

Textile Preservation Associates, Inc.

P.O. BOX 606 • SHARPSBURG, MARYLAND 21782 • PHONE (301) 432-4160 FAX (301) 432-8797

March 8, 1999

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

RECEIVED

MAR 18 1999

Attention: Christopher LaPlante

ARCHIVES
TEXAS STATE LIBRARY

TPA No. 921
Object Confederate First National
Cat. No. M-31-80

Dear Chris,

Enclosed please find photos 5 thru 8 for the above mentioned object. The Treatment Report only referenced 6 photos. I have enclosed a revised Treatment Report referencing the correct amount of photos.

I am sorry about this oversight on our part. Please do not hesitate to call me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Donna Lee Tissue
Office Manager

Textile Preservation Associates, Inc.

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TREATMENT REPORT (revised)

Date March 8, 1999

TPA No. 921

Object Confederate First National

Catalog No M-31-80

Client Texas State Archives
1201 Brazos Street
Austin, TX 78711-2927

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

REPORT OF EXAMINATION

Object submitted for examination.

DOCUMENTATION

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

DESCRIPTION Terminology used is taken from Madaus and Needham 1976.¹

Size Leading edge 57" Fly 77"

The flag is constructed of one layer of fabric in a variant pattern of the Confederate first national flag. The flag has a faded blue wool canton that measures 38" x 35". Appliquéd to each side of the canton is a single 32 1/2" red wool five pointed star. Appliquéd to the red wool stars are eleven smaller, white silk, five pointed stars, arranged in the following manner. Each point of the red star contains two stars; a 2 3/4" star at the tip and a 3 1/2" star just inside it. A single 5 3/4" star is appliquéd to the center of the red star to bring the total to eleven. The fly consists of two red wool bars at the top and bottom approximately 18 1/2" wide. In the center is a white wool/cotton bar 21 3/4" wide. Painted on the center white bar is a 20" x 28" shield with the word "TEXAS" applied in brown 3 1/2" Roman unical

letters with an 1/8" red shadow low and right. A 4 1/4" yellow star with radiating lines is painted under the word Texas. The leading edge has remnants of a white silk binding with evidence of numerous tack holes for attachment. The flag is handsewn throughout. The fly end is cut off so the original length is unclear. There are at least three major fabric inserts, two on the red bars and one in the canton.

Condition

Previous Treatment

The flag was previously treated about 1930 by Katherine Ritchie. It was laid on a linen backing and machine stitched with a form of zig zag stitch over the entire surface of the flag. This treatment was removed by the Panhandle Plains Center on 2/15/80.

Present Condition

The flag, as it presently exists, has minor areas of loss in the white bar and lower red bar that appear to have been cut away. The wool fibers are relatively strong. Very little of the silk stars remain and the extant fragments are brittle and fractured. There are four large patches: one in the canton, one in the center of the upper red bar, and two in the lower red bar. The flag is approximately 20" shorter than originally constructed. The flag has extensive holes and distortions caused by previous treatment. An L-shaped tear is located in the lower red bar, toward the fly. A horizontal tear/cut next to the seam of the upper bar has been repaired with the same back thread used for stitching the patches. Remnants of this repair thread also remain around tears in the white and lower red bars. An L-shaped tear in the large red star was repaired with off-white thread. The obverse star is slightly distorted and creased. The silk ribbon on the leading edge is fractured and brittle.

The flag is lightly soiled overall. A purple-red colored substance stains the surface of the red bars. The staining occurred after the Ritchie treatment. The canton has faded considerably to a light aqua color. There is a shadow of a star point on the fabric of the canton just to the left of the present red star.

REPORT OF TREATMENT

Documentation

1. The flag, as received, was photographed on both sides (see photos 1-2).
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 all airborne particles and loose accumulations of soil.

4. The previous treatment was removed leaving the flag in sections. The stars were overlaid with one layer of appropriately colored Stabiltex¹, a multifilament polyester crepeline.

