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5 September 1997

Mr. Gary Hendershott
Post Office Box 22520
2200 Rodney Parham Road, Suite 208
Little Rock, Arkansas 72221

Dear Mr. Hendershott:

Belatedly I wish to thank you for the various packets of data forwarded to me on 24 April, 14 May, and 22 July 1997 in relation to the battle flag of the 47th Regiment Georgia Volunteer Infantry. Although I had considerable information relating to this flag dating to as early as 1981, the additional information that you provided or led me to seek independently confirms not only that, in my opinion, the flag is indeed authentic and contemporaneous to the American Civil War but also (and perhaps more importantly) indicates that it was carried by the 47th Georgia Infantry after having been presented by the Ladies of Charleston in honor of their defense of that city and their participation in the battle of Secessionville on 16 June 1862.

To reiterate, the flag itself is an authentic example of a Confederate battle flag from the American Civil War. Based on Fonda Thomsen's textile analysis (Textile Preservation Associates, Inc., report no. 229), I must make minor revisions in describing the dimensions and materials employed in the flag. The flag itself measures 72" (to 74" if stretched) on its staff by 70" to 71" on its fly. The field is made from a now faded red cotton flannel (also known as challis), sectioned from five pieces seamed both horizontally and vertically. A dark blue wool/cotton mixture dress material having diamond shaped imprints has been appliqued in 9" wide strips diagonally across both sides of the field after a 1" wide white cotton border has been sewn over its edges (resulting in a 7 1/2" wide cross with 1" edging on each side) from corner to corner to form a St. Andrew's cross. Thirteen white cotton five-pointed stars are appliqued to each side of the cross, the twelve on the arms on each side measuring 7" across their points and the center measuring 8" across its points; these are sewn at intervals of approximately 13 1/2"-14" from one another (measured center to center). The edges of the field on three sides are hemmed over, with a reinforcing cord within the hem. The lower edge (or upper, depending on how the flag is displayed) is partially encased with a 1" wide white cotton border, but only for 15" from the heading. The leading edge is partly encompassed by a 8" wide (3" when folded in half and underhemmed) white cotton duck section that has been doubled

Dress Material

to form a sleeve 3" wide when flat. Significantly, on one side of this heading are the faded remains of the inked inscription "Col. ... Edwards". (see enclosure A)

A check of the listings of Confederate field officers of the Confederate Army indicates that six field officers had the family name "Edwards" but only four of these rose to the rank of Colonel: Oliver E. Edwards (Col. 13th S.C. Inf.); Jephtha Edwards (Col. 49th-31st Ala. Inf.); J.C. Edwards (Lt. Col. 5th S.C. Cav.); and A.C. Edwards (Lt. Col. and Col., 47th Geo. Inf.). As the flag comes with very credible provenance associating it with a Georgia unit, the "Col. ... Edwards" inked on the heading can only be Colonel A.C. Edwards, eventual commander of the 47th Georgia Infantry. That identification coincides with the history ascribed to the flag of having been presented by the ladies of Charleston for the unit's service in the defense of that city. *newspaper*

According to an article in the Charleston Mercury, the "Ladies Charleston Association in Aid of Their Volunteer Soldiers" presented four battle flags that they had prepared locally for the four Georgia units that had been called to Charleston during the crisis that culminated in the battle of Secessionville on 16 June 1862. A review of the reports and correspondence in the Official Records (Series I, Vol. 14- all citations listed below) yields that indeed there were four Georgia regiments that were sent to the defense of Charleston in the first two weeks of June, 1862. These were:

48th Georgia Infantry, which was present at Charleston (2nd Military District of South Carolina) according to the monthly report of troops on hand as of 31 May 1862 (pp. 529-530), which relieved the 22nd S.C. Inf. during the battle (pp. 90-92), and which was in the 1st Military District of S.C. as of 30 June 1862 (pp. 575-576).

47th Georgia Infantry, and the 51st Georgia Infantry, both of which were sent to the Charleston area defenses about 3 or 4 June 1862 (pp. 536-538), and both of which participated in the battle of Secessionville in support of Colonel Hagood (pp. 90-92), and which remained in the defenses around Charleston as late of 30 June 1862 (pp. 575-576). 32nd Georgia Infantry, which was in Savannah until at least 5 June 1862 when it was ordered to the support of Colonel Smith (pp. 548, 550) at Secessionville, but which did not leave until 10 June (p. 556) but which had returned to Savannah by 30 June 1862 (pp. 575-576).

No other Georgia units participated in the defense of Charleston in June of 1862. Hence the four flags referred to as having been made for the Georgia units must have been for these four regiments of infantry.

Sincerely,

Howard Michael Madaus

Howard Michael Madaus

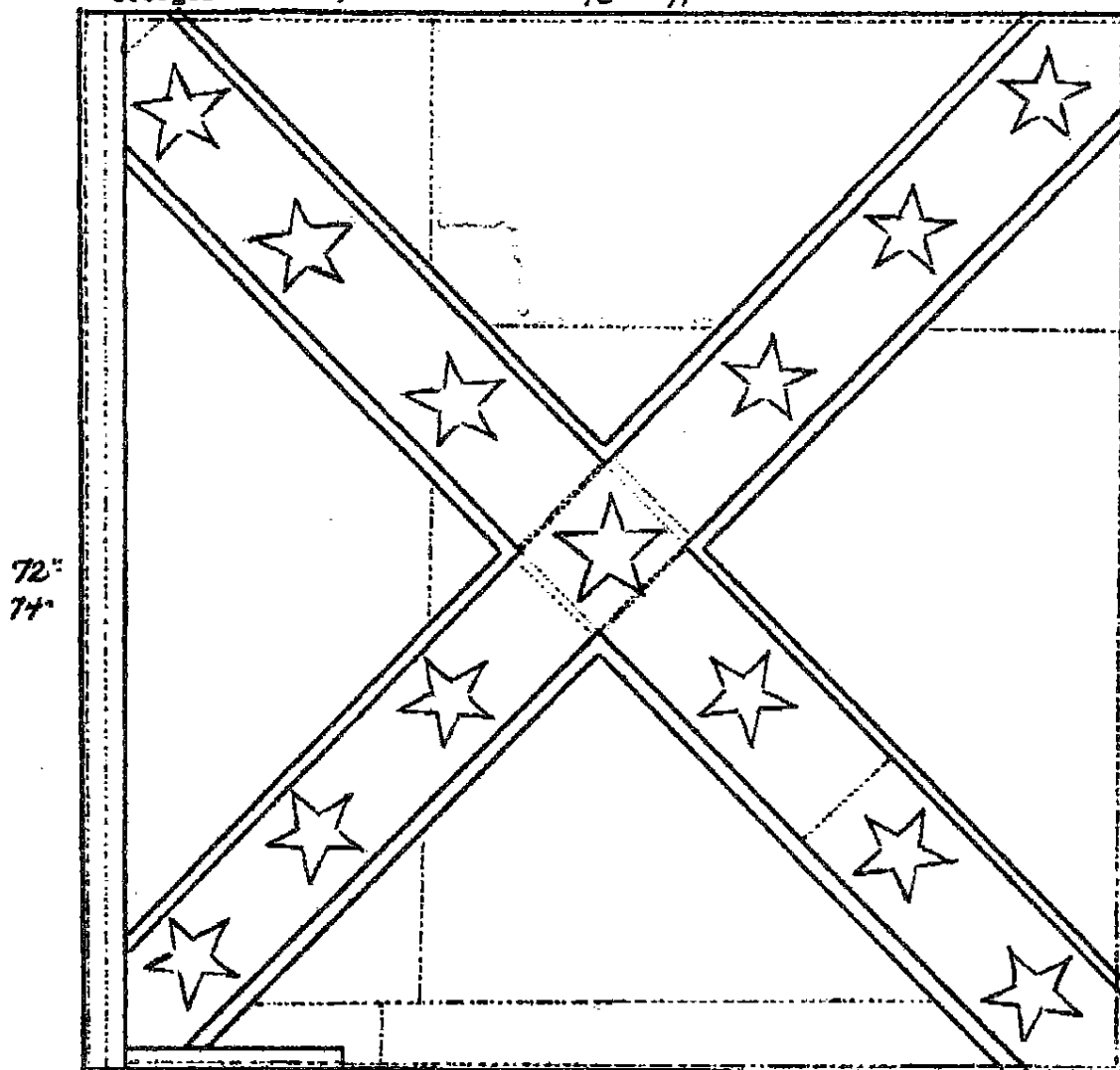
1 encl.

