

Textile Preservation Associates, Inc.

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TREATMENT REPORT

Date December 3, 2001

TPA No. 1105
Object Galveston 2nd Nat'l.

Client Texas State Archives
P. O. Box 12927
1201 Brazos Street
Austin, TX 78711-2927

Contact Chris LaPlante
Phone (512) 463-5467
FAX (512) 463-5436

DOCUMENTATION

2 Kodachrome 200, 35mm color slides were taken before treatment.
9 Digital photos were taken before and after treatment.
Analysis: See attached report.

Description

Size: Leading edge: 69" Fly: 145"

The flag is constructed in the pattern of a Confederate 2nd National in wool. The canton measures 43" on the hoist and 54" on the fly and has a St. Andrews cross measuring 5 1/4" in width. The fimbriation measures 1 3/4". The stars are inserted in the cross. The fly consists of three pieces of white wool seamed horizontally. The pieces of wool measure 23", 22 1/2" and 23" in width. The leading edge has a 1 3/4" wide hoist of linen/cotton with a rope inserted for attachment. On the top obverse side of the hoist is printed the following: "MAJOR CHAS. R. BENTON C.S.A. Chief Ordinance M. A. R. ??? ery Defenses of Galveston Tex".

Condition

The flag is intact except for a 1" section of the hem on the fly end of the bottom bar. There is a 3" x 4" hole in the center of the fly near the bottom seam and a 2" square hole along the top edge 2" from the canton. There is a 1" x 2" hole on the top edge of canton and another hole in the bottom quadrant of canton. There is a series of smaller holes along the center of the top edge and in the center of the fly. The flag is extremely soiled throughout. The wool is brittle and degraded. The hoist edge has a 1" burn hole in the center.

REPORT OF TREATMENT

Documentation

1. The flag, as received, was photographed on both sides (see photos 1-3). A detail photo was taken of the printing on the hoist (see photo 4). The condition of the fabrics was evaluated to determine the stability of the fibers.
2. The fibers, fabrics, and sewing threads were analyzed. Information about the construction of the flag, and any evidence of alterations to the original were noted. Scale drawings were made of the flag and an analysis report prepared. Particle samples were taken for the files.

Stabilization

3. The flag was vacuum cleaned to remove airborne particles and tested to see if wet cleaning was necessary and possible.
4. The flag was de-acidified by soaking through changes of deionized water. The pH of the water was monitored and changed as necessary until the flag reached a neutral state. The flag was blotted to remove excess water, fibers aligned, and the decoration flattened under glass weights. The flag was air dried under glass weights. The flag was photographed on both sides after flattening (see photos 5-9).
5. Several areas in the canton where the seams were completely broken were re sewn with running stitches using 3 ply Z silk threads of appropriate color. A section of the lower fly seam was also re sewn (see drawing #12).

Preparation for Exhibition

The flag is mounted in a pressure mount frame. This is a custom made exhibit case that will provide the fabrics with uniform support over the entire surface and create an internally buffered, stable environment that will protect the object from outside contaminants.

6. A buffered, acid-free panel¹ was prepared then covered with nonwoven polyester batting² and a previously washed, unbleached, airwing grade, fine cotton fabric³. Distortions in the canton portion of the flag prevented that area from lying flat so additional layers of batting were built up on the panel under three arms of the cross. The batting was covered with the air wing fabric to prevent contamination of the flag. The flag was thus supported by pressure on the cross with minimal pressure on the quadrants preventing creasing of the folds in the quadrants.

7. The flag was attached to the padded panel with one row of stitching across the top using appropriately colored 3 ply Z silk threads. The flag was photographed on the panel (see photo 10).

8. Ultra-violet filtering SG-100 Lexan⁴ was laid over the flag, applying a light pressure to the fabric. The entire unit was placed in a custom made frame with an aluminum back for support and a large decorative outer frame of aluminum finished in Light Chestnut Metallic, #84-34397 lacquer.

9. A final photo was taken (see photo 11) and a treatment report prepared.

PROGNOSIS

The object should be exhibited under less than five foot-candles of light. Because any light is damaging, it is recommended that the piece be rotated between exhibit and storage, or covered with a dense cloth when not being viewed. Maximum effort should be made to reduce the total exposure to light. Care should be taken to avoid aiming lights directly on the case, which can cause a "greenhouse" effect, or heat build up within the unit.

To best preserve the object, the temperature and humidity level should be kept fairly constant, with temperatures of less than 70 degrees Fahrenheit and a relative humidity of 45% plus or minus 5%. Avoid hanging the object against an outside wall, or place spacers between the wall and the frame to prevent humidity transfer.

If this object is ever stored, it can be placed flat or vertical. We recommend storage in the frame, since it is part of the conservation treatment and will provide a more stable environment.

HANGING THE FRAME

There are two metal tabs along the top of the frame for hooking onto a screw or bolt. Phillips head screws are inserted in the back of the frame and can be removed to open the frame if it is ever necessary. A bottle of touch up paint with a brush is also

included.

CARE OF THE PLEXIGLAS

The plexiglas is soft and may scratch so care must be taken during handling. Plexiglas should not be cleaned with ammonia based window cleaners. Either plexiglas cleaner should be purchased, or water with a drop of liquid dishwasher detergent can be used along with very soft rags (diapers or gauze). If paper towels are used they should be extremely soft.

Total treatment hours: 34

Signed: Fonda G. Thomsen Date: 5/29/03
Fonda Ghiardi Thomsen, Fellow AIC,
Director, Textile Preservation Associates, Inc.

Work on the object was carried out by Cathy Heffner, Nissa Thomsen and Mary Jo Clemens, Conservation Technicians, and Fonda G. Thomsen, Conservator.

Reference list of materials used in the conservation of this object.

1. Corrugated Board, buffered, acid free: Hollinger Corporation, P.O. Box 8360, Fredericksburg, VA 22404 (800) 634-0491.
2. Batting, "Jasztex" a thermo bonded polyester batting: Museum Services Corporation, 1107 East Cliff Road, Burnsville, MN 55337.

"Poly-fil Traditional Batting" a non-woven, needle punched batting: Fairfield Processing Corporation, 88 Rose Hill Avenue, Danbury, CT 06810.
3. Cotton, a 100% airwing grade fabric: Fox Reich Textiles, Inc., 54 Danbury Road, Suite 228, Ridgefield, CT 06877 (914) 533-2445.
4. Lexan SG-100: made by General Electric Company, 812 Moorefield Drive, Suite 121, Richmond, VA 23236 (804) 323-4880.



