

# *Textile Preservation Associates, Inc.*

---

P.O. BOX 60 • KEEDYSVILLE, MARYLAND 21756 • PHONE (301) 432-4160 FAX (301) 432-8797

## TREATMENT REPORT

Date July 28, 2000

TPA No. 1073  
Object 5th Texas Hood's Brigade  
Cat. No. M-29-80

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

7 Kodachrome 25, 35mm color slides were taken before and after treatment.  
Analysis: See attached report.

### Description

Size: Leading edge: 60 1/2" Fly: 84 1/5" (including a 2 1/2" fringe)

The flag is a Texas Lone Star variant of a First National pattern constructed of one layer of silk fabric. There is a blue canton that measures 31" on the hoist and 37" on the fly. In the center of the canton (on both sides) is appliquéd a 10 1/2" star of white silk. The fly consists of three horizontal bars; red (19"), white (17 1/2") and red (19"). The traditionally red silk bars appear violet in color. There is no evidence that they were originally red. A purple hue may have been the original color. There is a 2" metallic fringe on the top edge and a 2 1/2" metallic fringe on the bottom edge. The fringe on the fly edge is missing. The leading edge is bound with a 1 1/4" white silk ribbon wrapped around both sides. There are remnants of two silk ribbon ties at the top and bottom for attachment. There are two small areas missing at the leading edge where two additional ties may have been attached. There are remnants of two

overlapping ribbons sewn near the top of the leading edge. There is one white ribbon 4 1/2" wide and one red 4 1/4" wide.

## Condition

### Previous treatment

The flag was treated with a Richey treatment which consists of laying the flag on a linen backing and covering the entire surface with rows of stitching. The canton was cut away and removed from the fly and backed separately then resewn to the fly.

### Present condition

The canton has multiple vertical splits and is very weak. The previous treatment left the canton totally separated from the fly. The star on the obverse side of the canton is fragmented with some loss. The star on the reverse is mostly intact. The bars are severely damaged with multiple holes and splits throughout. Many of the holes appear to be the result of insect damage. There are several stains and tide lines in the fly. There is considerable breakage along the tide lines, especially in the red silk. There is a 4" by 3" section of the bottom corner missing along with 7" of the fringe. The bottom hoist corner has suffered some loss including 3" of fringe. There is a 12" section of fringe missing at the top fly end. There is approximately 1" to 2" missing from the fly end including the fringe. The seam between the two bottom bars is complete. The previous treatment has left a pattern of tiny holes and wrinkling throughout. The binding on the hoist is weak and one element of the weave has deteriorated leaving only strands. The two ties at the center of the flag are completely missing along with a fragment of the leading edge. The top and bottom ties have only fragments remaining. The silk is badly faded throughout. The traditionally red silk bars appear violet in color. There is no evidence that they were originally red. A purple hue may have been the original color.

## REPORT OF TREATMENT

### *Documentation*

1. The flag, as received, was photographed on both sides (see photos 1-2). The condition of the fabrics was evaluated to determine the stability of the fibers.
2. Most of the previous treatment stitches had been removed prior to arrival by The Panhandle Plains Museum. The previous treatment that remained was removed by cutting each stitch, working under 10x magnification, then removing the thread fragments. The lining fabric was then removed from the flag. The flag was photographed on the reverse after the previous treatment was removed (see photo 3).

3. Once the original flag was accessible and additions and alterations had been noted, the fibers, fabrics, and sewing threads were analyzed. Information about the construction of the flag, and any evidence of alterations to the original was noted. Scale drawings were made of the flag and an analysis report was prepared. Particle samples were taken for the files.

#### *Stabilization*

4. To relax the fabrics and remove creases, the flag was humidified by light misting with distilled water. When relaxed, the fabrics were flattened and dried under glass weights. Separated pieces were returned to their original location.

5. The flag was sandwiched between two layers of Stabiltex<sup>1</sup>, a multifilament polyester crepeline. On the reverse side blue was used over the canton and ecru over the entire fly. On the obverse side blue was used over the canton, ecru over the white bar and the binding on the leading edge and red over the red (violet) bars. The blue on the obverse side was cut away over the star and replaced with ecru. The layers were attached by sewing through the voids. Fragments were aligned and sewn around their perimeter to hold them in place. The canton was arranged in its original position and attachment to the fly was made as part of the encapsulation. Care was taken to eliminate sewing through the fabric where possible, but in large areas with no damage the fabrics were secured with random rows of vertical running stitch through all three layers. Sewing was carried out with thread pulled from the Stabiltex. The Stabiltex was extended to the original size of the flag. The flag was photographed on both sides after encapsulation (see photos 4-5).

#### *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 panel<sup>2</sup> was prepared then covered with nonwoven polyester batting<sup>3</sup> and a previously washed, unbleached, airwing grade, fine cotton fabric<sup>4</sup>.

7. Appropriately colored cotton fabric was cut to size and attached to the padded panel to fill in the color, restore the appearance of missing areas, and bring the flag to the original size. The colored fabric was attached to the panel only.