5. The fibers were relaxed to remove distortions, the red material applied to the surface, as well as de-acidified it by soaking through changes of deionized water. The red material that had been applied to the surface after the previous treatment was somewhat soluble. A red color leached into the wash water and some of the appliqué went into solution. The pH of the water was monitored and changed as necessary until the flag had 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 (see photos 3-4).

6. The entire flag was underlaid with a layer of ecru Stabiltex for support and to join the separated sections together. The flag was attached to the Stabiltex with random rows of running stitch (see drawing 10 & photos 5-6). Sewing was carried out with single ply silk.

Preparation for Exhibition

7. A buffered, acid-free panel² was prepared then covered with nonwoven polyester batting³ and a previously washed, unbleached, airwing grade, fine cotton fabric⁴.

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 7).

9. Appropriately colored cotton fabric was cut to size and attached to the padded panel to fill in the color, restore the appearance of areas damaged by the previous treatment. The colored fabric was attached to the panel only. Areas of damage that appeared to be from use were left undisturbed.

10. Ultra-violet filtering OP-2 Acrylite⁵ was laid over the flag, applying a light pressure to the fabric. The entire unit was placed in a decorative metal frame with an aluminum backing for support finished with light bronze metallic (#33147) and

then antiqued.

11. A final photo was taken in the frame (see photo 8) 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 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: 71.5

Signed: Fonda Ghiardi Thomsen Date: 3/8/99

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

Work on the object was carried out by Diane Kessler, 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: Holinger Corporation, P.O. Box 8360, Fredricksburg, 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, CN 06877 (914) 533-2445.

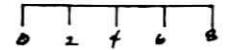
5. Acrylite OP-2, a colorless cast ultraviolet filtering acrylic sheet: Cyro Industries, P. O. Box 950, 100 Valley Road, Mt. Arlington, NJ 07856 (416) 675-9433.

Cat # M-31-80

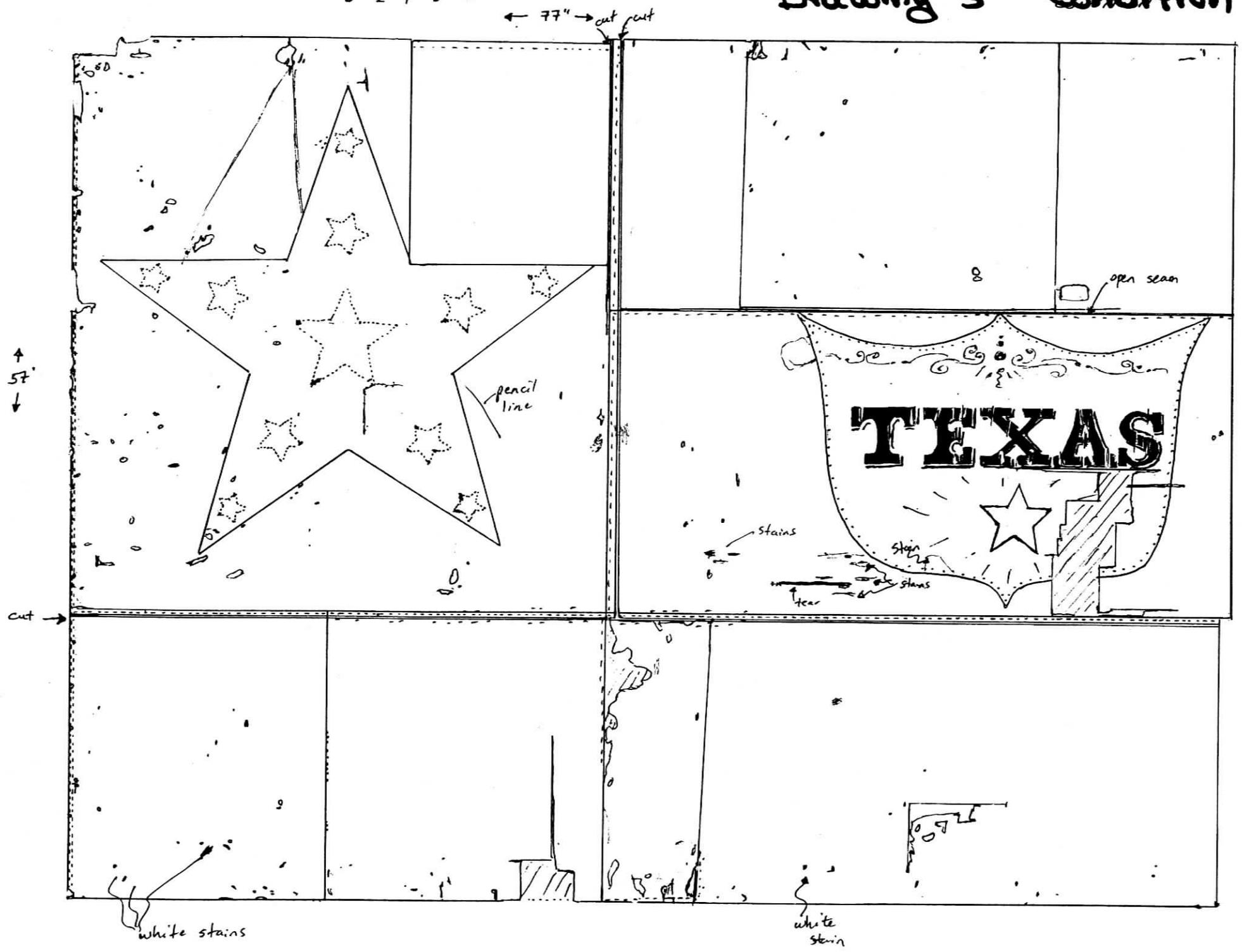
Shield and Star Flag, Confederate First National Pattern Variant

