL RAILROAD CAVE)

Travis County (# 2)

Austin 15' Quadrangle

Owner: unknown

Description: The cave is located in an artificial ravine near a clump of trees, and consists entirely of a crawlway running under the tracks. Railroad officials had the cave closed because it was made dangerous by trains passing overhead.

Ref: TSS files

Lake Travis 15' Quadrangle

Owner: unknown

Description: The cave consisted of a small sink to a room, from which a very small hole is reported to have led to a series of large rooms and numerous passages. The cave may possibly have connected to the Indianhead system. Many fossils were to be found in the cave. It was explored on April 4, 1954, by John Reager, Jerry Ford, and Gerald Seligman. The cave has been filled for the last few years.

Ref: TSS files, UTG files

UNNAMED CAVE

Travis County (# 41)

Austin West 7.5' Quadrangle

Owner: unknown

Description: This cave is located near Johnson Branch and consisted of a straight shaft dropping 15'-30'. It is reported to have connected with Austin Caverns, even though it is almost a mile away. This rumor is probably untrue but it may well have dropped into a fairly large cave. It has been filled completely with rocks.

Ref: TSS files, T. Evans

## SHELTERS AND DOUBTFUL CAVES

BARTON'S CREEK CAVE NO. 3

Travis County

Owner: unknown

Description: The entrance to this "cave" may be seen about 30' above the ground on the face of the same cliff as Barton's Creek Caves 1 and 2. It is the farthest-most hole to the north. It is a hole about 1' x 2' and appears to be a cave. Unexplored.

Ref: TSS files

BEE CAVE

Travis County

Owner: unknown

Description: This is an overhanging ledge at the town of Bee Cave. Beer was manufactured here in early days and the town took its name from the grotto.

Bibliography: Estes, James H., "Principal Caves of Texas," Page 63. The Texas Almanac: 1961-1962.

Jackson, A. T. "Trailing Texas Troglodytes," page 28. The Caves of Texas. Bulletin Ten of the National Speleological Society. April 1948.

White, Patrick J. "Caves of Central Texas," page 61. The Caves of Texas. Bulletin Ten of the National Speleological Society. April 1948.

Widener, Donald L., ed. Texas Cave Survey, Vol. 1, No. 3, page 18.

Owner: unknown

Description: This is a medium-sized shelter and has been used by both Indians and white men, the latter for storing cedar posts.

Bibliography: White, Patrick J. "The Caves of Central Texas," page 61. The Caves of Texas. Bulletin Ten of the National Speleological Society. April, 1948.

Widener, Donald L., ed. Texas Cave Survey, Vol. 1, No. 3, page 19.

Ref: TSS files

DEAD DOG CAVE NO. ~~1~~ 3

Travis County

Owner: unknown

Description: This is a sink with air blowing out through a breakdown filling it. Near the other Dead Dog Caves.

Ref: TSS files

HAMILTON POOL

Travis County

Owner: unknown

Description: This is a popular swimming place, costing 25¢ to enter. It consists of a 40-50 foot deep canyon about 100'-200' wide with a creek entering at its top and falling into a 30'-40' deep plunge pool. Behind the waterfall and around the entire canyon 20' deep overhangs have formed with numerous stalactites hanging down in front of them. Below the pool the canyon continues for about  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile before it empties into the Pedernales River.

Bibliography: Logan, Ron. "Letter to the Editor," page 3. The Texas Caver, Vol. IV, No. 2. Mar-Apr 1959.

Ref: TSS files

HANDPRINT SHELTER

Travis County

Owner: unknown

Description: This is a shallow shelter about 15' across and 10' deep, located near Handprint Cave at the same level. A dim handprint can be seen in the roof of the cave.

Bibliography: White, Patrick J. "Caves of Central Texas," page 61. The Caves of Texas. Bulletin Ten of the National Speleological Society. April 1948.

Widener, Donald L., ed. Texas Cave Survey, Vol. 1, No. 3, page 19.

Ref: TSS files

Owner: unknown

Description: The entrance to the shelter is about 5' x 15' in diameter with a number of formations all about and in the entrance. The cave was excavated by members of the University of Texas Archaeology Department, as was a site near the shelter. A report that there is a crawl at the back of the shelter for about 100' has not been validated, but it appears to be untrue.

Ref: TSS files

## ROCK SHELTERS (2)

Travis County

Owner: unknown

Description: Two rock shelters are located on opposite sides of a stream, one on the south facing north and the other on the north facing south.

Bibliography: White, Patrick J. "Caves of Central Texas," page 61. The Caves of Texas. Bulletin Ten of the National Speleological Society. April 1948.

Ref: TSS files

## TRABEELL SHELTER

Travis County

Owner: unknown

Description: This is a low, cave-like shelter, adjacent to a large Indian campsite which has shown evidence of considerable usage.

Bibliography: White, Patrick J. "Caves of Central Texas," page 61. The Caves of Texas. Bulletin Ten of the National Speleological Society. April 1948.

Widener, Donald L., ed. Texas Cave Survey, Vol. 1, No. 3, page 22.

Ref: TSS files

## STILLHOUSE CAVE

Travis County

Owner: unknown

Description: This cave or shelter is located at the head of Stillhouse Canyon. Though called a cave it is almost certainly a fairly shallow shelter located at the probable head of Stillhouse Canyon. An article in the Austin Statesman reports that the cave was the site of a bootlegging operation in the 1860's. According to the report "a gang of moonshiners is said to have prospered there until they were paid a surprise visit by federal revenue and state officers which resulted in a gun play and the annihilation of the illicit booze distillers."

Bibliography: Anonymous. "Caves in Bull Creek Hills Furnish Safe Retreats for Moonshine Gangs; Officers Get Clue to Nest of Stills." Austin Statesman, Vol. 51, No. 229. January 14, 1923.

Ref: TSS files