8. The flag was attached to the padded panel with one row of stitching across the top. Attachment was made through the Stabiltex to avoid additional stress on the flag. The

flag was photographed on the panel (see photo 6).

9. The fringe was combed to lay out flat.

10. Ultra-violet filtering OP-2 Acrylite<sup>5</sup> 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 an outer of aluminum in the client's choice of color, Sand Beige Metallic #34367.

11. A final photo was taken (see photo 7) 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. A phillips head screwdriver may be used for opening 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: 157

Signed: Fonda G. Thomsen Date: 7/28/00

Fonda Ghiardi Thomsen, Fellow AIC,  
Director, Textile Preservation Associates, Inc.

Work on the object was carried out by Cathy Heffner, Conservation Technician, Textile Preservation Associates, Inc. under the supervision of Fonda G. Thomsen, Conservator.

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

1. Stabiltex, a sheer, multifilament, plain weave, polyester: Talas, 568 Broadway, New York, NY 10012 (212) 219-0770.
2. Corrugated Board, buffered, acid free: Hollinger Corporation, P.O. Box 8360, Fredericksburg, VA 22404 (800) 634-0491.
3. 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.
4. Cotton, a 100% airwing grade fabric: Fox Reich Textiles, Inc., 54 Danbury Road, Suite 228, Ridgefield, CT 06877 (914) 533-2445.
5. Acrylite OP-2, a colorless cast ultraviolet filtering acrylic sheet: Cyro Industries, P. O. Box 950, 100 Valley Road, Mt. Arlington, NJ 07856 (416) 675-9433.

TPA # 1073  
Cat. No. - M-29-80

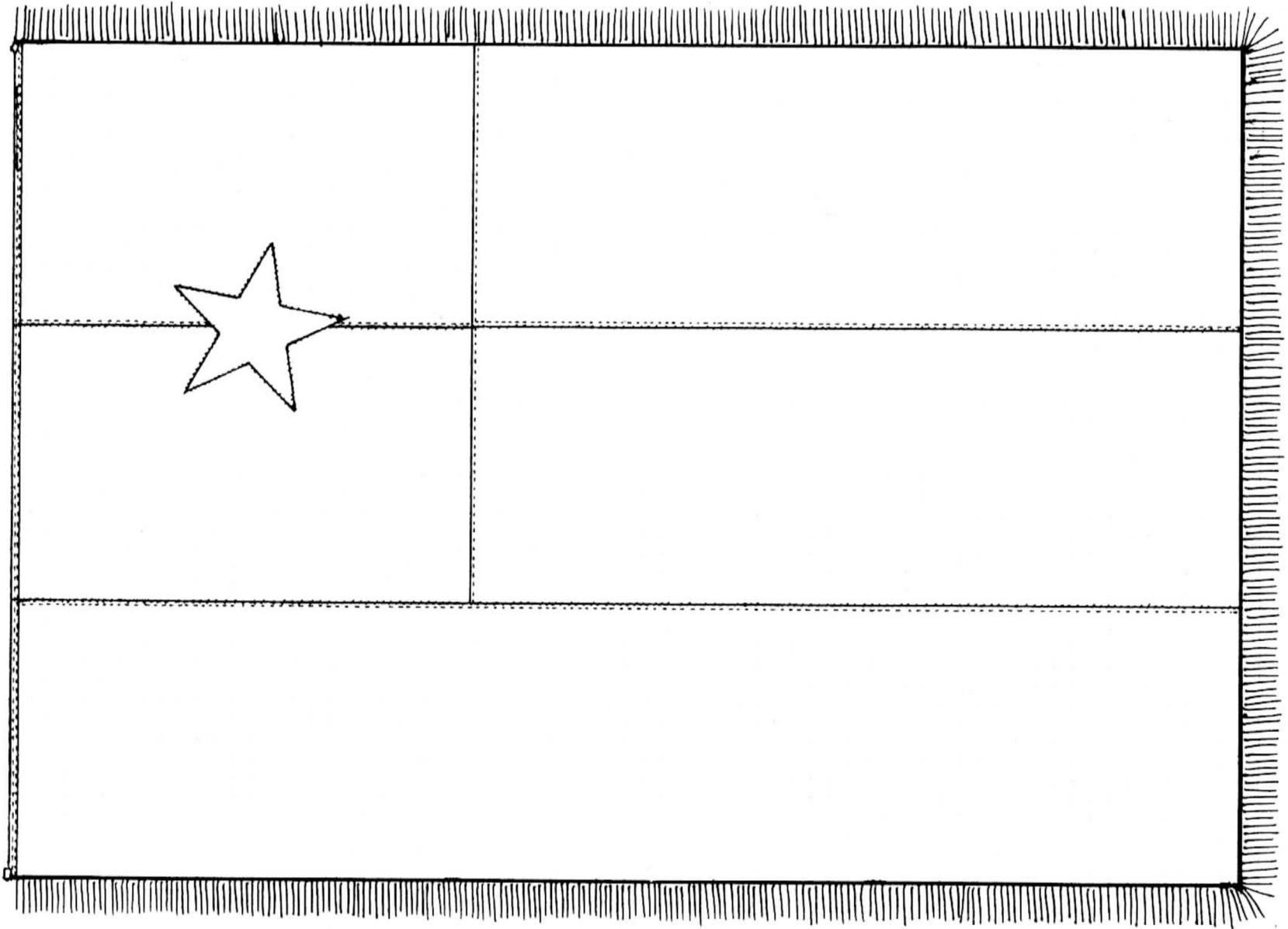
5<sup>th</sup> Texas Hood's Brigade Flag  
Scale: 1" = 10"  $\overbrace{0 \quad 2\frac{1}{2} \quad 5 \quad 7\frac{1}{2} \quad 10}^{\text{inches}}$