A

Unit designation: 47th Regiment Georgia Volunteer Infantry, C.S.A.*

History: According to the Charleston Mercury, this is one of four (4) flags prepared by the "Ladies Charleston Association in Aid of Thier Volunteer Soldiers" in June of 1862 for presentation to the four Georgia regiments that participated in the defense of Charleston and the battle of Secessionville, 16 June 1862.**

* = heading is marked "Col. ... Edwards", for Colonel A.C. Edwards, commanding 47th Georgia Infantry. ** = 32nd, 46th, 47th, and 51st Georgia Infantry.



	Field	Cross	Edge	Stars (13)	Border (partial
Color:	red (faded)	dark blue (with white diamond imprints), 7 1/2" wide.	white, 1" wide.	white, 5 ptd., 12 on arms each 7" across points; 8" in center.	white, 1" wide; only 15" long on lower, staff portion only.
Material:	cotton flannel (challis)	wool/cotton mixture.	cotton	cotton	cotton
Method of attachment:	The leading edge is a sleeve of white cotton duck, 3" wide when flat.				
Star separation:	center-1st: 13 1/2"-15"; center-2nd: 26 1/2"-28"; center-3rd: 40"-42"				

Textile Preservation Associates, Inc.

P.O. BOX 606 • SHARPSBURG, MARYLAND 21782 • PHONE (301) 432-4160
ANALYSIS REPORT (revised)

Date: March 26, 1991
TPA#: 229
Object: Large Confederate Battle Flag
Client: «Field 1»
«Field 2»
«Field 4», «Field 5» «Field 6»

DESCRIPTION:

Measurements: leading edge: 72" fly: 70"

The flag consists of a red wool challis field, made up of five pieces of fabric, with a 7 1/2" wide blue St. Andrew's cross, made of a patterned dress fabric, appliqued to each side. The cross on each side has a 1" wide white cotton fimbriation and thirteen 7" cotton stars appliqued to the surface. The red fabric is not cut away under the cross and the blue fabric, with the fimbriation intact, are continuous where the arms of the cross overlap. The leading edge has a 3" wide hoist made of a heavy coarse woven cotton. Thirty one inches down from the top of the hoist on the obverse side, written in script 3/8 ths of an inch high is "Co1 (?) Edwards". The top edge has a 1/2" hem into which is inserted a 1/4" diameter rope. The bottom and fly edges have a 1/2" wide cotton border. The flag is sewn both by hand and machine.

EXAMINATION:

Photos: Five color 35 mm slides were taken of both sides
Six scale drawings of obverse and reverse
Particle samples: enclosed

The particle samples are an uncontaminated, vacuumed sampling of the particulate matter present throughout the surface of the flag. Do not open the container or they will be contaminated and lost. If the flag has never been washed, analysis of these particles often reveals soils, pollen, airborne contaminants such as salt spray or combustion products, and any other particulate matter the flag has been in contact with throughout its history. Identification of the particulate matter requires a skilled polarized light or forensic microscopist (2).

UV LIGHT: The red wool challis fluoresced orange. The fly has an extensive ammount of diagonal staining not readily apparent in visible light but pronounced under ultra-violet light. One of a series of stains

page - 2

that extend down the hoist, extends over the signature making it less visible under ultraviolet light than visible light.

METHOD OF CONSTRUCTION:

(See Drawings #1 A-D)

1. Six pieces of red wool challis were pieced together to form one large square for the fly in the following manner (see drawing 1 C):

- 1) Two 5" wide pieces, 51" (no. 2) and 21" (no. 1), neither with a selvage, were sewn together on the short ends to form the top of the flag.
- 2) A 47" square piece (no. 4) with a selvage on the top, was sewn to a 47" x 22" piece (no. 6) with no selvages, to form the fly end of the flag.
- 3) A 48" x 21 1/2" piece (no. 3) with a selvage on the right, was sewn to a 22" x 20" piece (no. 5) with a selvage on the bottom, to form the leading edge of the flag.
- 4) The 2nd and 3rd pieces were sewn together on the long edge (vertically) then sewn along the top edge (horizontally) to the 1st piece to form the fly of the flag.

All of the red fabrics were joined with a hand stitched flat-fell seam using a natural colored cotton thread. The red wool was left intact beneath the cross.

2. The crosses were prepared next in the following manner:

Reverse side:

(a) Three pieces (14", 72" and 3" long) of 9" wide blue cotton/wool blend dress weight fabric were seamed together, by hand with cotton thread, to form the upper fly to lower hoist arm of the cross. The 72" length had a selvage on the upper side.

(b) One single length of the same fabric 99" long, with a selvage on the lower side, formed the other arm.

Obverse side:

The crosses were pieced in the same manner as the seams of the reverse cross with the upper hoist to lower fly end arm having one 99" piece of fabric and the other arm three pieces.

3. A 1" wide piece of cotton fimbriation was machine sewn 1/2" from the edge of the two pieced cross arms, then folded back over the outer edge of the cross fabric and turned under 1/4" on the outer edge.

page - 3

4. The two pieced sections of cross were aligned to form the lower hoist to upper fly arms of the cross on the obverse and reverse sides of the red wool then attached by machine sewing down the outer edge of the fimbriation through all 7 layers of fabric. The large center star was machine sewn to the reverse side going through all of the layers of fabric.

5. All of the stars were cut out of cotton fabric. Six stars were sewn on the arms of the obverse side by turning the edges of the stars under 1/8" and sewing through all three layers with a lock stitch machine, using a cotton thread. On the reverse side, six stars were hand sewn to the opposite cross arm, covering the machine stitch, with cotton thread.

6. Six stars were then machine sewn to each of the two 99" lengths of the cross. The arms were aligned to form a cross and machine sewn in place again through the fimbriation. The center star on the reverse side was machine sewn in place going through all three layers of fabric. The fabric of the arm underneath with the fimbriation trim, was not cut away when the second arm was placed over it.

7. The center star of the obverse side was hand stitched in place.

8. A 3/8" border was formed on the fly end and bottom edge of the flag. First a 1" wide piece of cotton was machine sewn down its center 1/4" from the edge of the flag. The white cotton and flag were folded over on the seam line which left the white cotton showing on both sides. The edges of the white cotton were turned under 1/8" along the inside edge and machine sewn going through all of the layers at one time.

9. The top edge of the flag was folded over a length of 1/4" rope and machine sewn. A 1" strip of heavy cotton reinforcing fabric was placed over this edge for a distance of 18" from the leading edge.

10. A strip of heavy cotton fabric at least eight inches wide (constructed of two pieces fabric 22" and 57" long, flat-fell seamed together) was machine sewn to the obverse side of the leading edge to form the hoist. The machine was threaded with an off white cotton thread.

11. The fabric was folded around, the edge turned under 1/4", and machine top stitched to the reverse side of the leading edge. This formed a hoist about 4" wide. Two parallel rows of machine stitching were placed the length of the hoist about 1" apart starting 1" from the turned edge. The hoist is presently in two pieces with a turned under flap sewn down the length of the outside edge using an off white 2 ply Z thread. The top and bottom edges of the hoist were turned inside and whip-stitched closed with cotton thread.

SAMPLING:

The flag was examined and sampled using a JKH stereo microscope at 21X (See drawing IV). Fiber identifications were made using a Leitz compound microscope at 270X.

Results are included in the report.

page - 4

CONDITION:**Previous treatment:**

Four triangular pieces of red-brown cotton were cut to underlay the quadrants. These were basted by hand to an off-white cotton square cut to flag size plus 1". (The upper and left side quadrants were left pinned into place along the upper arm of the cross going through the fabric of the flag in 4 places and had never been basted.) A 4" wide strip of cotton was added to reinforce the hoist. The flag was attached to the backing fabric, with cotton thread, along the fimbriation using running stitches through the wool on both sides and tent stitches through the fimbriation. Running stitches were used around the perimeter of the flag. The seams of the red wool were sewn with cotton and silk crepeline thread in running stitches. The damaged areas were sewn using a combination of running and zig-zag stitching in both cotton and silk crepeline thread. The lining fabric was cut away from the square hole in the bottom quadrant. The edges of the cotton lining fabric were turned under and taped into place with masking tape.