OBVERSE

scale: 1/4" = 2"



Drawing 3 Condition



TPA # 921
Cat # M-31-80

Shield and Star Flag, Confederate First National Pattern Variant

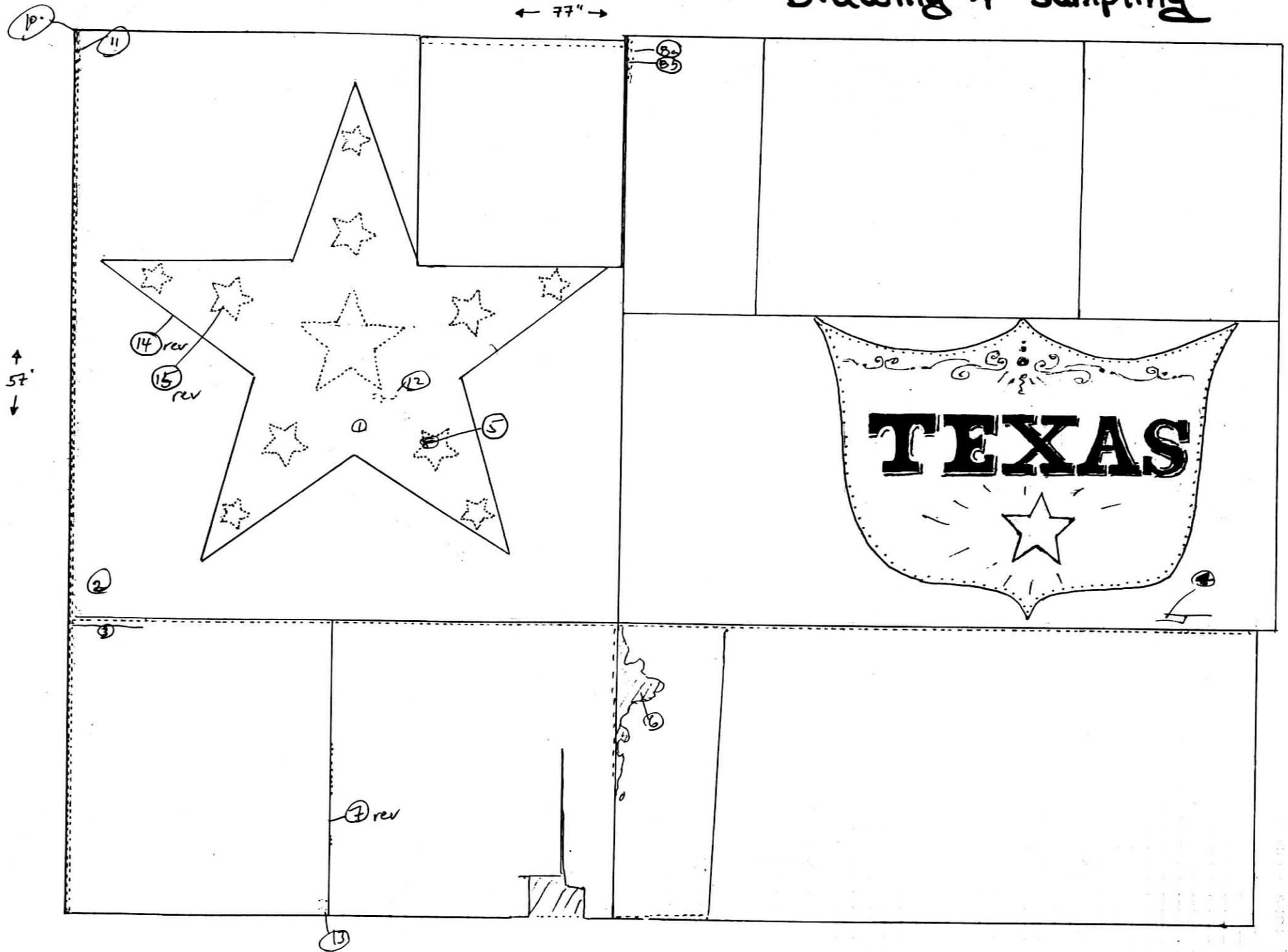
OBVERSE

scale: 1/4" = 2"