TPA #1105
As received, obverse



TPA #1105
After treatment, obverse

"City of Galveston Flag"

Drawing No: 1 Construction

OBVERSE

TPA # 1105

Major Chas. R. BENTON, CSA.

Chief Ordinance

Scale

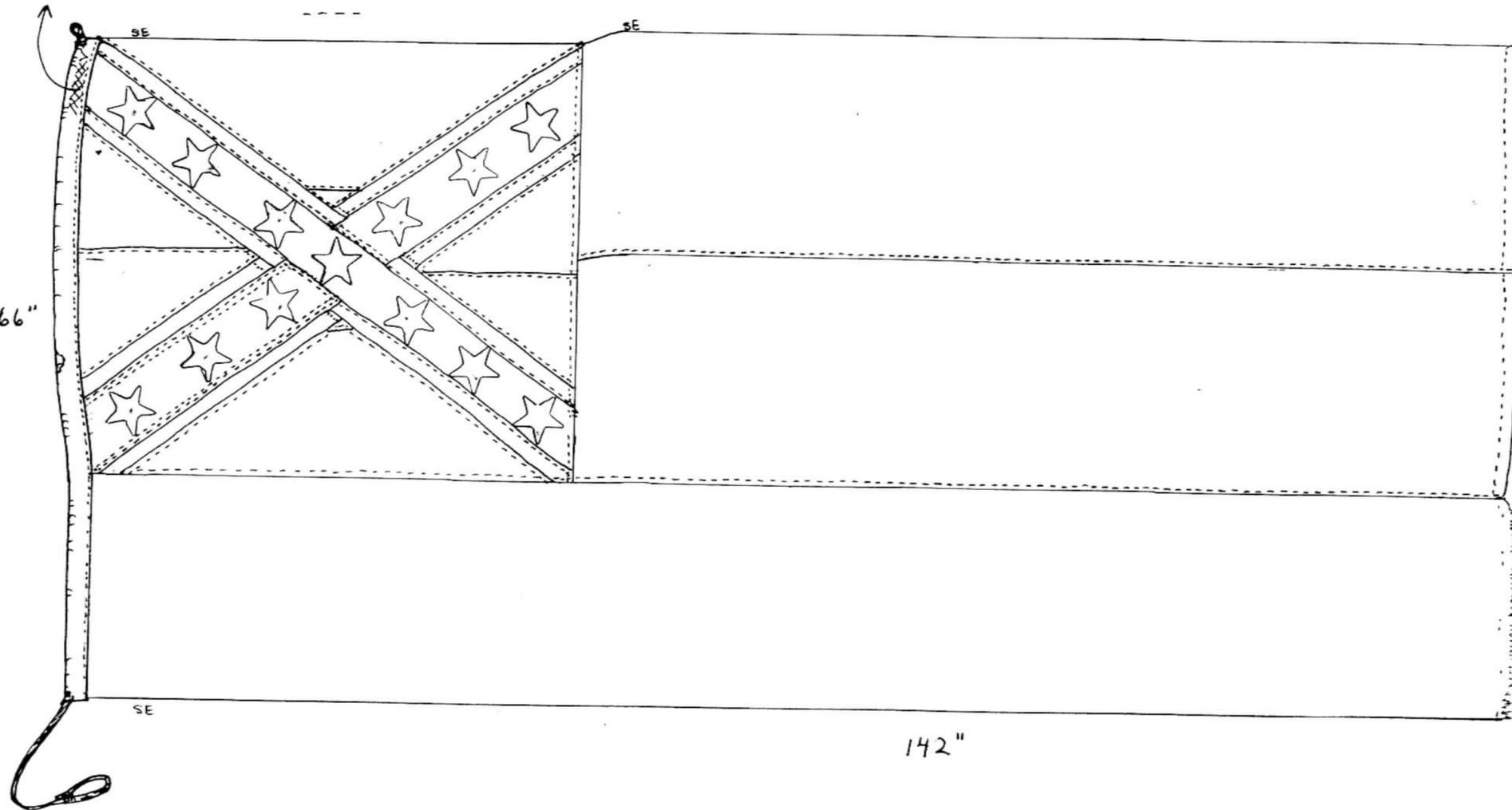
$\frac{1}{8}'' = 1.5''$

0 3" 6" 9" 1

6"



stars av. 6
inserted:
canton



142"