Current condition:

All fabric components of the flag are degraded to a very weak, brittle state except for the hoist fabric. The red fabric is severely faded, an indication that light may have been a factor in the degradation of all of the fibers. The fibers of the cross fabric, stars, fimbriation and the sewing threads are very brittle and fracture when handled. The red wool of the bottom quadrant has a large 19" square section missing from the center and several small holes. The square appears to have been cut away on the all four sides but the upper leading edge corner is degraded and may have been damaged instead of cut. The fly end quadrant has a 33" x 1 1/2" strip missing from the edge, but is otherwise intact. The top quadrant has many small (1/4" or less) holes near the center and several long splits along the top edge. There is also some dark staining in this quadrant. The leading edge quadrant has suffered much breakage and loss. The hoist is intact. The border along the bottom and fly edges is almost entirely gone from the reverse of the flag (See Drawings # 2A & 2B). There are large diagonal stains extending down the fly from exposure to the elements during use.

There are 2 small patches of red wool attached, with one of the cotton sewing threads used in the construction of the flag, by sewing back and forth as is carried out when darning (See Drawing #5).

RESULTS OF THE EXAMINATION:

The previous treatment was removed to expose both sides of the flag. The flag was placed between two pieces of mylar for support during handling and storage.

The stretching of the hoist indicates previous hanging and use. There is some spotting on the fabric that may be blood and some gray spots that could be combustion products. The flag is severely stained in a diagonal

page - 5

direction, possibly from the environmental conditions to which the flag was exposed.

The fly appears to be intact as constructed with no major changes. The two areas of patching overlaid with a darning stitch appear to have been carried out before the flag was assembled because they are incorporated in the sewing of the seams.

The hoist did not have evidence of a method of attachment so it was investigated further. The method of construction indicates the hoist was originally constructed of one piece of fabric but as it appears now, the obverse and reverse hoist fabrics are separate and joined with a rolled seam on the reverse side. Since the sewing threads on this seam were more modern than the rest of the flag, they were removed and the seam opened up. When the seam was laid out flat, it revealed a series of tack holes running down the hoist about 10" apart. The staining on the fabric inside the seam indicates the hoist fabric was laid out flat during use then rolled and seamed together at a later time (See diagram 1d).

REPORTED HISTORY:

The flag is reported to have been hand made of dress fabrics by a group of ladies then presented to a unit which carried in battle for over a year.

CONCLUSION:

The materials found in the original fabric of the flag are consistent with materials available during the Civil War period. The flag was expertly crafted by persons or a person with mature sewing skills, as would be expected of ladies of the period. The present condition of the flag supports the suggested history of use during battle.



Fonda G. Thomsen, Director
Textile Preservation Associates, Inc.

Date: March 26, 1991

REFERENCES:

1. Terminology used throughout the report was taken from:

"The Battle Flags Of The Confederate Army Of Tennessee"
Howard Michael Madaus & Robert D. Needham, Milwaukee Public Museum,
Milwaukee, Wisconsin, 1976.

2. For further analysis, Textile Preservation Associates, Inc. recommends the Mc Crone Associates, 850 Pasquinelli Drive, Westmont, IL 60559, phone (708) 887-7100 contact: Dick Bisbing.

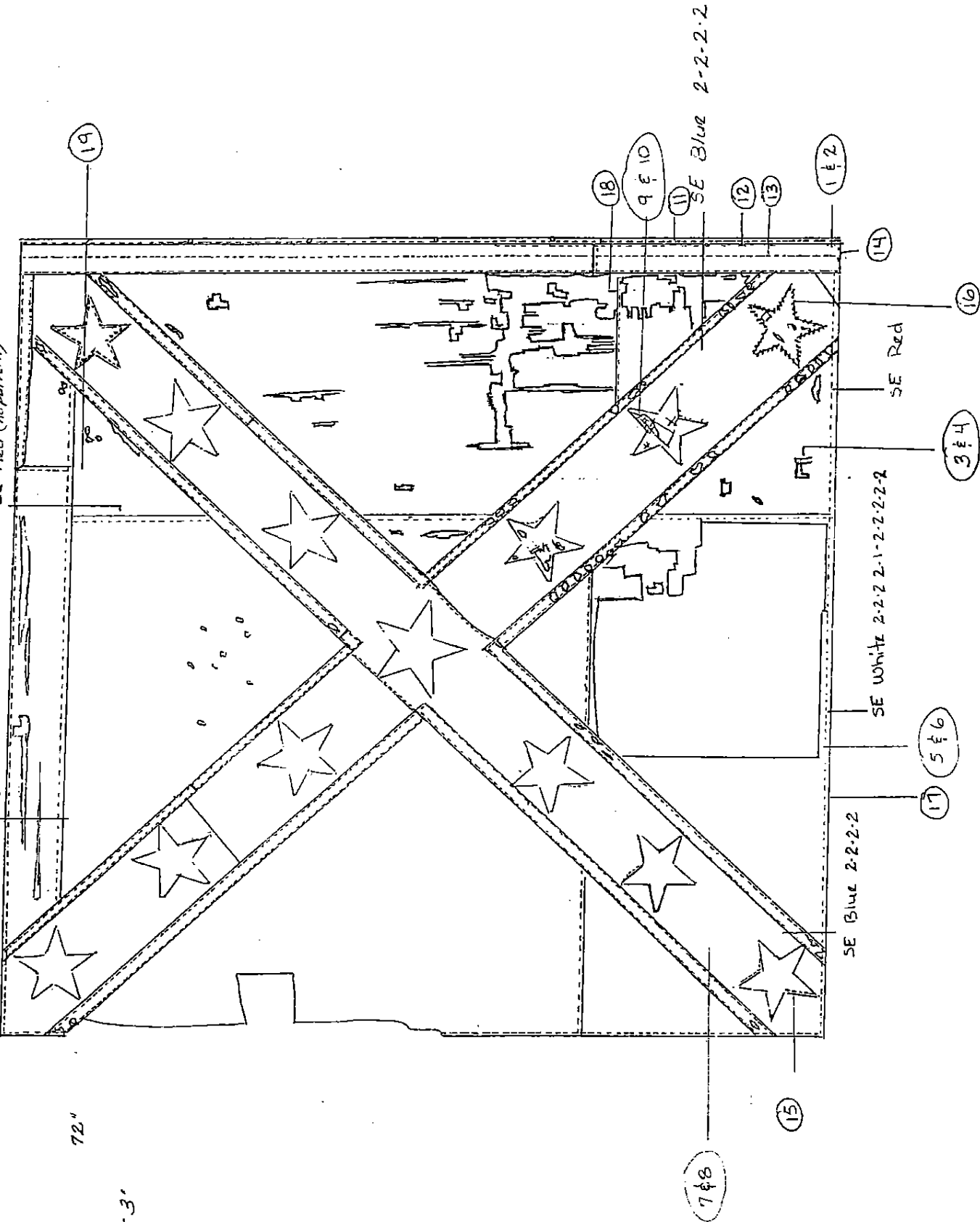
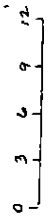
Drawing #3B
Sampling & Severages