← 77" →

Drawing 4 Sampling



TIA 0921
Cat # M-31-80

Shield and Shield

Scale: $\frac{1}{4}'' = 2''$

Drawing 11 Remains of Original Flag
w/o Patches

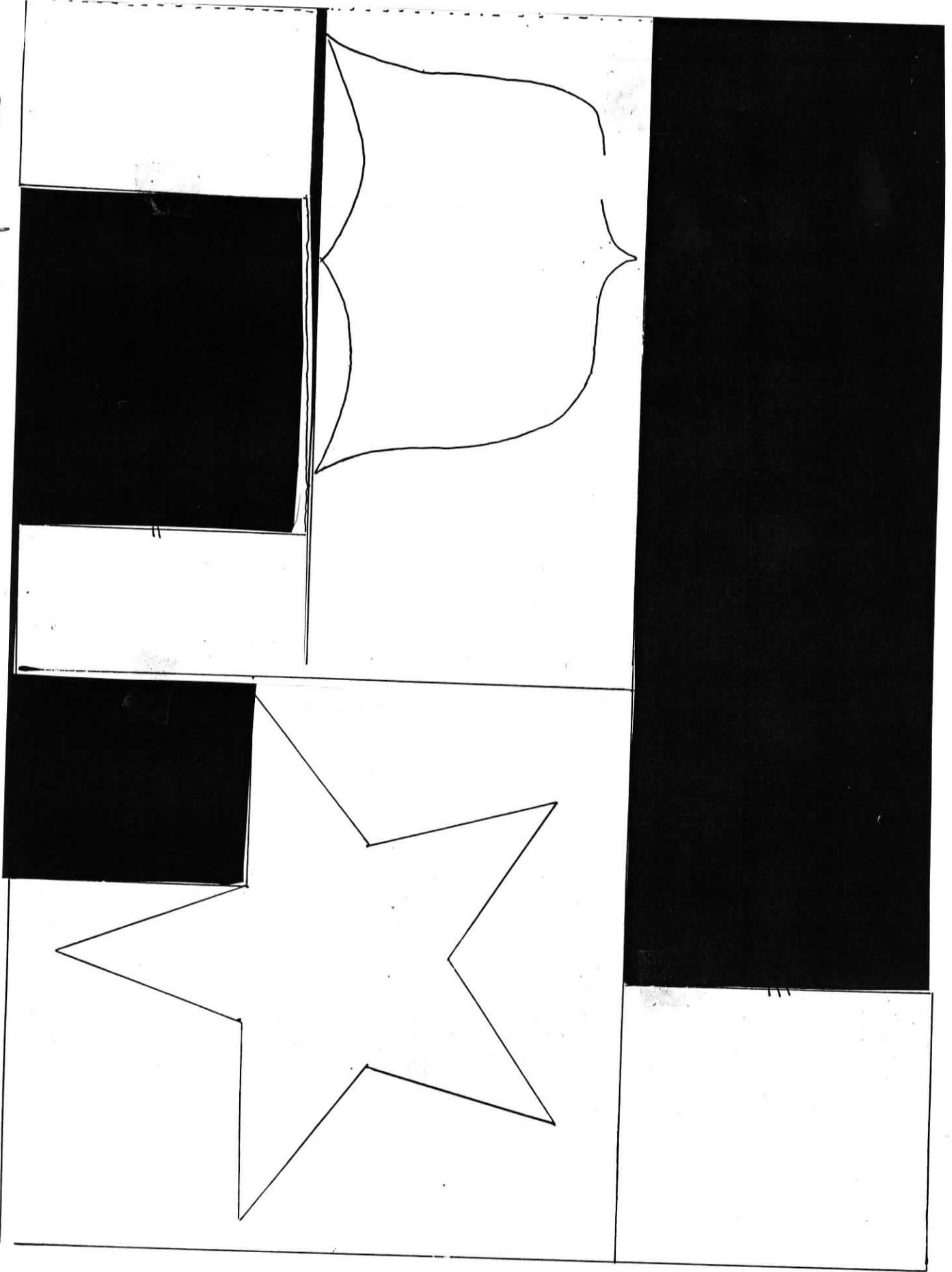
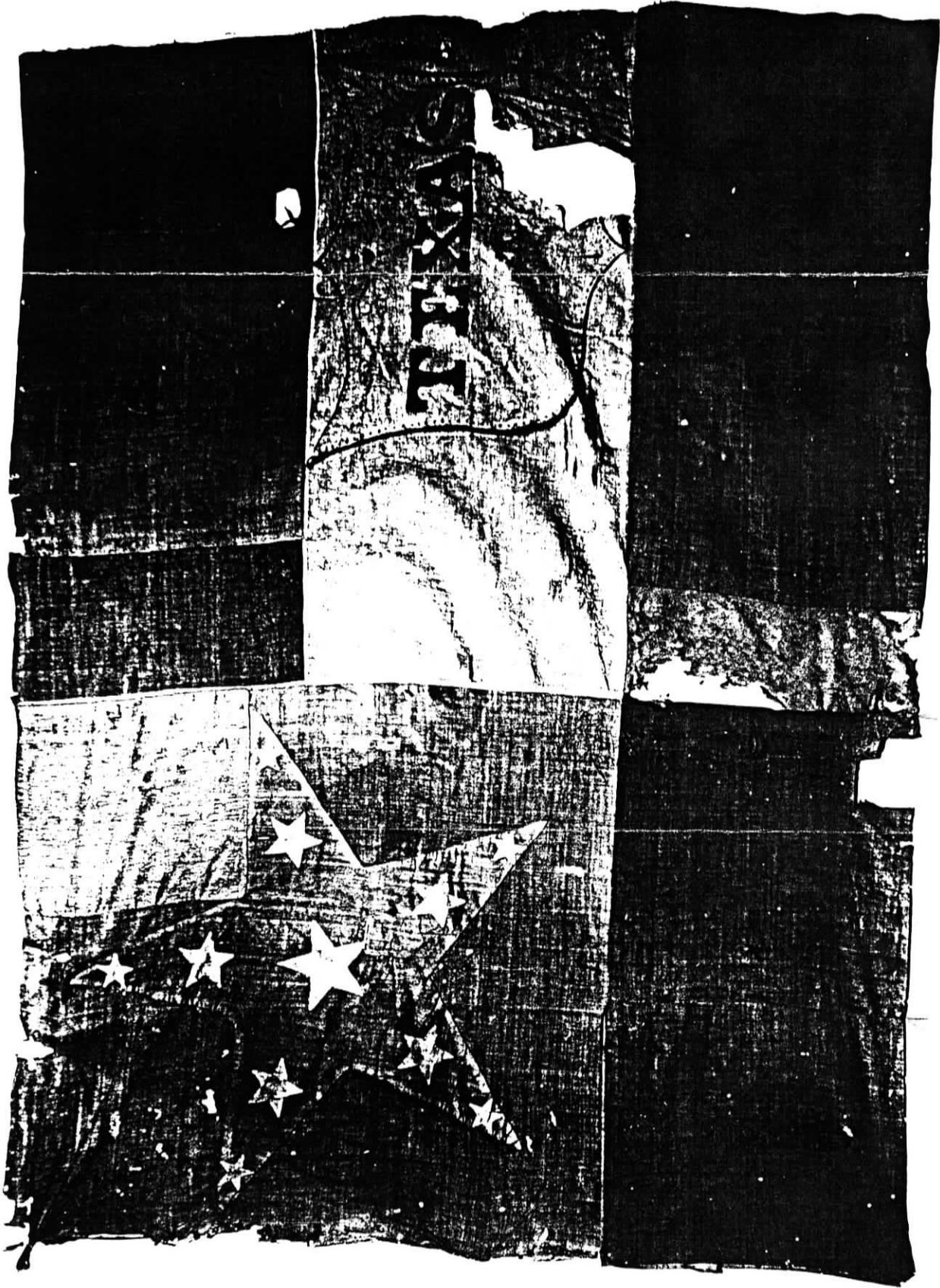