Drawing No: 2 Construction

REVERSE TPA # 110E

Scale

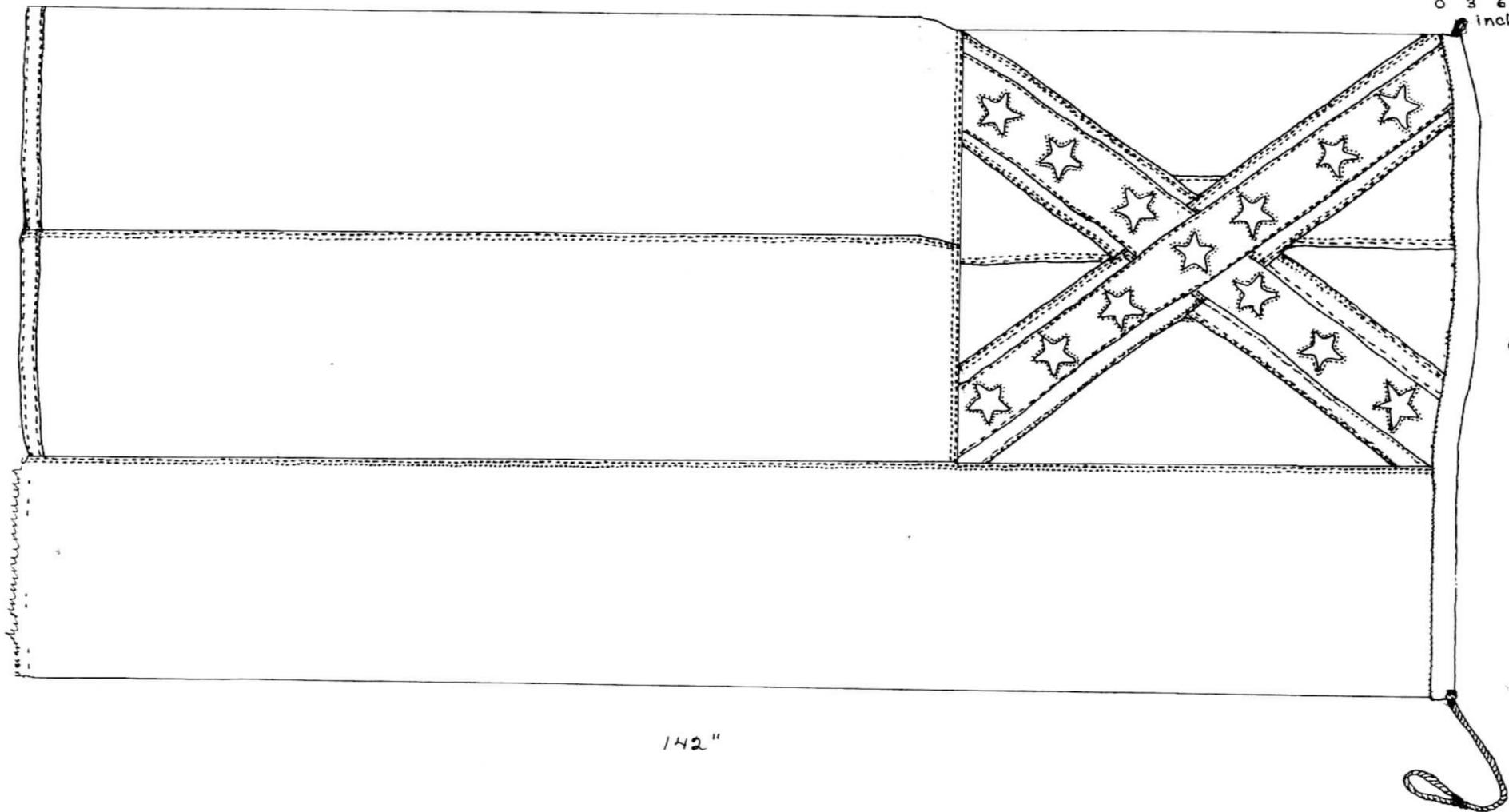
$\frac{1}{8}'' = 1.5'$

0 3 6 9
inches

$\frac{1}{4}''$



Star inserted



142"

66

"City of Galveston flag"

Drawing No: 3 Condition

OBVERSE

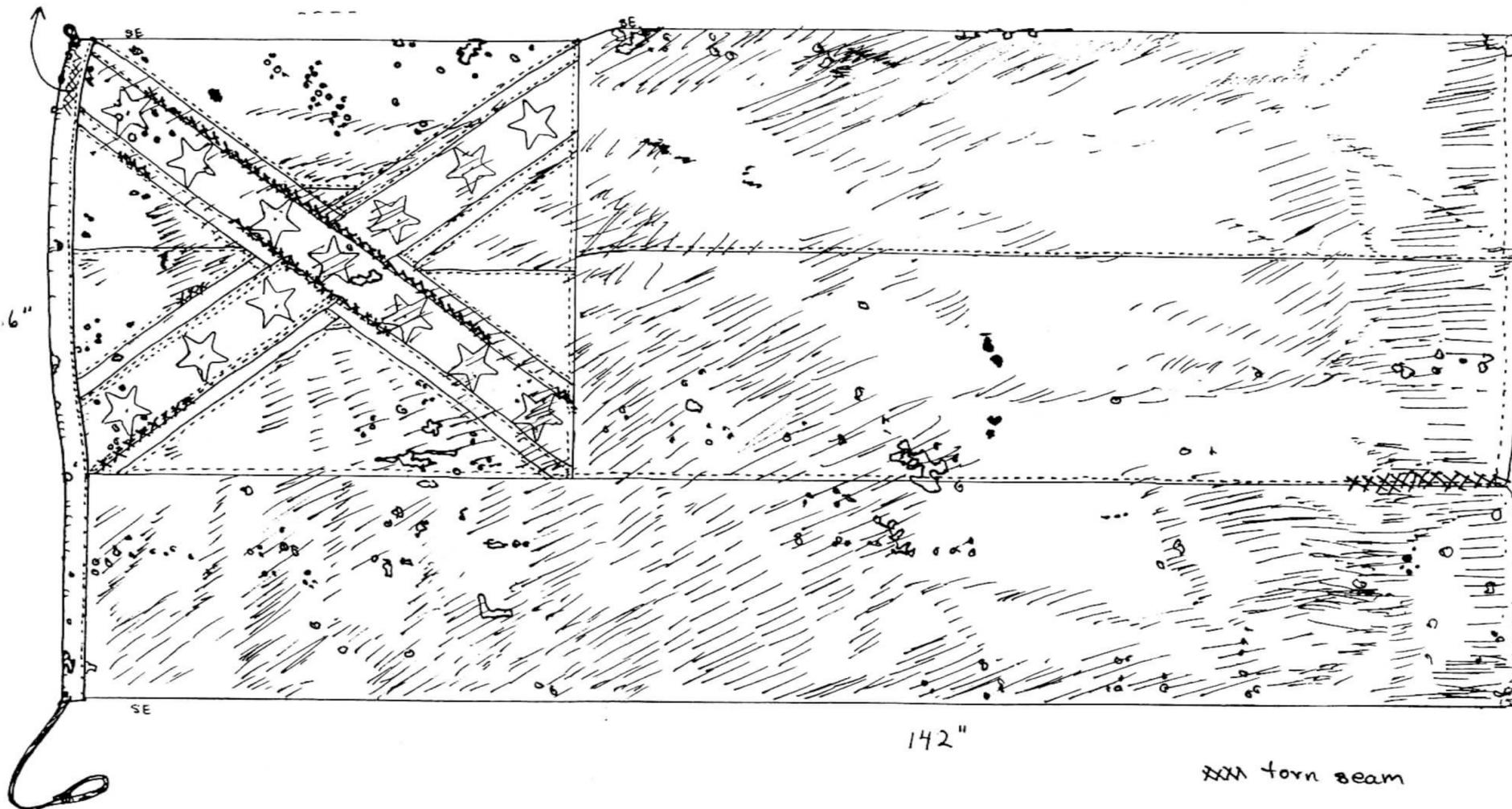
TPA # 1105

Major Chas. R. BENTON, CSA
chief Ordinance

Scale

1/8" = 1.5"