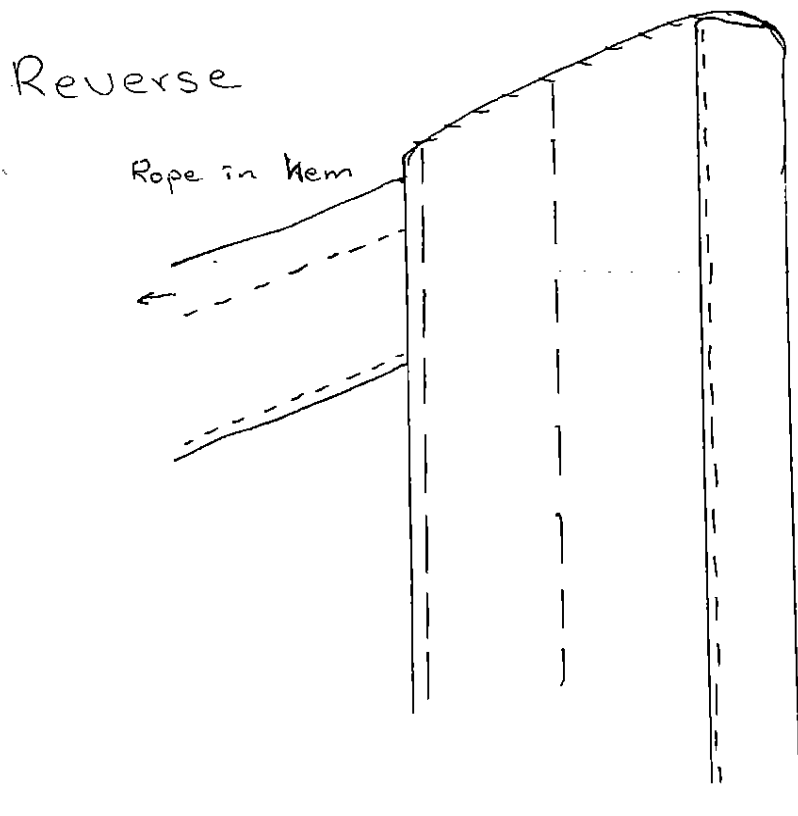
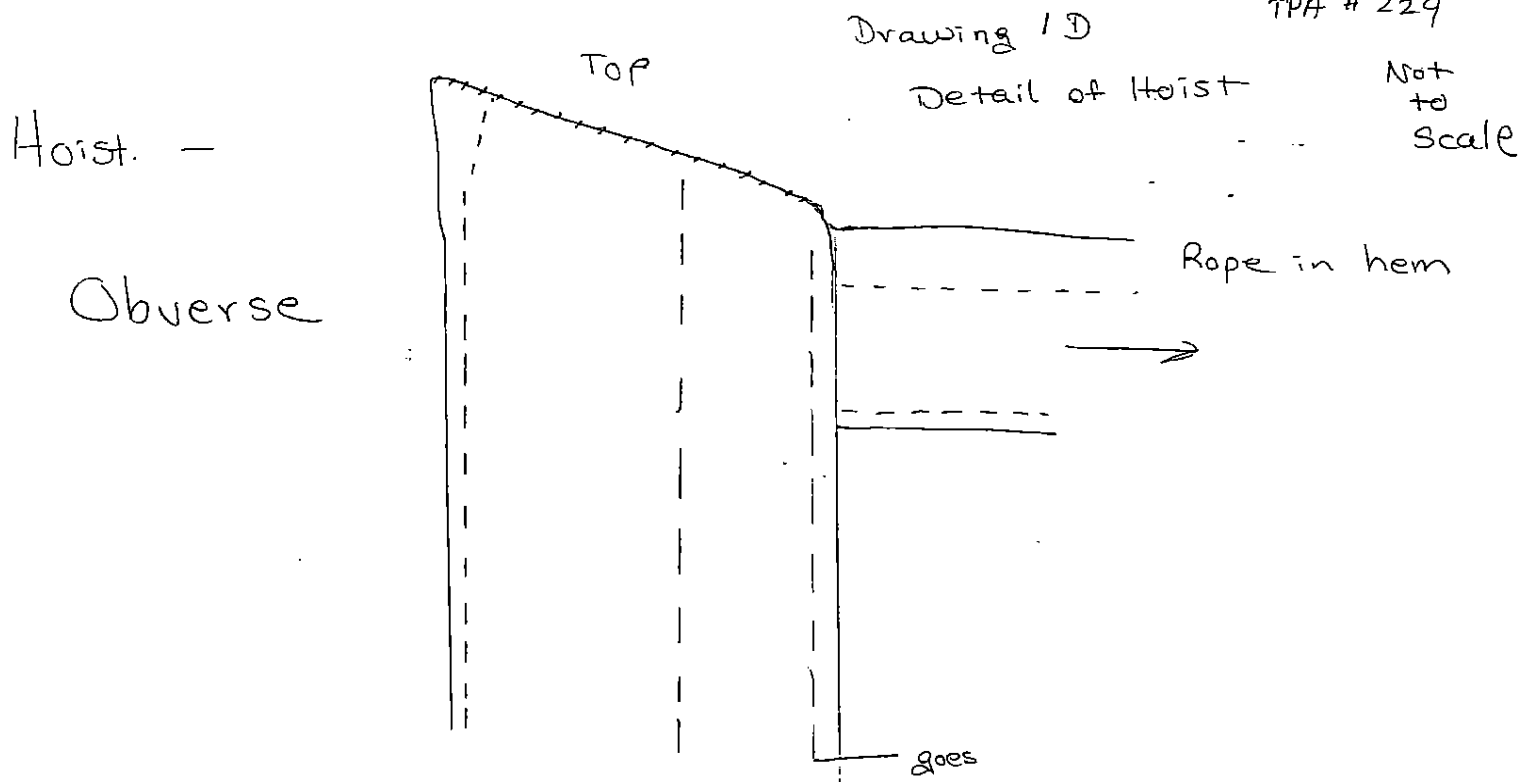
Reverse

70"

72"

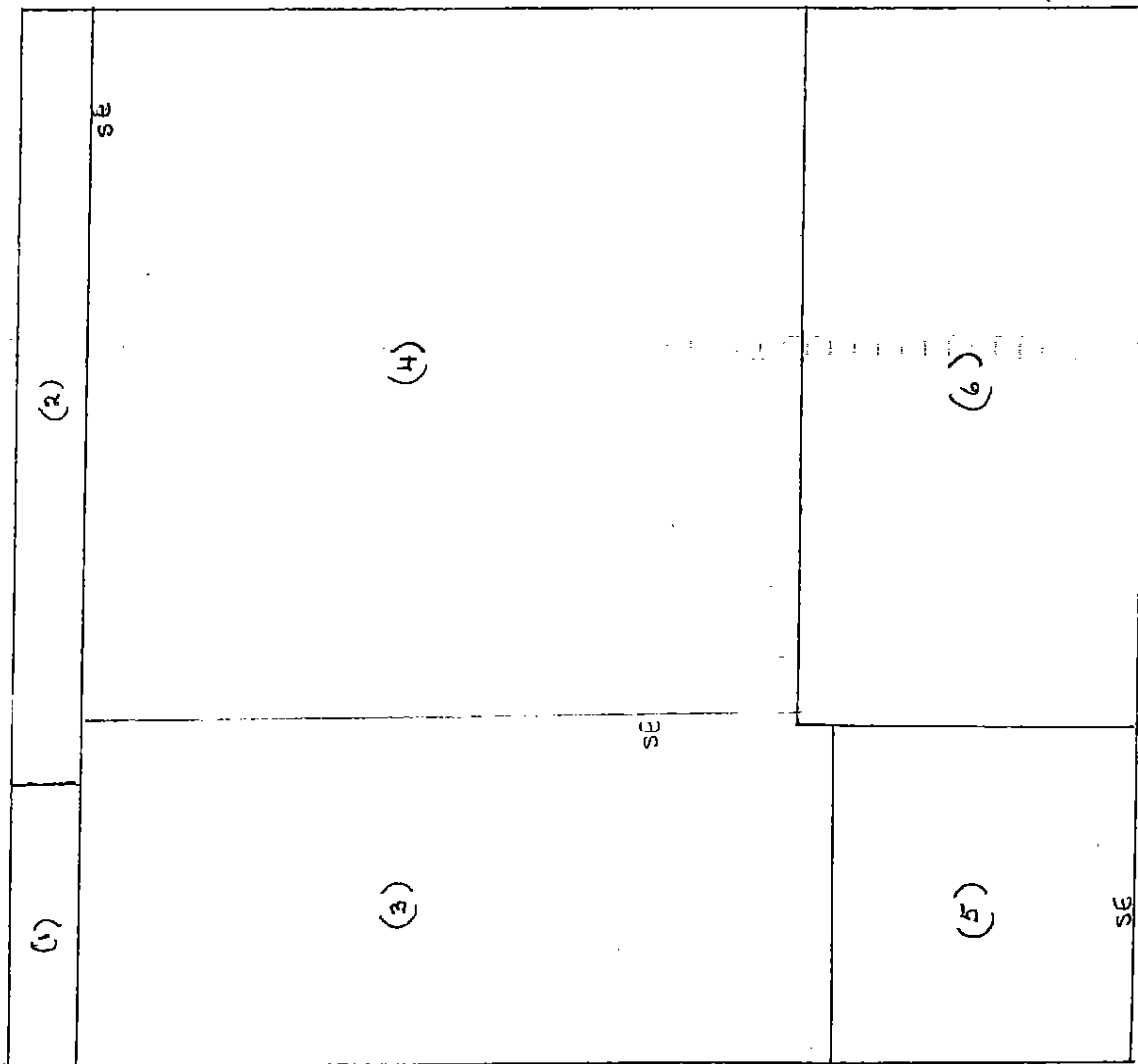
Scale - 2.593 = 3"