Exhibit 1 Photo Taken before the Ritchie Treatment

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Cat # M-31-80



Texas Flags

Flag No.	Descrip.	Color	Fiber	Element	Fluor.	Dye	Notes
TPA917 (1)	6 th Inf. 15 th Cav. Under disk	Yellow [off-white]	Wool	S, Cl, K, Ca	Yellow Blue		No blue
TPA918 (2)	17 th & 18 th TX cavalry green field	Green [blue & white] <i>Prussian Blue (S)</i>	Cotton	Na, Mg, S, Cl, Ca, Cr	None None		It is blue
TPA919 (3)	1 st TX Infantry blue cross	Yellow [tan] <i>Russian blue (S)</i>	Wool	S	Yellow Blue		No blue
TPA919 (4)	1 st TX Infantry red quads	Red [red] <i>lac</i>	Wool (cotton)	S, Sn	Orange Orange		
WD243	Gran- bury's Brigade	Yellow [yellow]	Wool	S, Cl, K, Ca	Yellow Blue		Like TPA917
WD201	Aqua cross	Green [aqua]	Wool	S, Cl, K, Ca, Fe, Zn	Yellow Blue		Like TPA919
WD30		Yellow [off-white]	Wool	S, Ca (no Al)	Yellow Blue		
TPA921		Black [black]	Cotton [un- merceriz- ed]	Na, S, Cl, K, Ca, Cr	None None		RTLC

Notes: All contained carbon, oxygen, aluminum, and silicon in addition to elements listed in table. Colors in brackets were observed microscopically. Fluorescence colors were observed microscopically at violet (top) and ultraviolet (bottom) excitation wavelengths.