OBVERSE

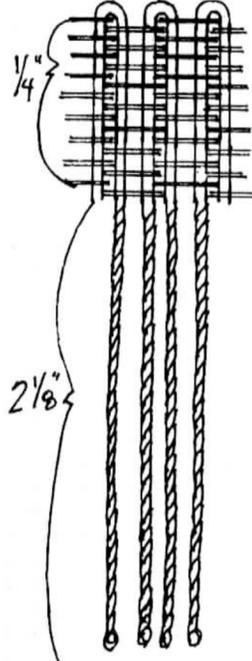
Drawing # 1  
CONSTRUCTION

← 84½" →

↑ 60½"  
↓

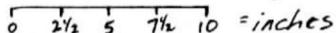


Fringe detail



Bottom flag edge fringe

TPA # 1073  
Cat. No. M-29-80

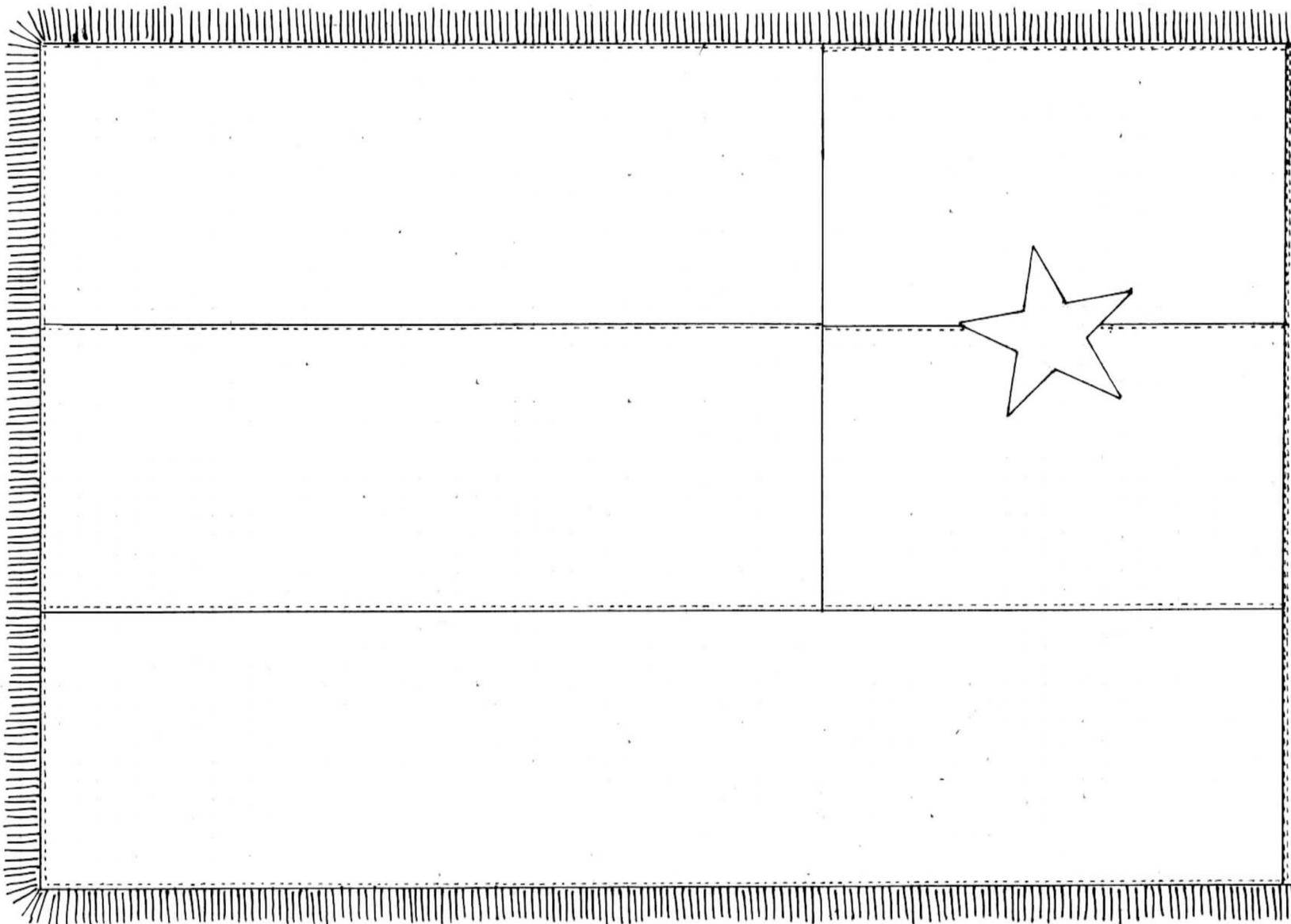
5<sup>th</sup> Texas Hood's Brigade Flag  
Scale: 1" = 10" 