Drawing # 1c Piecing of red fly

TPA # 229



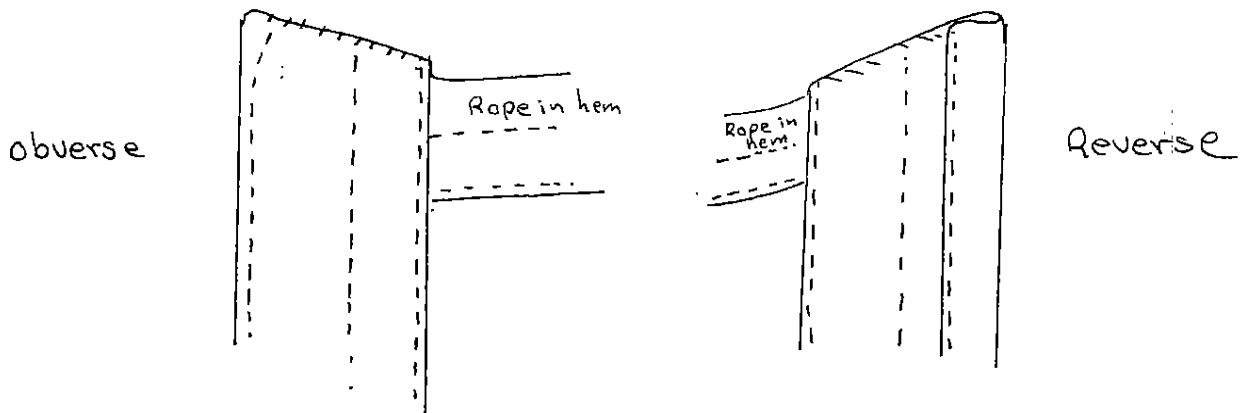
0 3 6 9 12
1" = 12"

Drawing 1 D
Detail of hoist

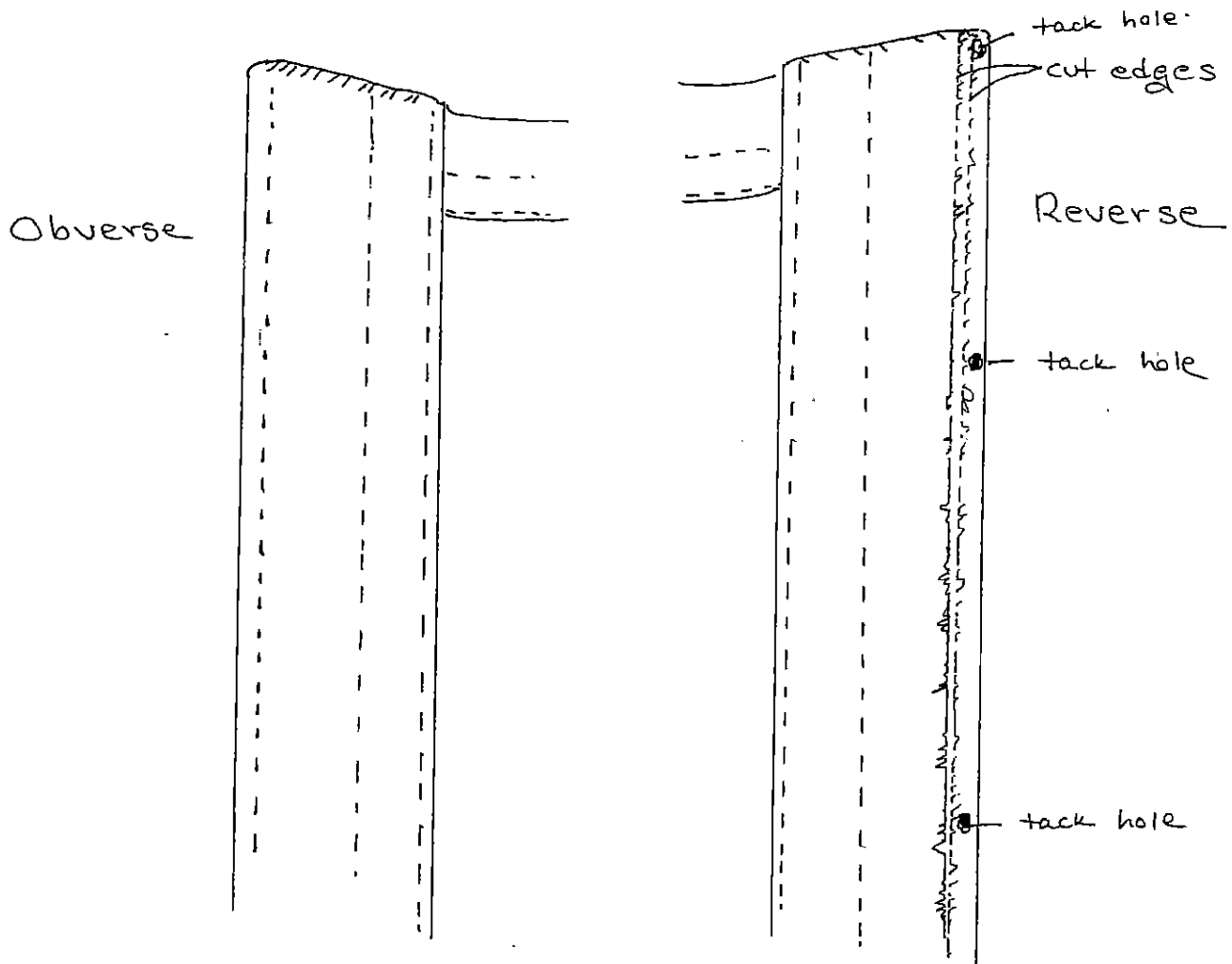
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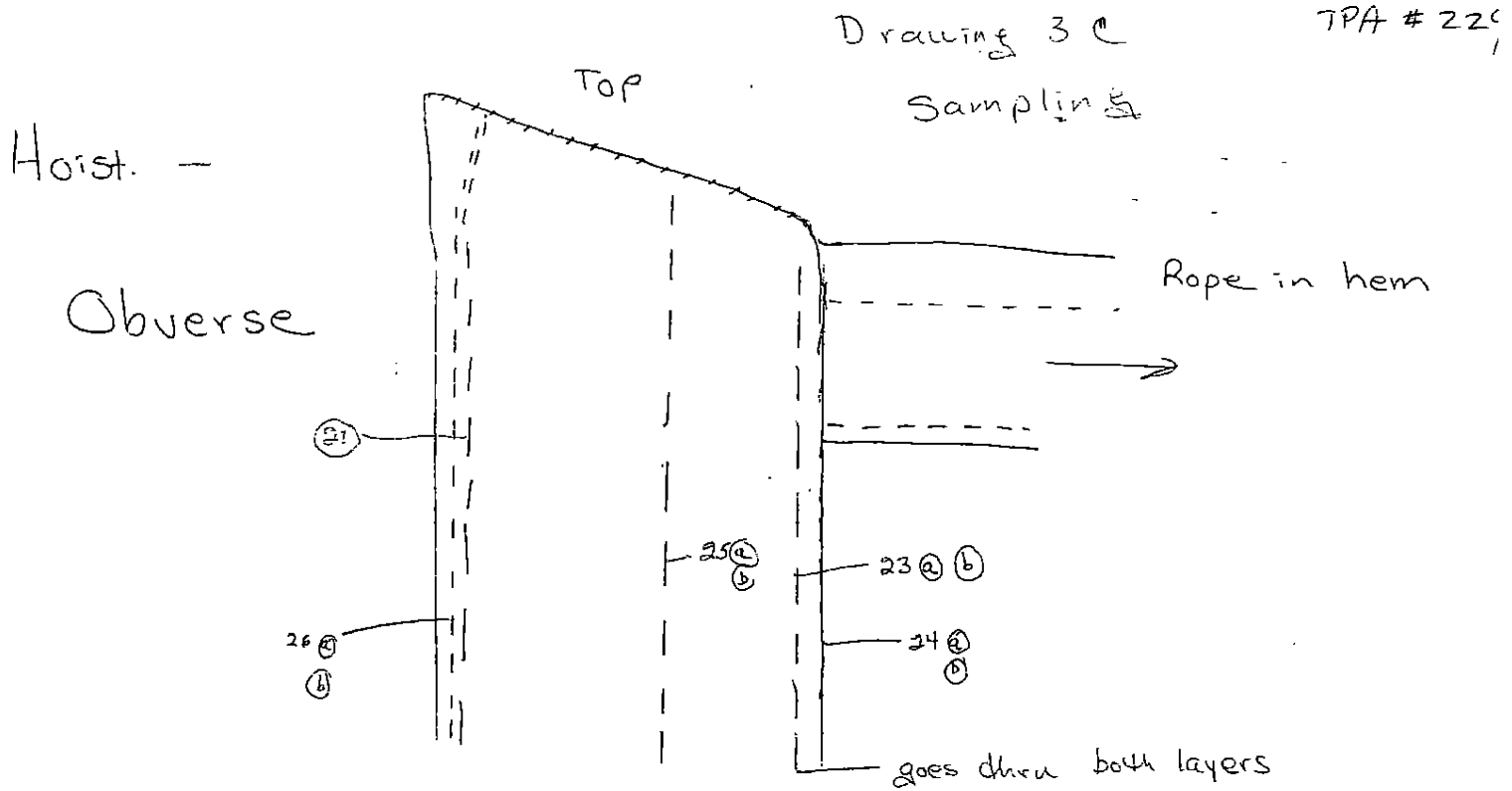
Not to scale

