Llano Route - Box 22
Fredericksburg, Texas 78624
August 29, 1985

The Director
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, & Firearms
Washington, D. C. 20226

PETITION: For the establishment of the Bell Mountain Viticultural Area, Located in Gillespie County, Texas.

The area has been known as Bell Mountain since settlement by the pioneers in the mid and late nineteenth century. The Peak was identified by this name on the U.S. Geological Survey map, the first such map published on the general area, in 1885. This identity has been established by the fact that it is the highest elevation (1956-feet) of the area, and this dominance has made it a landmark.

The slopes of Bell Mountain, an approximate 2-mile radius south and southwest of the Peak is the boundary of the proposed Viticultural Area. This boundary has been delineated with black ink on the enclosed U.S. Geological Survey map of recent production. Credence of this boundary radius, as far as soil conditions are concerned, may be found in a book "Eastern Hill Country Resource Conservation & Development Project" published by the U.S. Department of Agriculture in 1968. A photocopy of Figure 1, General Soils Map, taken from this book, is enclosed herewith. The soils within the boundaries of the proposed Viticultural Area are identified on the map as "PP-Pedernales-Pontotoc Association". The description reads "Non-Calcareous, sandy, loam soils, with light sandy clay subsoil. Udic Palenstalfs; Typic Rhodustaifs". These soils are unique in the general area referred to as the "Hill Country" or the Edwards Plateau in that they are slightly acid, whereas most of the soils are calcareous, or lime-bearing. The soils of the proposed Viticultural Area are underlaid with sandstone, and below the sandstone is granite. The geological condition dictates the acid conditions. The granite protrudes through the ground surface profusely on the Peak's northern slope, therefore making tillage impossible. For this reason, only the slopes to the south and southwest are included in the boundary of the proposed Viticultural Area.

Description of boundaries: clockwise, and south from the Peak, one-half mile, and then southeast to an elevation point of 1773-feet on the Willow City Loop Road; from there south and following the above named road to the hamlet called Willow City; from there following a roadway referred locally as the "Old Willow City Road" south and west to State Highway 16, at elevation 1792: continuing due west approximately one-fourth-mile and to the 98°-45' meridian, then north to a point 33/66 indicated on the S.S.G.S. map, then north and east to Bell Mountain Peak.

PETITION for the establishment of the Bell Mountain Viticultural Area.

Bell Mountain is 15 miles north of the town of Fredericksburg. It is on the northern rim of the Edwards Plateau, and north of its Peak is a region referred to as the "Llano Uplift". It is noted for its granite formations. The area to the south of the Peak is gradually sloping soils of the Pedernales-Pontotoc Association. The U.S. Soil Conservation Service estimates there are nearly 11,000 acres of land of this soil association within the boundaries of the proposed Viticultural Area. Two vineyards, comprising 45 acres of winegrapes are presently established, the oldest of which is over 10 years.

The area is drier than the Pedernales valley to its south, and the Llano valley to its north. It is also cooler due to its elevation, and constant breezes.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert P. Oberhelman

Robert P. Oberhelman

OBERHELLMANN VINEYARDS

LLANO ROUTE - BOX 22 FREDERICKSBURG, TEXAS 78264 PHONE: (512) 685-3297

October 7, 1985

Mr. Steve Simon
Department of the Treasury
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, & Firearms
Washington, D.C. 20226

RE: Mr. Mascolo's letter of 10-4-85 in reference to the petition for a Bell Mountain Viticultural Area.

Dear Mr. Simon:

There are no vineyards or wineries near the boundaries of the proposed viticultural area. The closest vineyards are in the Pedernales Valley whose closest point is about 12 miles from the proposed boundaries. There are no wineries presently in the Pedernales. If that area develops in viticulture it would be logical that a Pedernales Valley area be proposed.

Regarding the proposed boundaries changes in Mr. Mascolo's, the later would be clearest and therefore preferrable as far as we are concerned.