REVERSE

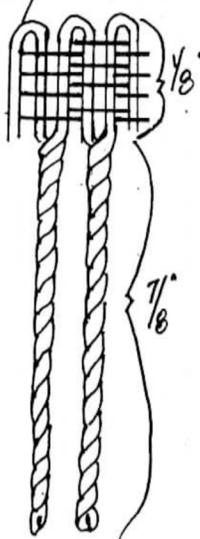
Drawing # 2  
CONSTRUCTION

← 84 1/2" →

↑  
60 1/2"  
↓



Fringe at top  
flag edge.



TPA # 1073  
Cat. No. - M-29-80

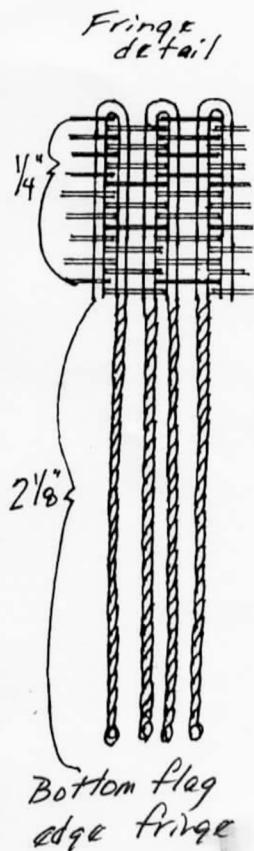
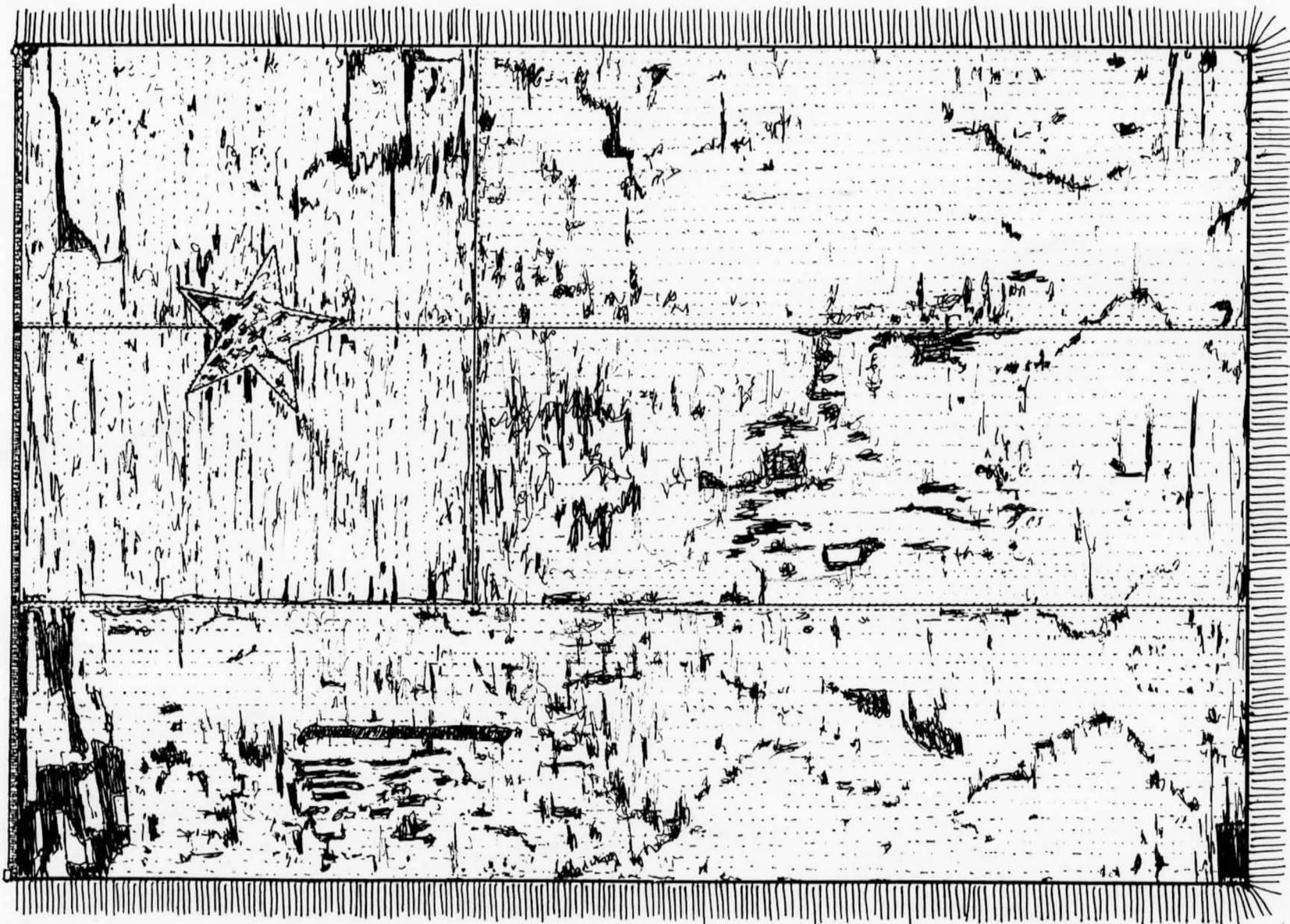
5<sup>th</sup> Texas Hood's Brigade Flag  
Scale: 1" = 10" 0 2 1/2 5 7 1/2 10 = inches