As received:

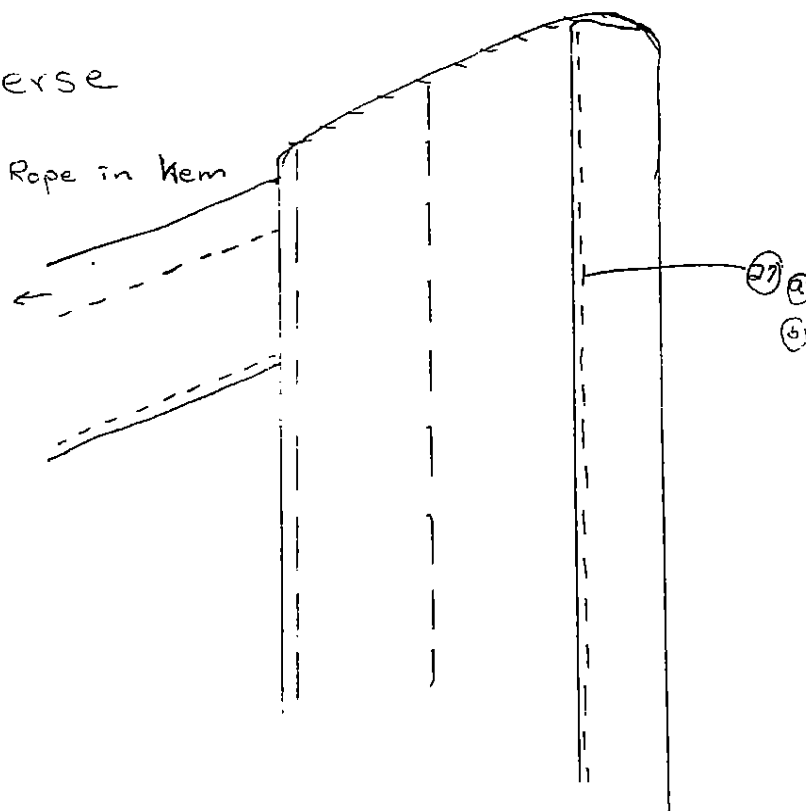


As it appears now:





Reverse



TPA #229

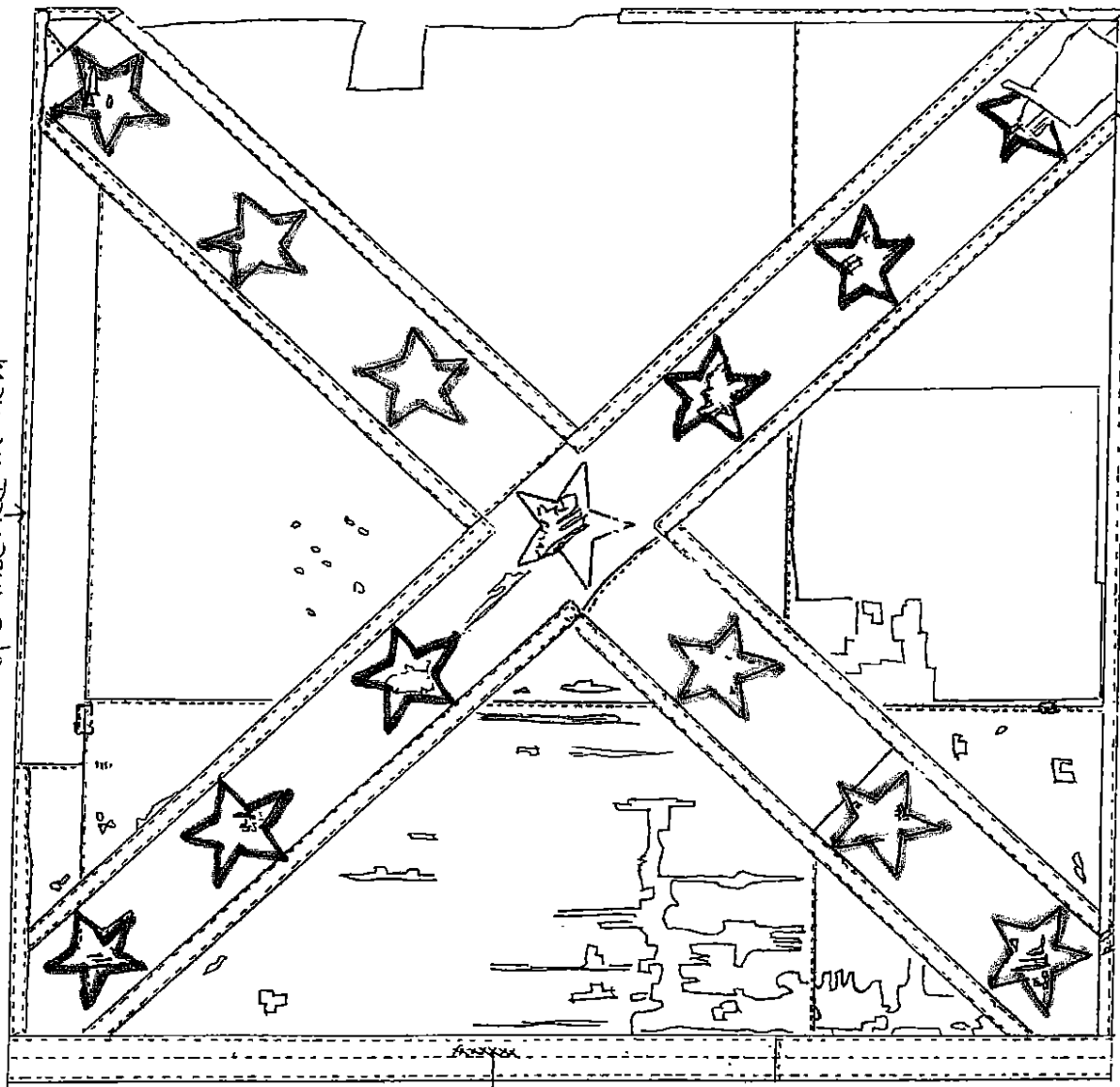
Obverse

Drawing # Ha

Type of stitching

70"