Yours very truly,

OBERHELLMANN VINEYARDS

Robert P. Oberhelman
President

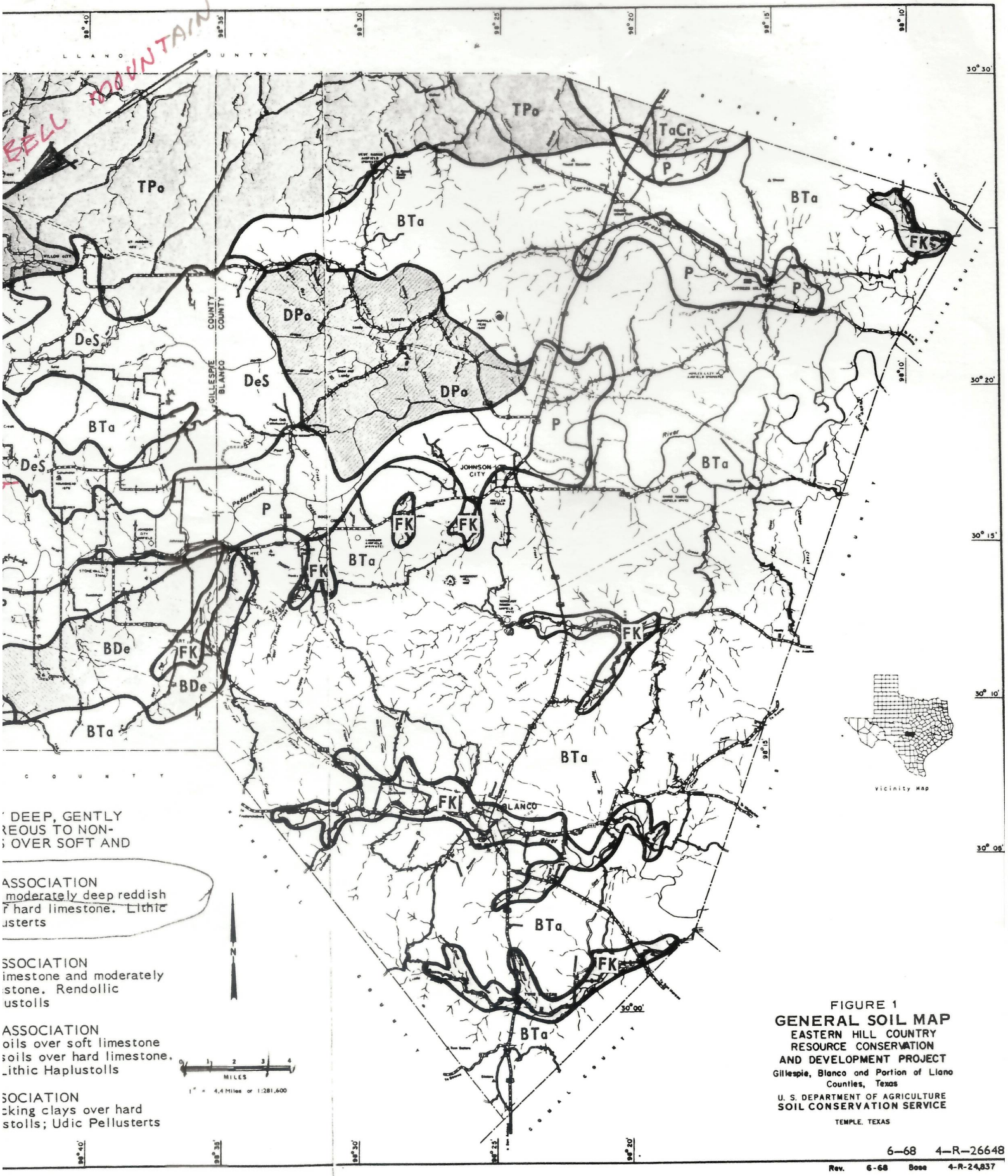

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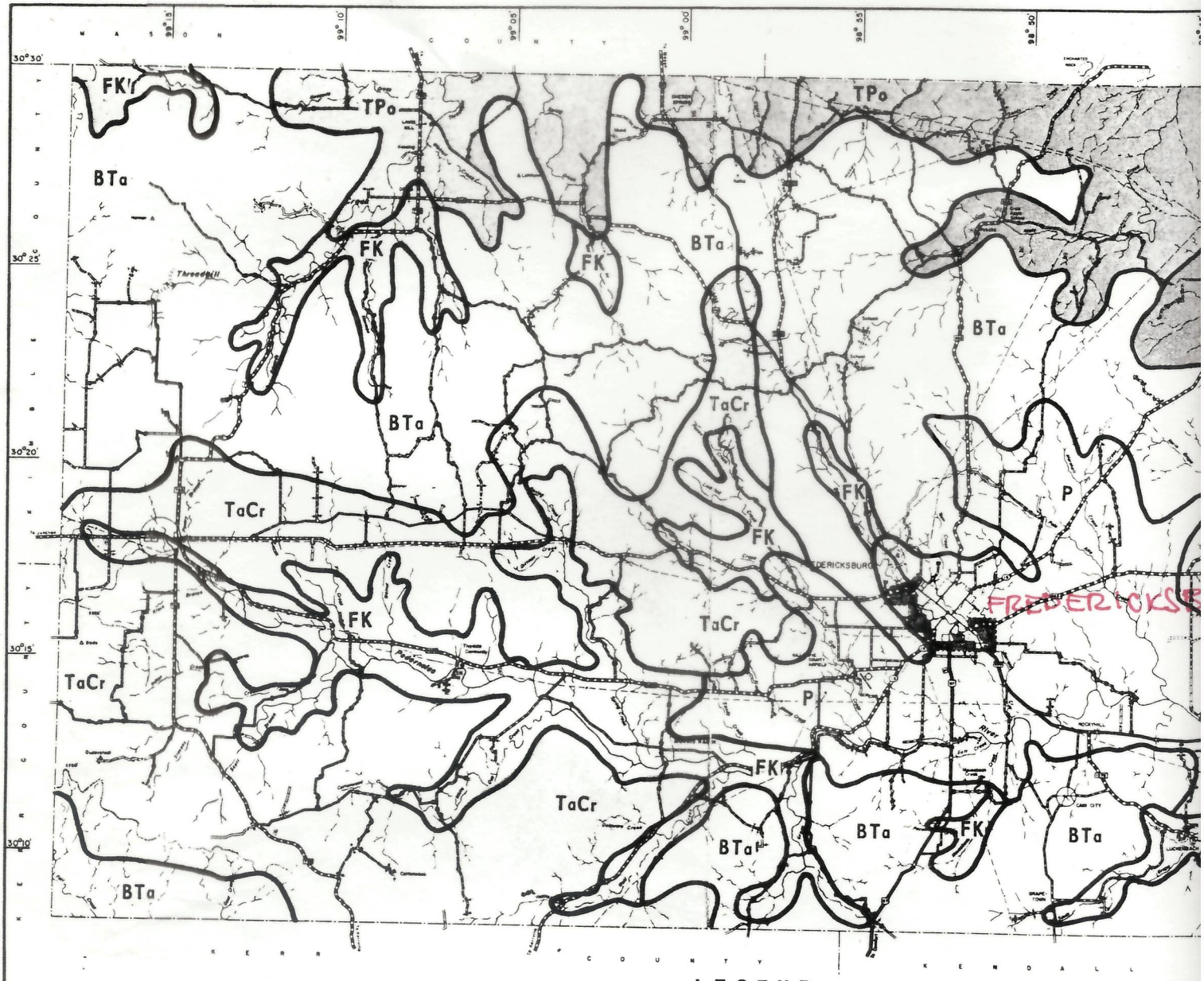
FIGURE 1
GENERAL SOIL MAP
EASTERN HILL COUNTRY
RESOURCE CONSERVATION
AND DEVELOPMENT PROJECT
Gillespie, Blanco and Portion of Llano
Counties, Texas
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE
TEMPLE, TEXAS

6—68 4—R—26648
Rev. 6-68 Base 4-R-24,837



LEGEND

NEARLY LEVEL TO SLOPING SOILS OF BOTTOMLAND AND VALLEYS.

FK FRIO-KRUM ASSOCIATION
Deep, calcareous clays and cracking clays. Cumulic Haplustolls; Vertic Haplustolls

DEEP, BROWNISH, NEARLY LEVEL TO GENTLY SLOPING SOILS WITH REDDISH CLAYEY SUBSOILS.

P PEDERNALES ASSOCIATION
Non-calcareous, sandy and sandy loam soils with heavy clayey subsoil. Udic Palenstalfs

PP PEDERNALES-PONTOTOC ASSOCIATION
Non-calcareous, sandy loam soils with light sandy clay subsoil. Udic Palenstalfs; Typic Rhodustalfs