0 3" 6" 9"



stars av. 6
inserted
canton

XXX torn seam

● spots

⊗ holes

/// stains

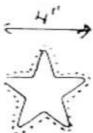
Drawing No: 4 Condition

REVERSE TPA # 1105

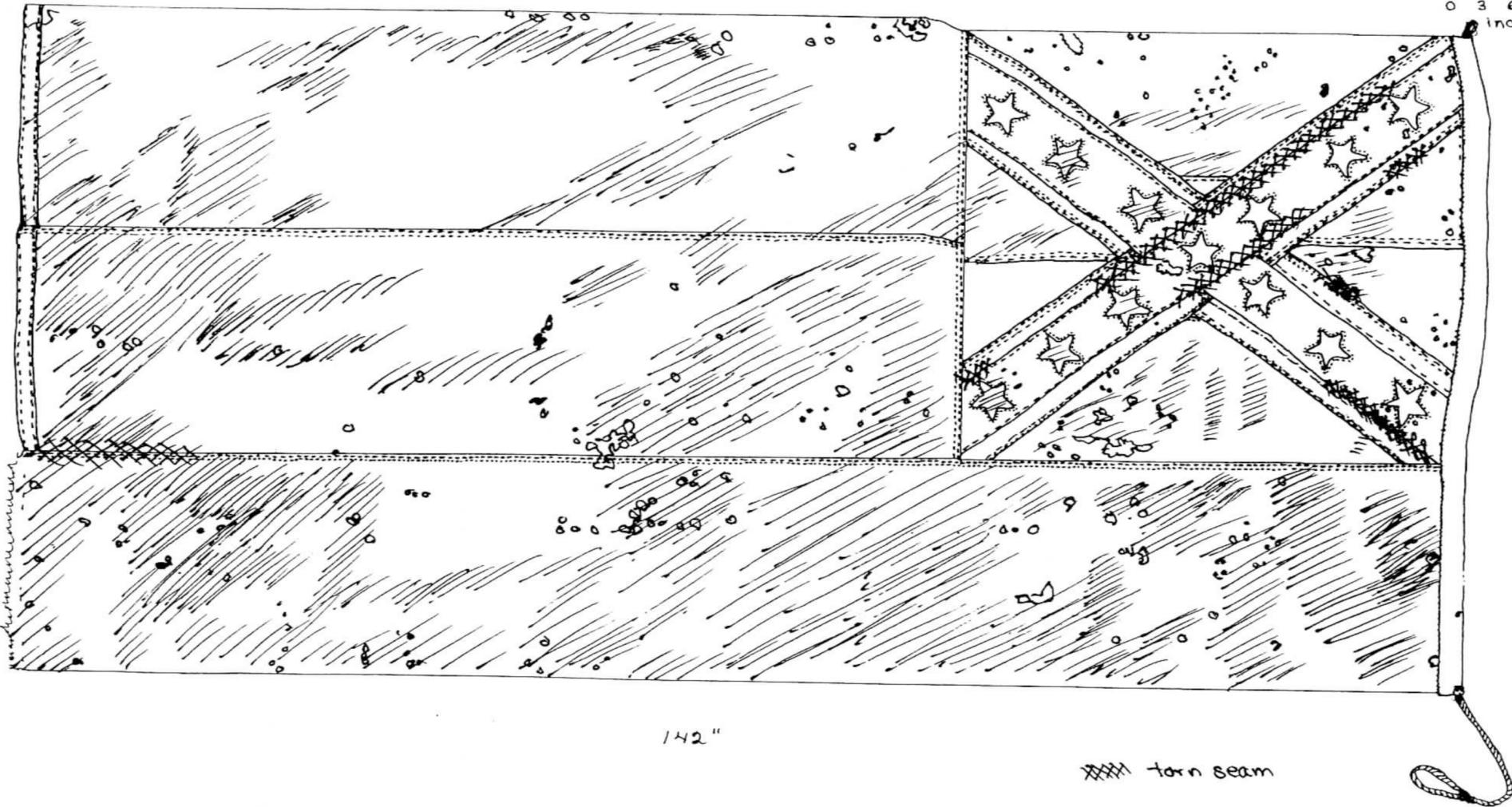
Scale

1/8" = 1.5'

0 3 6 9
inches



Star inserted



142"

/// torn seam

● spots

☒ holes

/// stains

"City of Galveston Flag"

MAJOR Chas. R. BENTON, CSA
Chief Ordinance

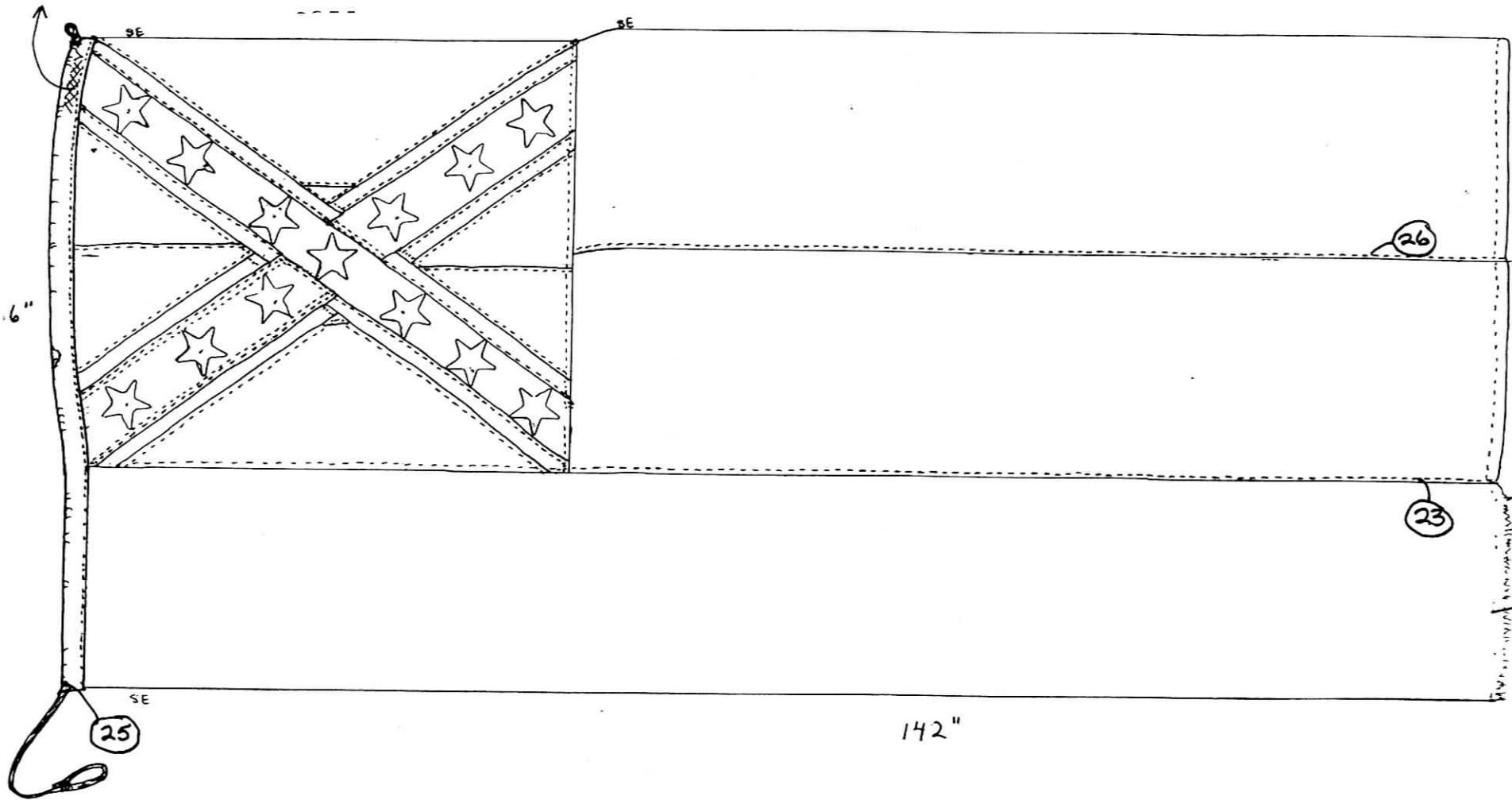
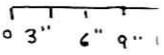
Drawing No: 5 Sampling