Rope inserted in hem



TPA # 229

Reverse

Drawing # 4 B Type of stitching

70"

72"

Scale - 2' sqs. = 3'

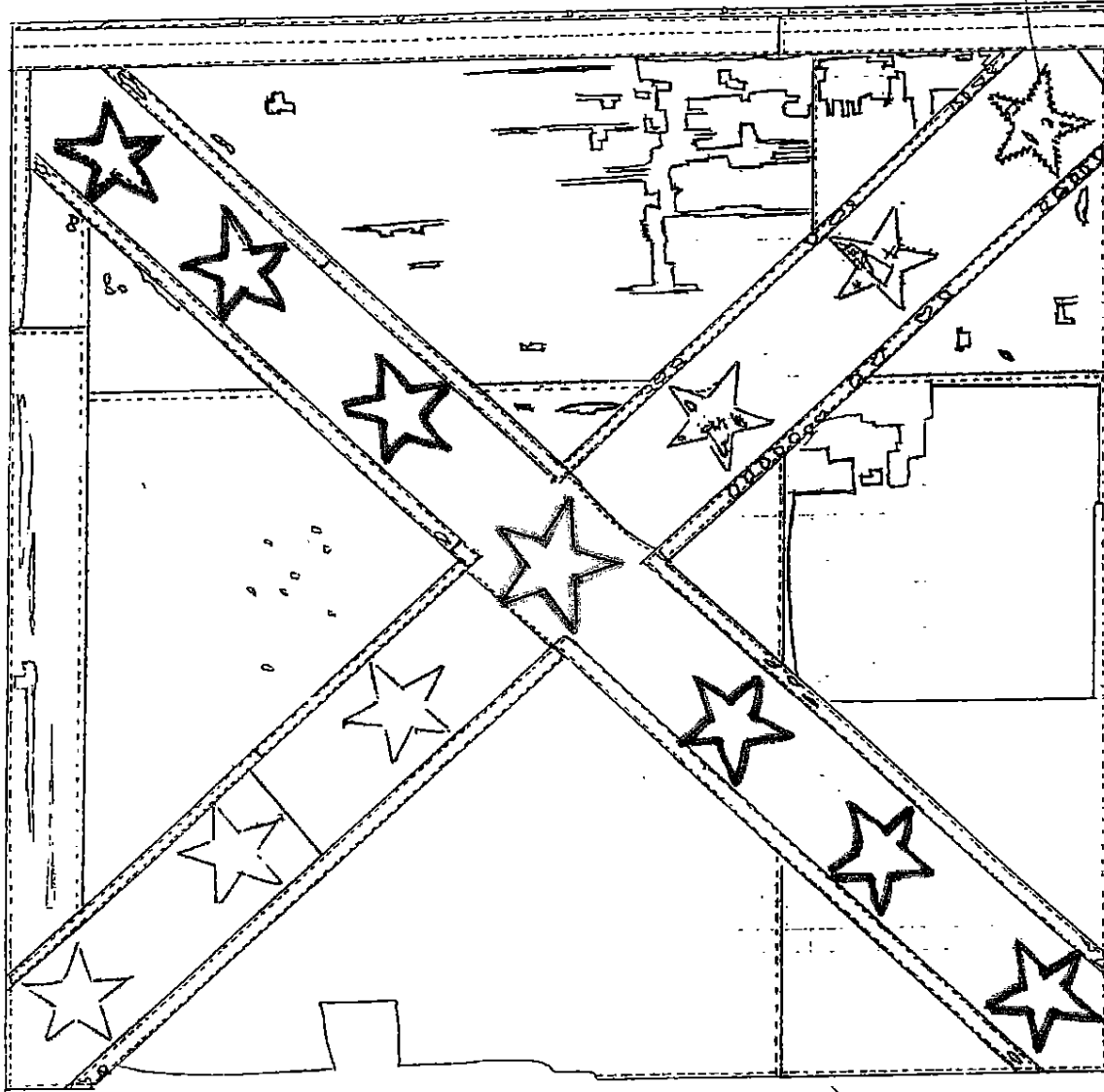
0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12

hand sewn

Machine sewn
thru 3 layers

Machine sewn
thru 1 layer

applied on over
machine sewn
Starts from obverse

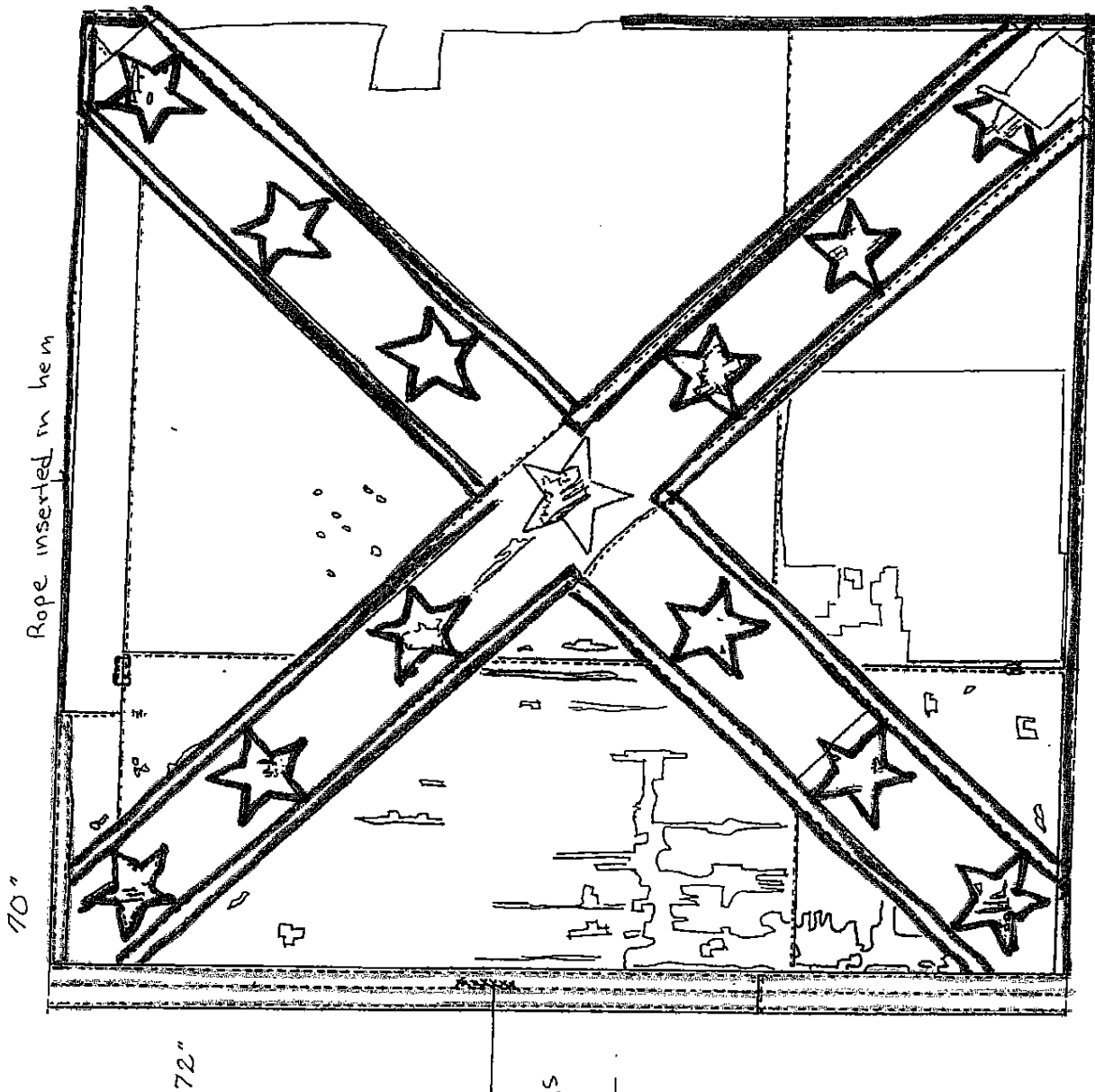


TPA #229

Obverse

Drawing # 5a

Sewing threads



rule - 2 sqs = 3"

3 6 9 12

1/4" = 3"

signature

Col III Edwards

cotton

cotton

cotton

TPA # 229

Reverse

Drawing # 5B

70"