OBVERSE

Drawing # 3  
CONDITION

← 84 1/2" →

↑  
60 1/2"  
↓



TPA # 1073  
Cat. No. M-29-80

5<sup>th</sup> Texas Hood's Brigade Flag  
Scale: 1" = 10"  $\overbrace{0 \quad 2\frac{1}{2} \quad 5 \quad 7\frac{1}{2} \quad 10}$  = inches

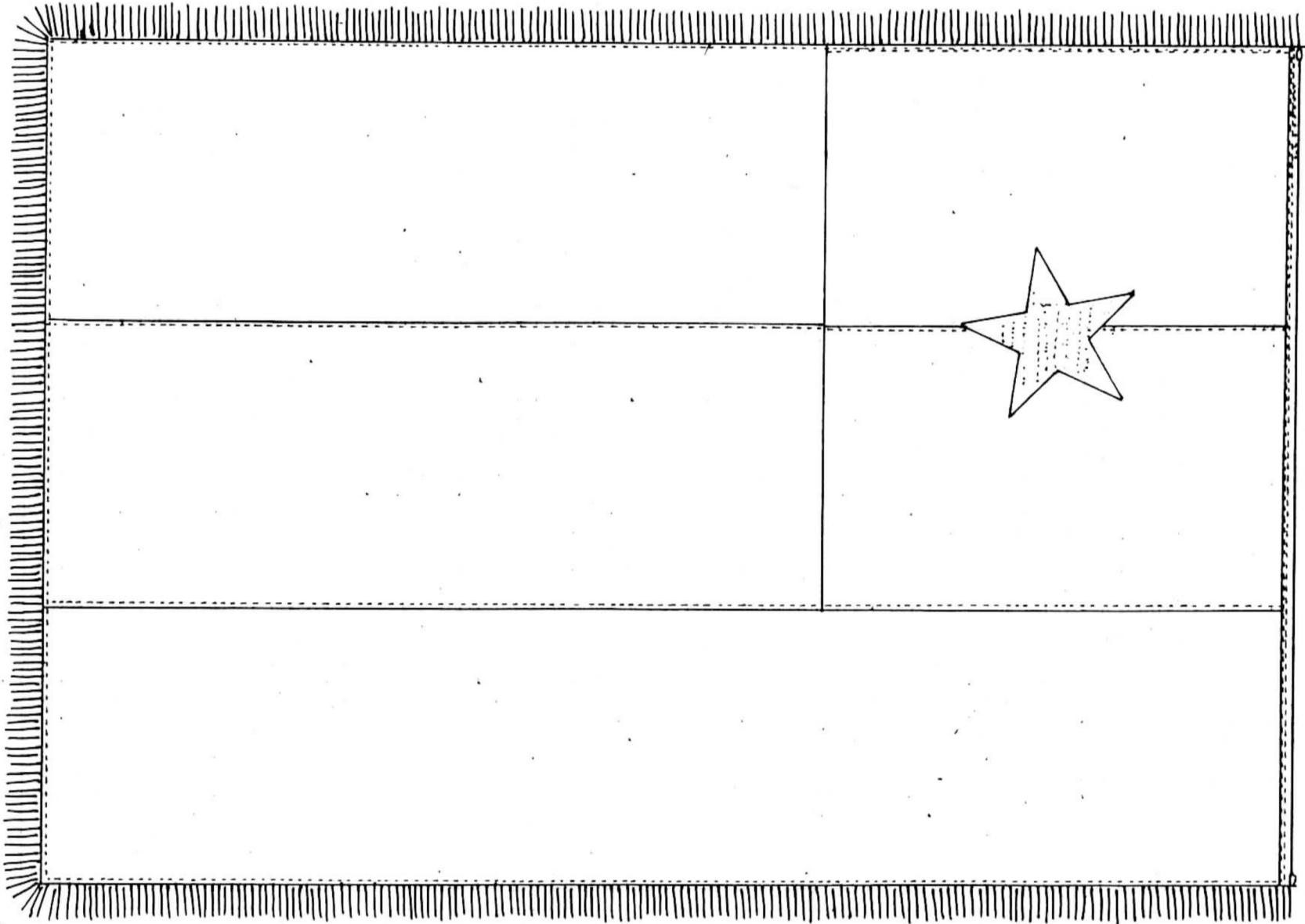
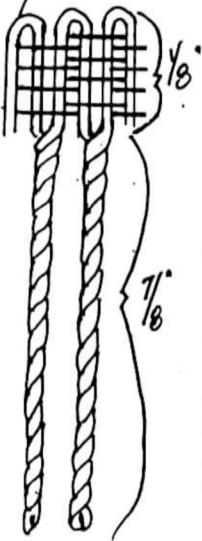
REVERSE