OBVERSE

TPA # 1105

Scale

1/8" = 1.5"



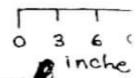
stars av. 6
inserted
canton

Drawing No: 6 Sampling

REVERSE TPA # 1105

Scale

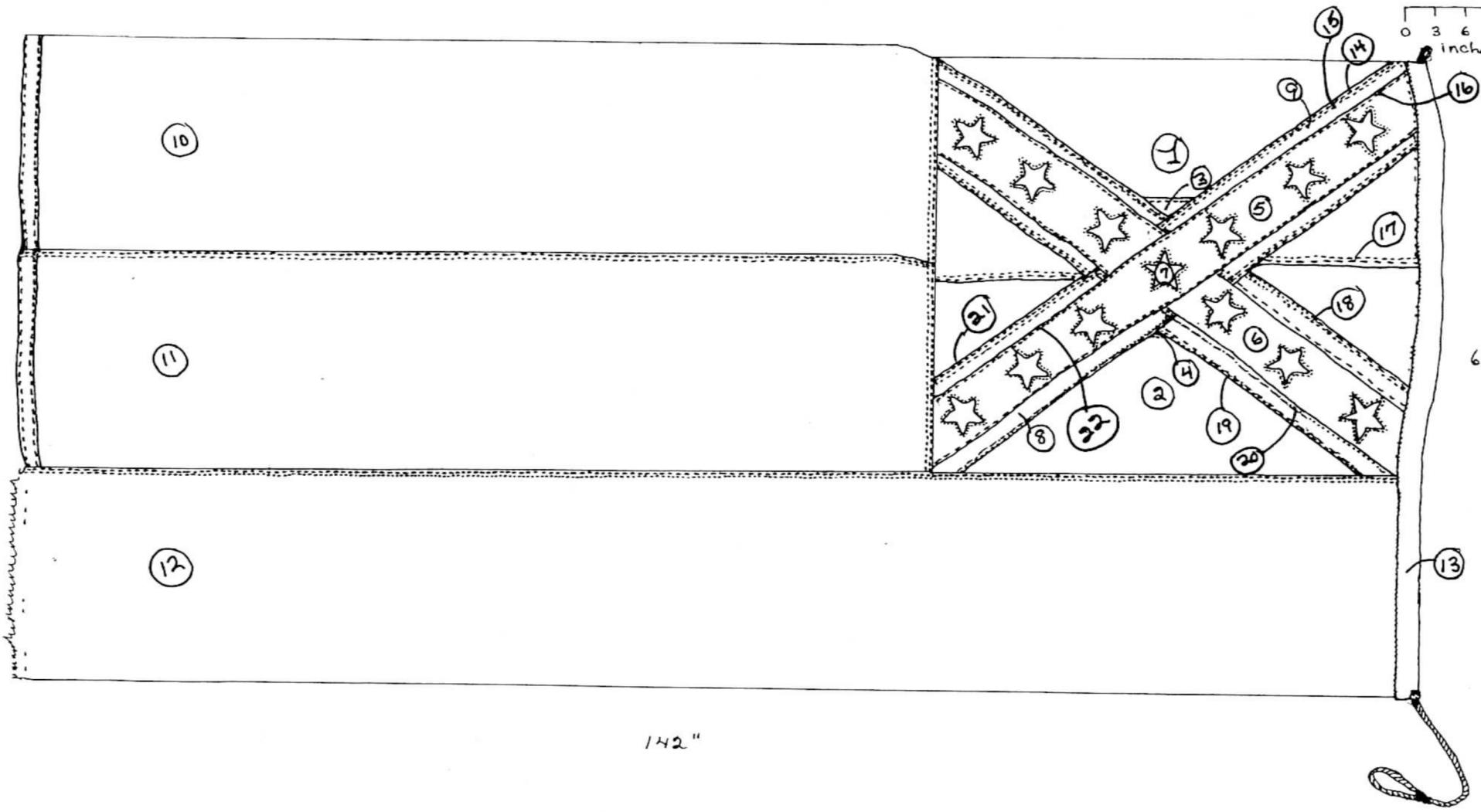
1/8" = 1.5'



1/4"



Star inserted



66

142"

"City of Galveston flag"