72.

$$\text{col} - 2595 = 31$$

12
9
4
3

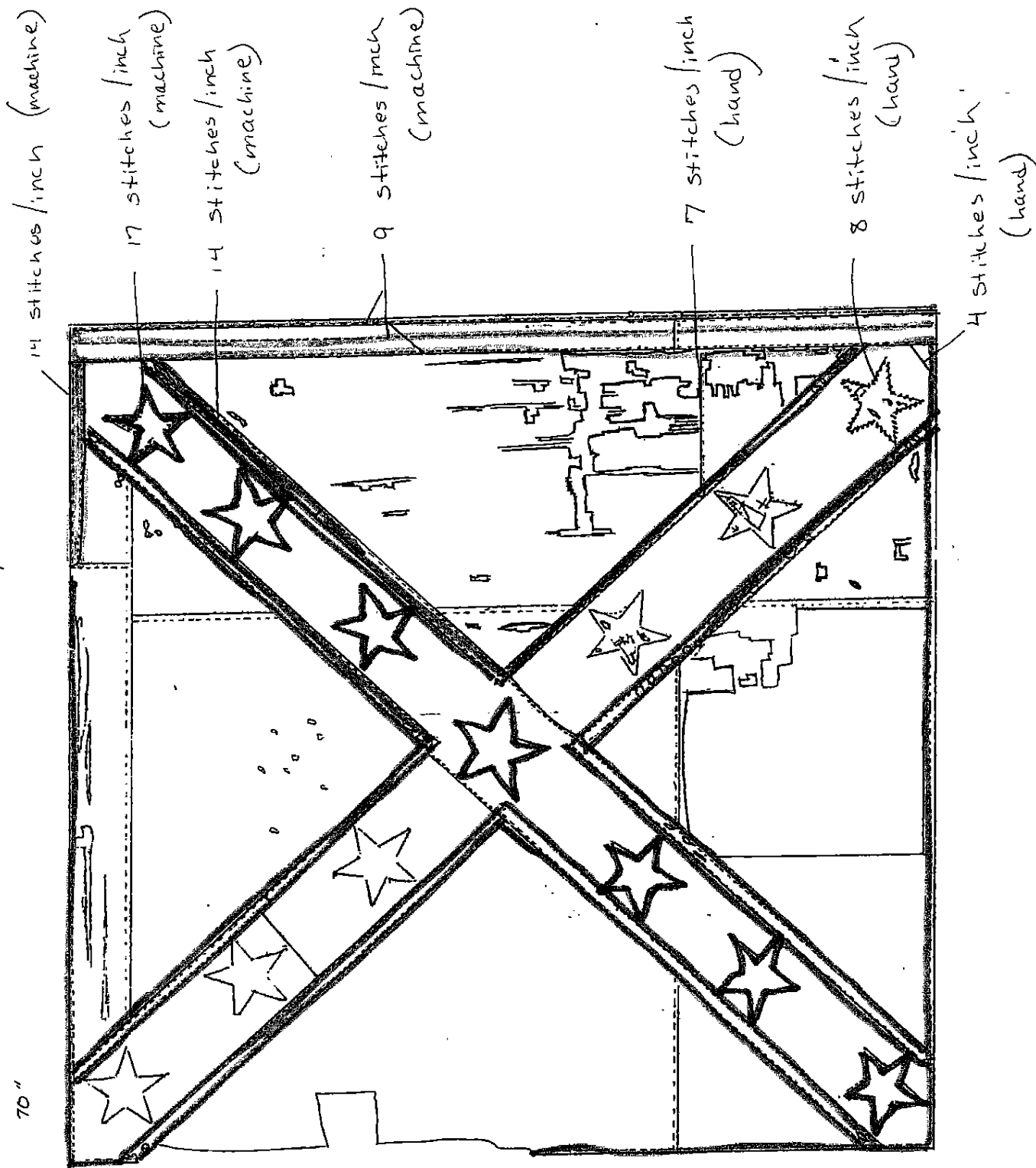
30/7/55

cotton

Case 1:17-cv-00001-UNA Document 1-1 Filed 07/26/17 Page 1 of 1

catfish

copy

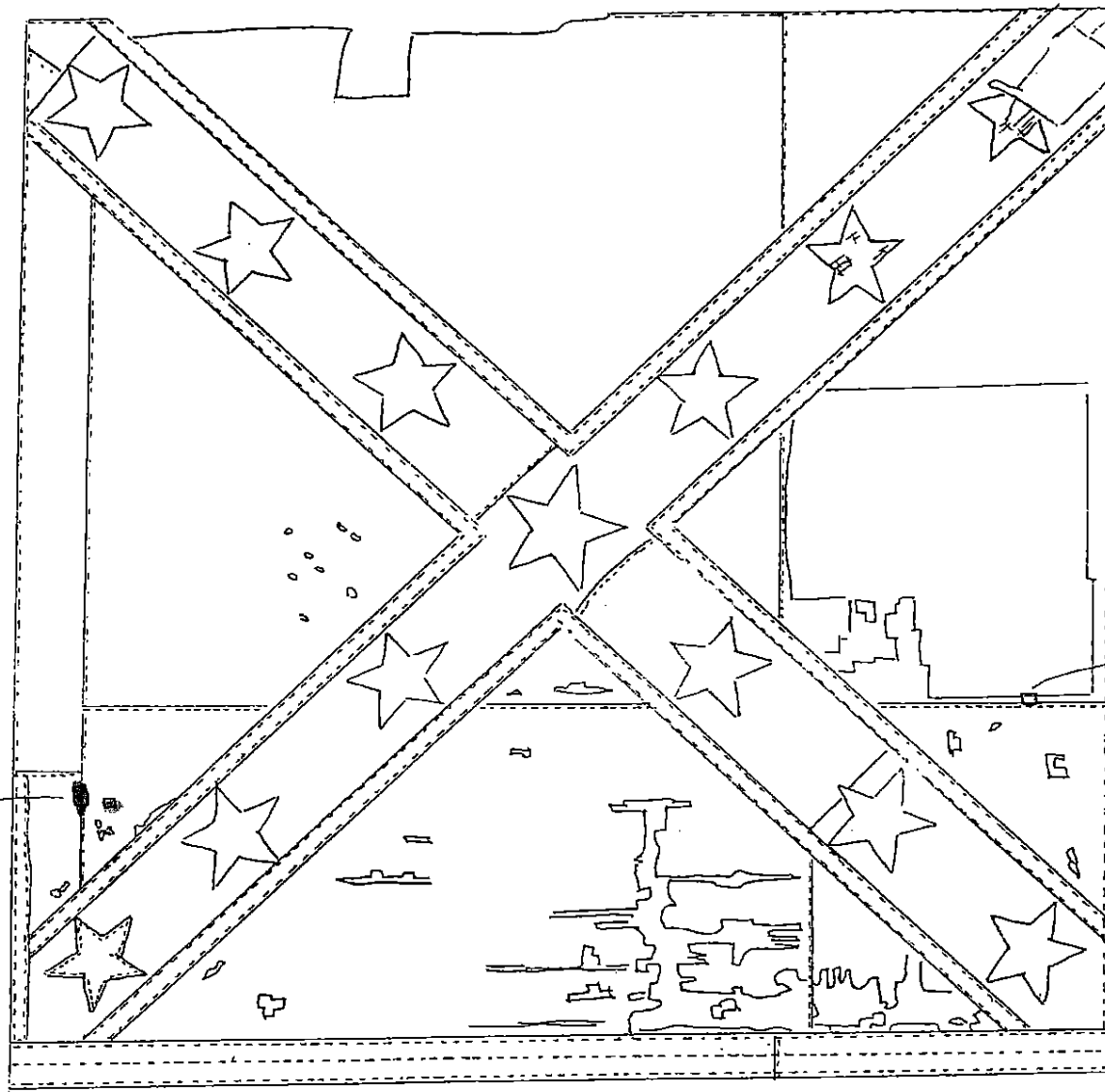


77A #229

Obverse

Drawing #6
Repairs & Patches

70" 1 1/4" x 3/4" patch



72"

Scale - 2 sqs = 3"

0 3 6 9 12

wool
patch

thread
re weave

3-5 cotton