Drawing # 4  
CONDITION  
SAME AS OVERSE  
W/ EXCEPTION OF  
STAR

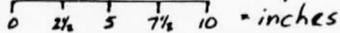
← 84½" →

↑  
60½"  
↓

Fringe at top  
flag edge.



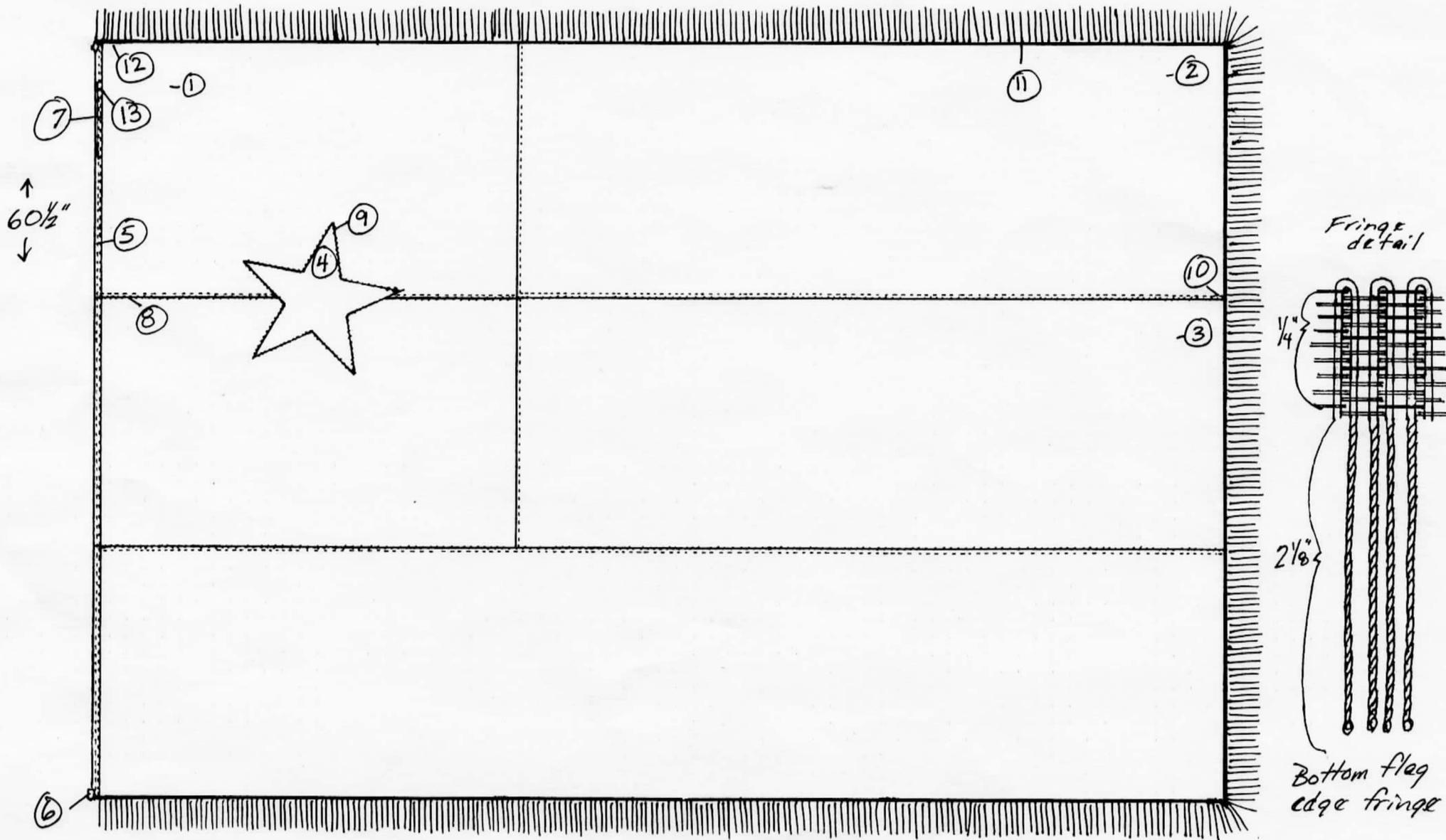
TPA # 1073  
Cat. No. - M-29-80

5<sup>th</sup> Texas Hood's Brigade Flag  
Scale: 1" = 10" 