Drawing No: 7 Sewing Threads

OBVERSE

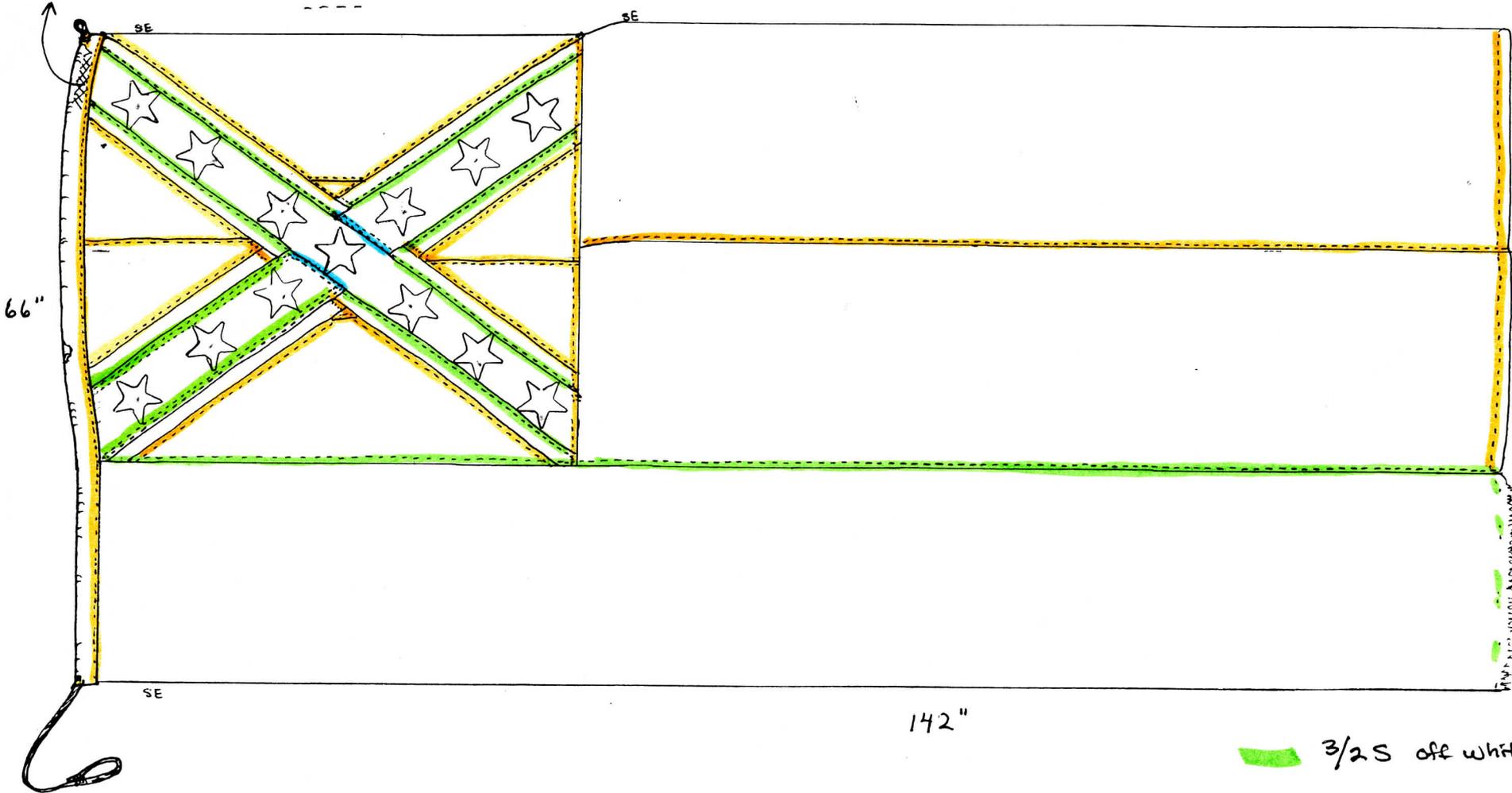
TPA # 1105

Scale

1/8" = 1.5"

0 3" 6" 9"

Major Chas. R. BENTON, CSA
chief Ordinance



stars av. 6
inserted
canton

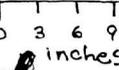
- 3/2 S off white cotton
- 2 S tan linen
- 3 S off white cotton
- 3/2 S brown cotton

Drawing No: 8 Sewing Threads

REVERSE TPA # 110E

Scale

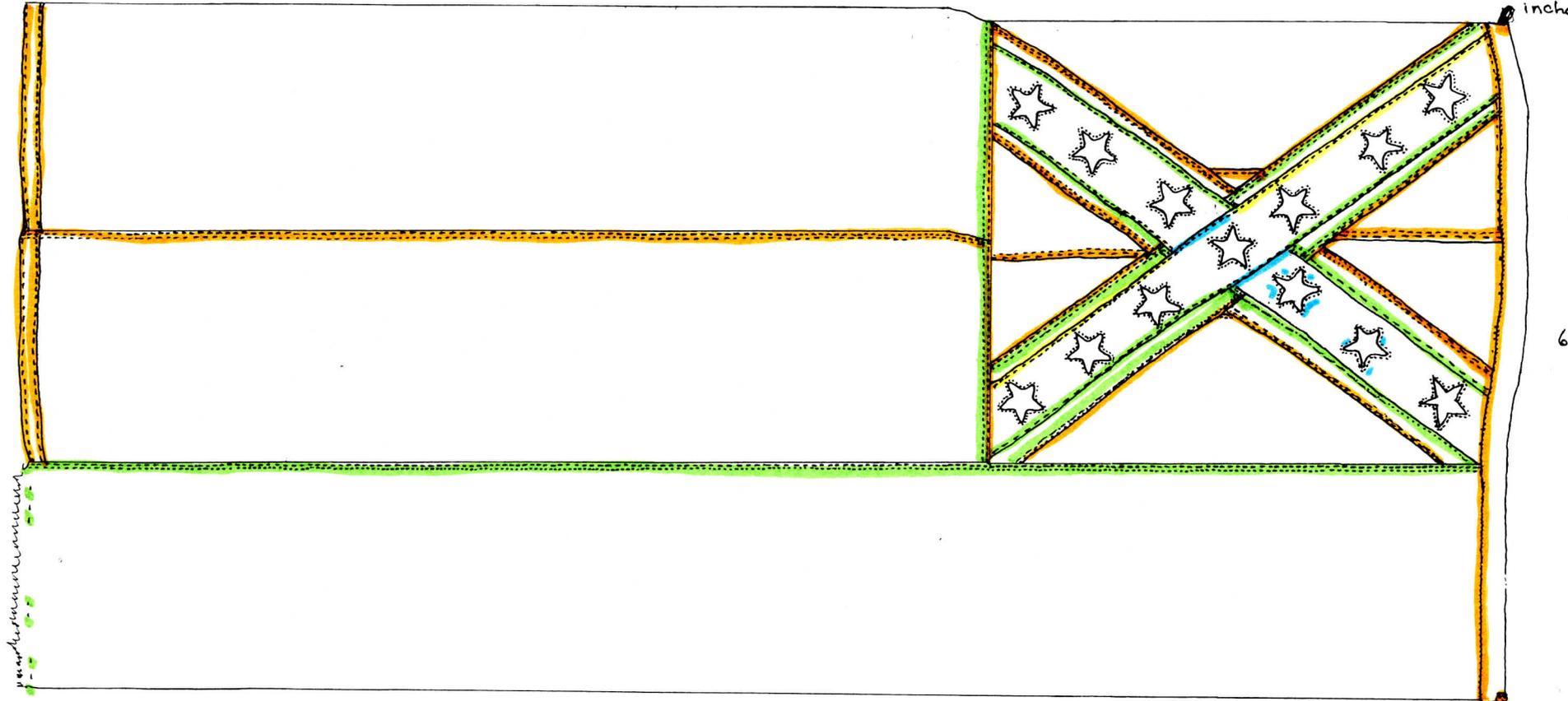
1/8" = 1.5'