SHALLOW AND DEEP, GENTLY SLOPING TO STEEP SOILS, OVER GRANITE, SCHIST, SANDSTONE, AND GNEISS.

TPo TISHMINGO-PONTOTOC ASSOCIATION
Non-calcareous to acid, gravelly sandy loam to sandy loam soils with light sandy clay subsoils over granite, gneiss or schist. Tishomingo not classified; Typic Rhodustalfs

DPo DARNELL-PONTOTOC ASSOCIATION
Non-calcareous fine sandy loam soils with light sandy clay subsoils over sandstone. Udic Ustochrepts; Typic Rhodustalfs

SHALLOW AND MODERA
SLOPING TO STEEP, C
CALCAREOUS CLAYEY
HARD LIMESTONE.

TaCr TARRANT-CRAWF
Shallow, stony soi
non-calcareous so
Haplustolls; Udic

BDe BRACKETT-DENT
Shallow soils over
deep soils over so
Ustochrepts; Verti

BTa BRACKETT-TARF
Light colored, sha
and dark colored,
Rendollic Ustochre

DeS DENTON-SAN SAB
Moderately deep a
limestone. Vertic

Base from General Highway Map - 1966 - Reproduction Permission Granted U. S. Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service, Fort Worth, Texas.
USDA-SCS-FORT WORTH, TEX. 1968