OBVERSE

Drawing # 5  
SAMPLING

← 84 1/2" →



TPA # 1073  
Cat. No. - M-29-80

5<sup>th</sup> Texas Hood's Brigade Flag  
Scale: 1" = 10" 0 2½ 5 7½ 10 = inches

OBVERSE

Drawing # 6

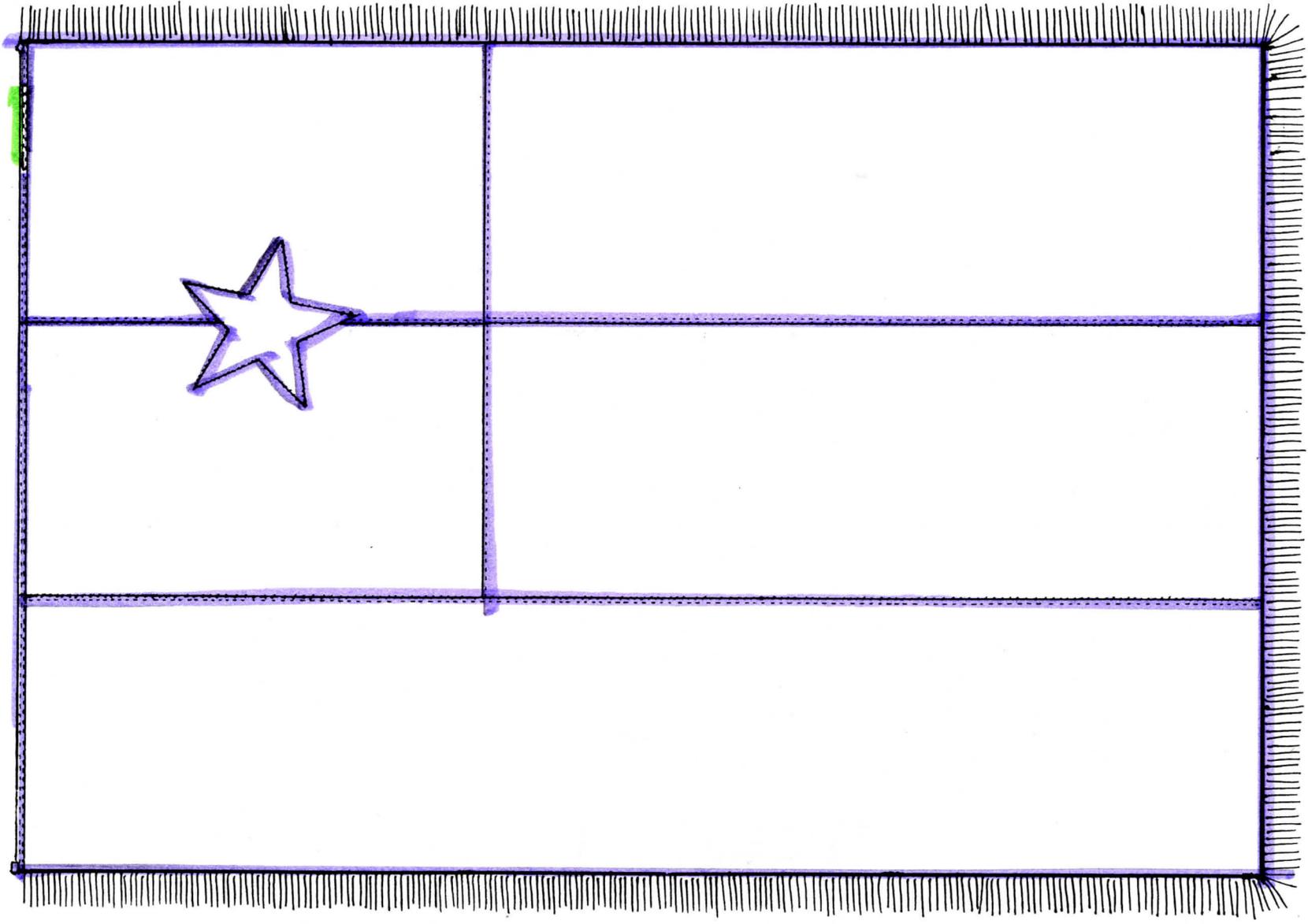
SEWING THREADS

2 Ply S Silk

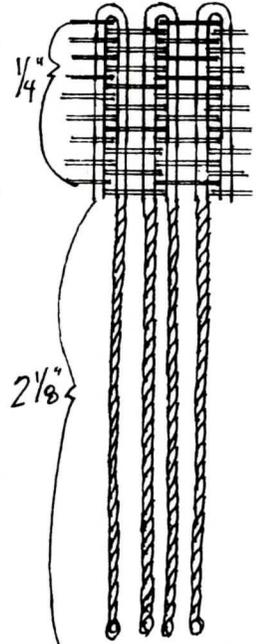
2/2 S Cotton

← 84½" →

↑  
60½"  
↓

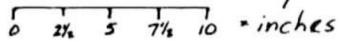


Fringe detail