4"



Star inserted



142"

-  3/2 S ~~tan~~ off white cotton
-  2 S tan linen
-  3 S off white cotton
-  3/2 S brown cotton

"City of Galveston Flag"

Drawing No: 9 Selvages

OBVERSE

Major Chas. R. BENTON, CSA
Chief Ordinance

TPA # 1105

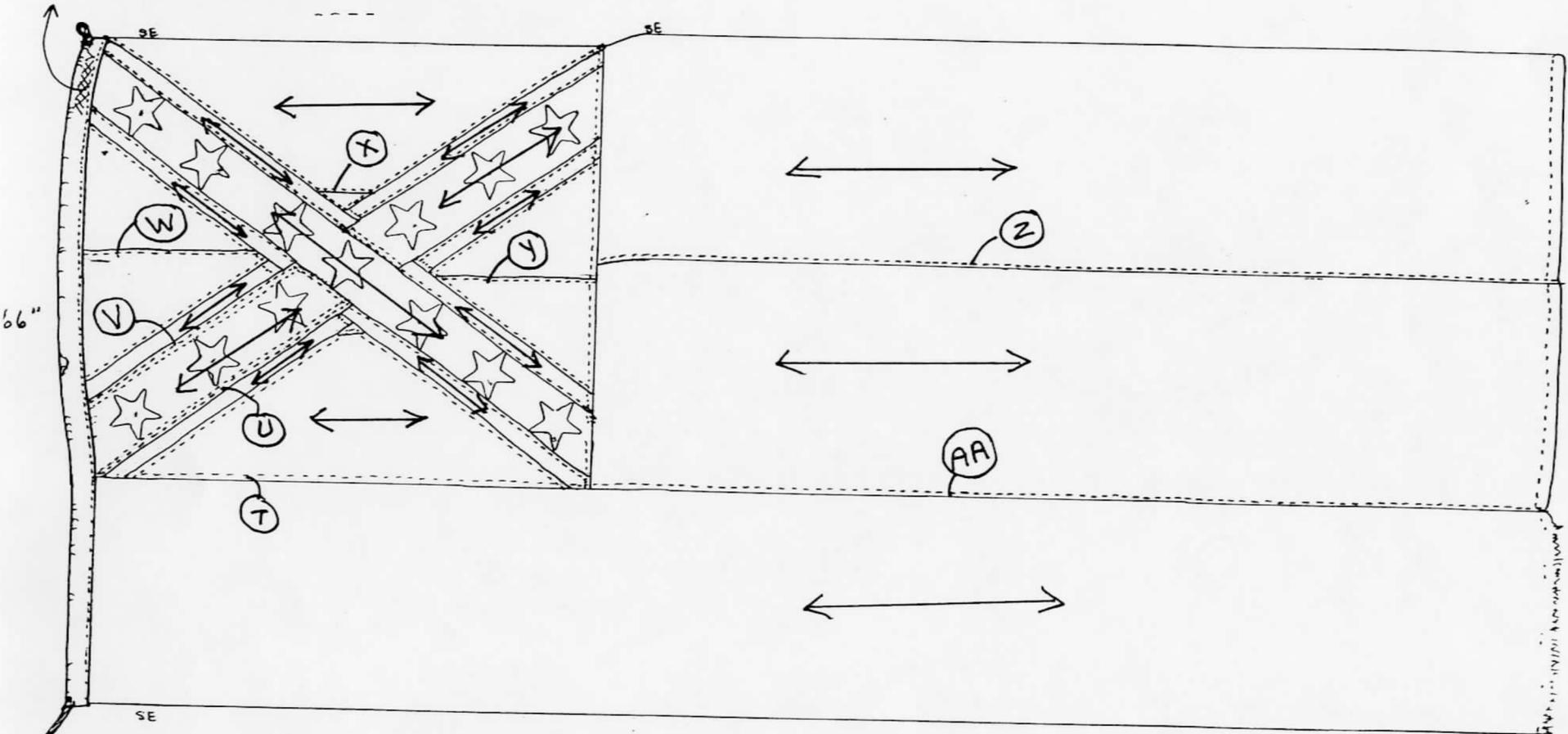
Scale

1/8" = 1.5"

0 3" 6" 9"