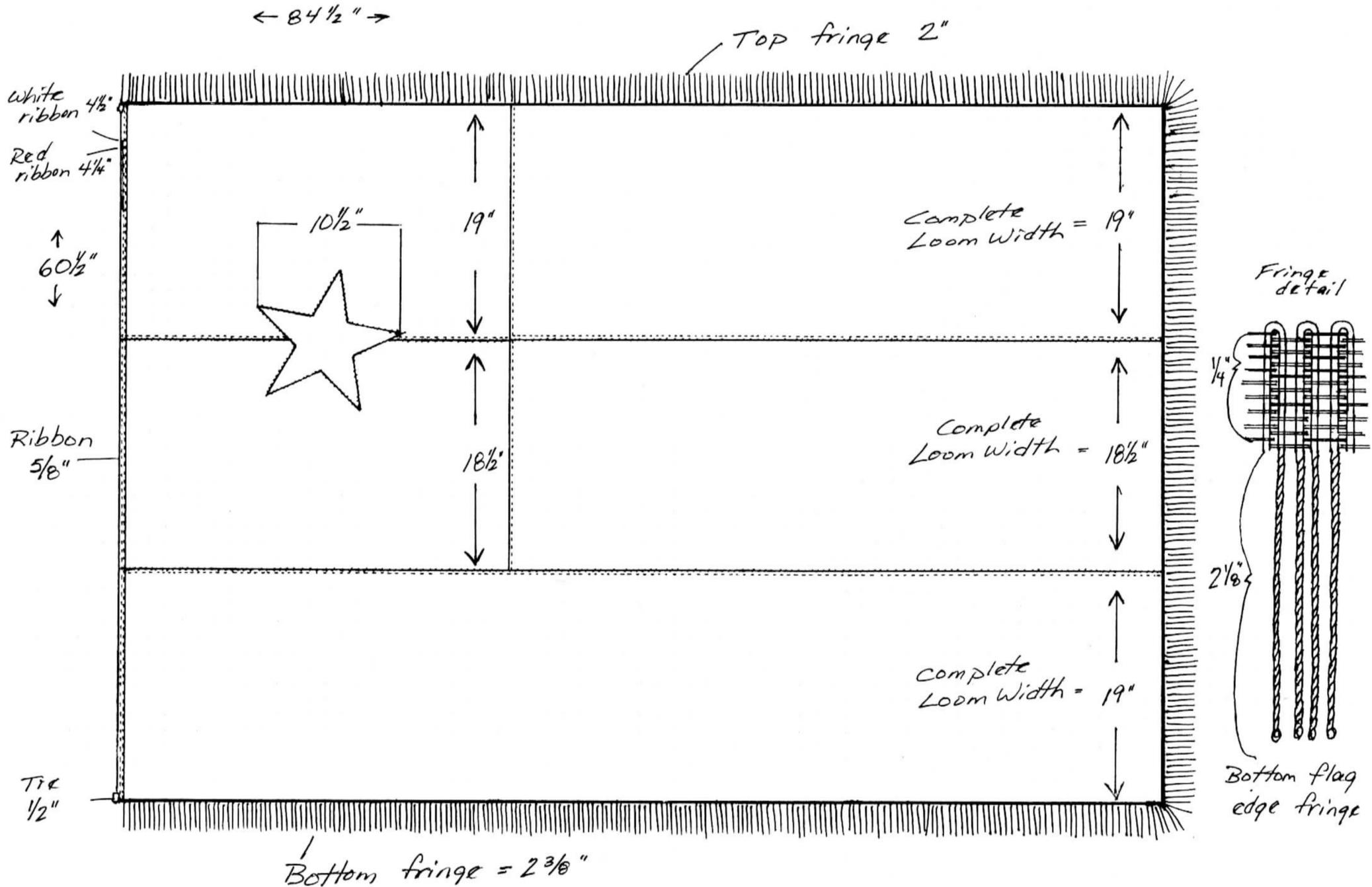
Bottom flag edge fringe

TPA # 1073  
Cat. No. - M-29-80

5<sup>th</sup> Texas Hood's Brigade Flag  
Scale: 1" = 10" 

OBVERSE

Drawing # 7  
MEASUREMENTS



TPA # 1073  
Cat. No. - M-29-80

5<sup>th</sup> Texas Hood's Brigade Flag  
Scale: 1" = 10"  $\overbrace{0 \quad 2\frac{1}{2} \quad 5 \quad 7\frac{1}{2} \quad 10}$  inches

OBVERSE

Drawing # 8  
SELVAGE EDGES

← 84½" →

↑ 60½"  
↓