stars av. 6
inserted
canton



- T 7 pr red
- U 5 pr blue
- V 2-2-1-2-2-2 blue
- W 8 pr red
- X 8 pr red

- Y 8 pr red 142"
- Z 7 pr white
- AA 7 pr white

↔ warp direction

Drawing No: 10 Selvages

REVERSE TPA # 1105

Scale

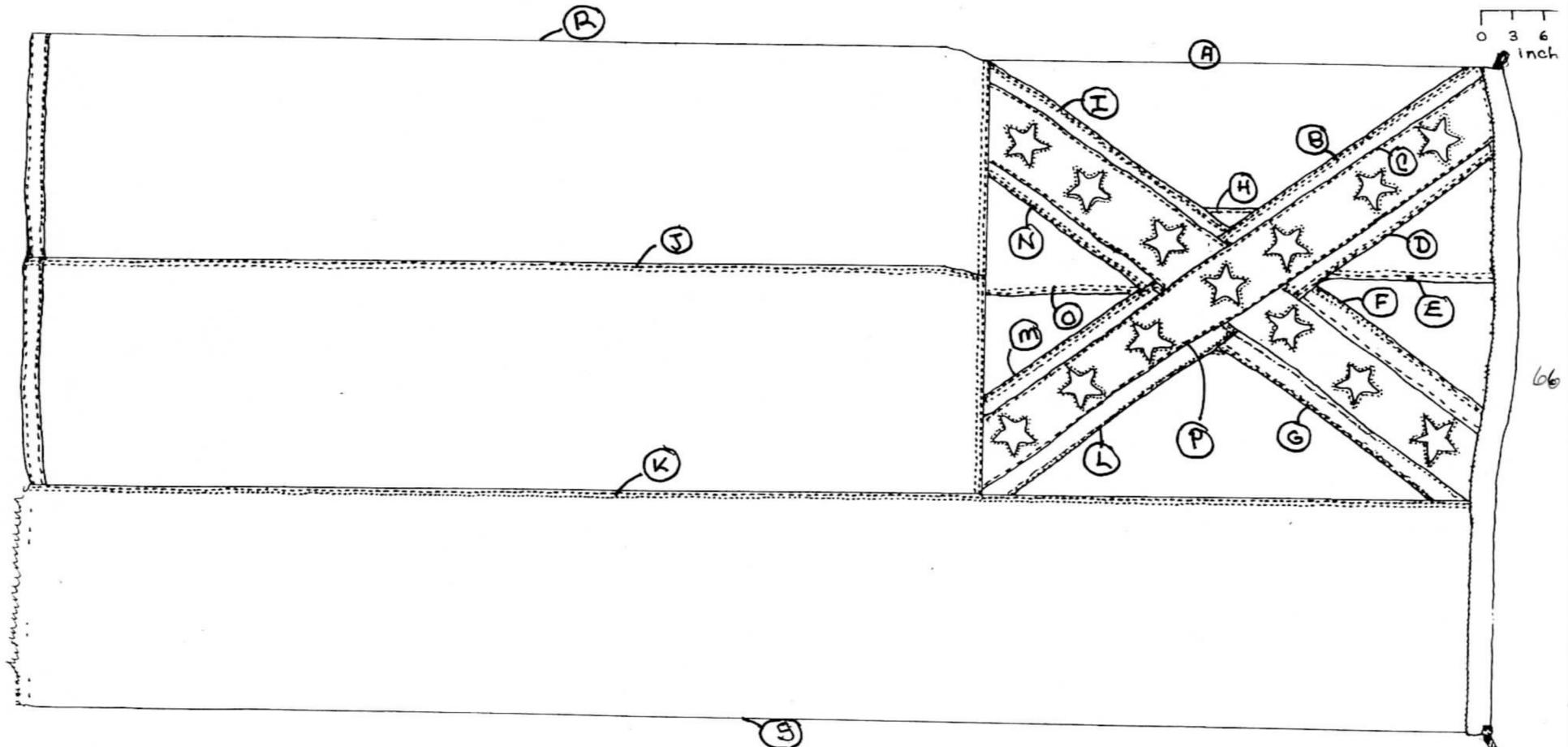
1/8" = 1.5

0 3 6
inch

4"



Star inserted



A 7 pr red

B 4 pr white

C 3 pr blue

D 4 pr white

E 3-2-2-2-2-2-2 red

F 4 pr white

G 4 pr white

H 6 pr red

I 4 pr white

J 2-2-1-2-2-2-2 white

K 8 pr white

L 4 pr white

142"

M 4 pr white

N 4 pr white

O 17 pr red

P 2-2-1-2-2 blue

Q 5 pr blue

R 7 pr white

S 7 pr white

66

"City of Galveston Flag"

Drawing No: 12

Treatment

OBVERSE

TPA # 1105

Scale

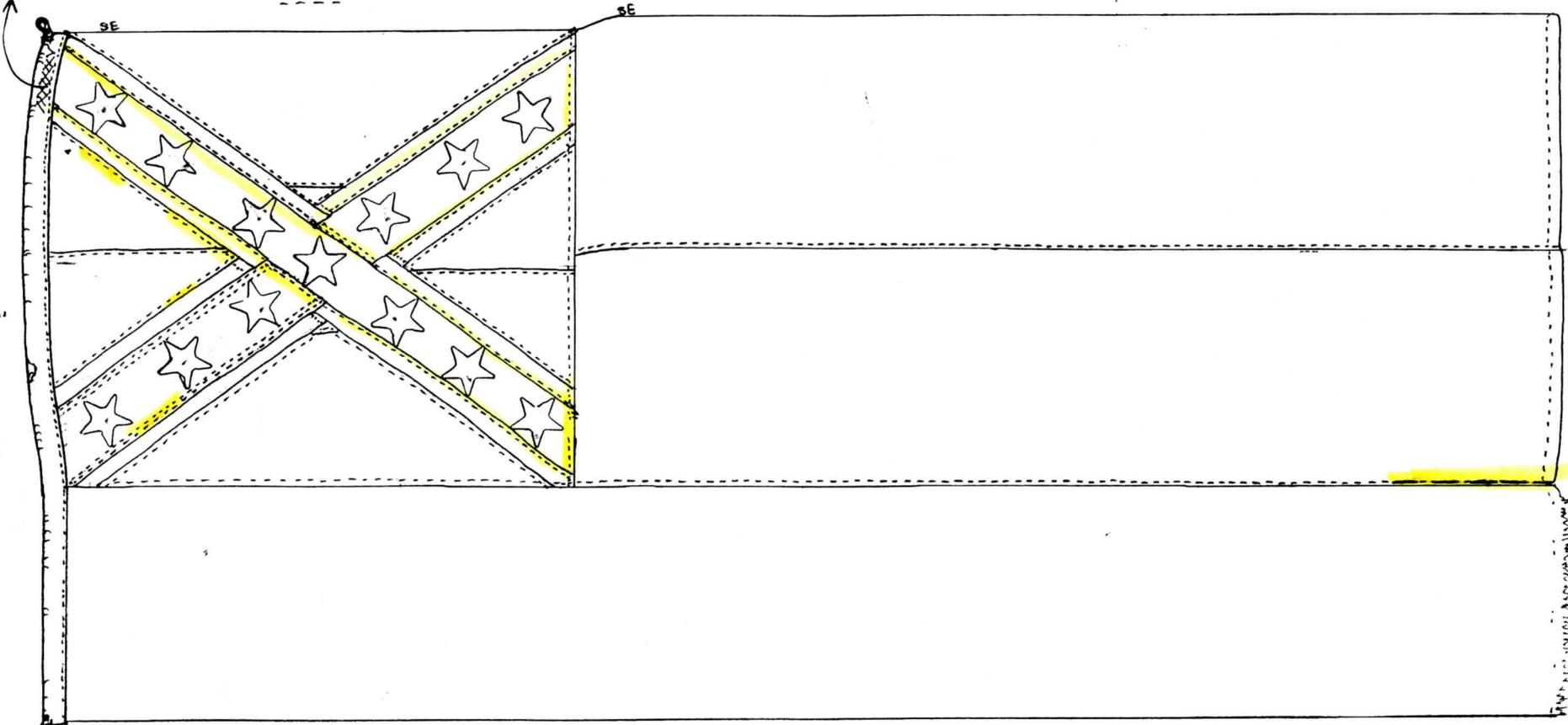
1/8" = 1.5"



stars av. 6" inserted in canton

Major Chas. R. BENTON, CSA
Chief Ordinance

Broken seams resewn



142"