Re: McCrone Associates Project MA32936

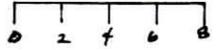
TPA # 921
Cat # M-31-80

Shield and Star Flag, Confederate First National Pattern Variant

OBVERSE

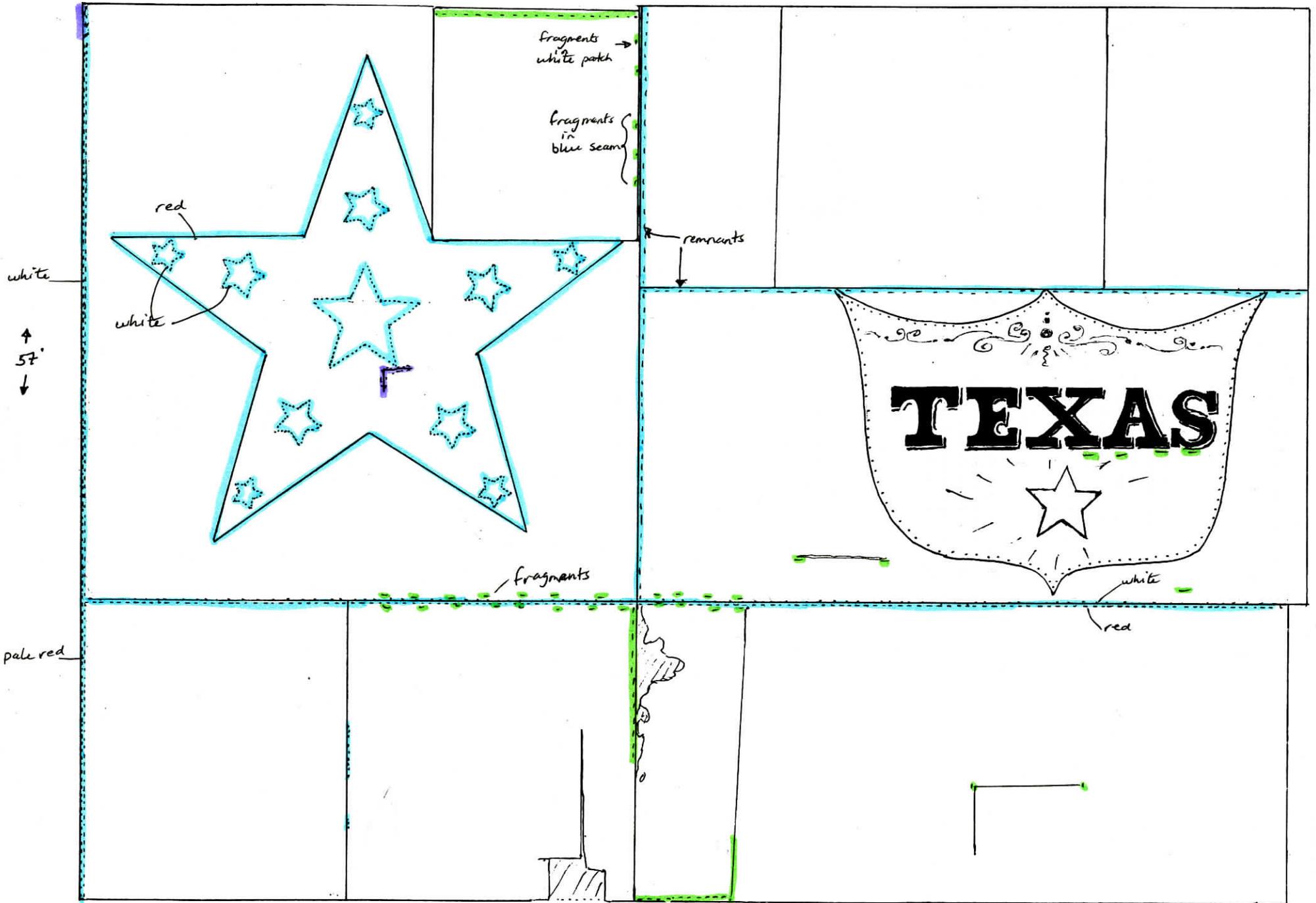
Diagram 5

scale: 1/4" = 2"



← 77" →

- 25 silk
 - 3/2 5 cotton (black)
 - 3 5 cotton (off-white)
- SEWING THREADS



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Cat # M-31-80

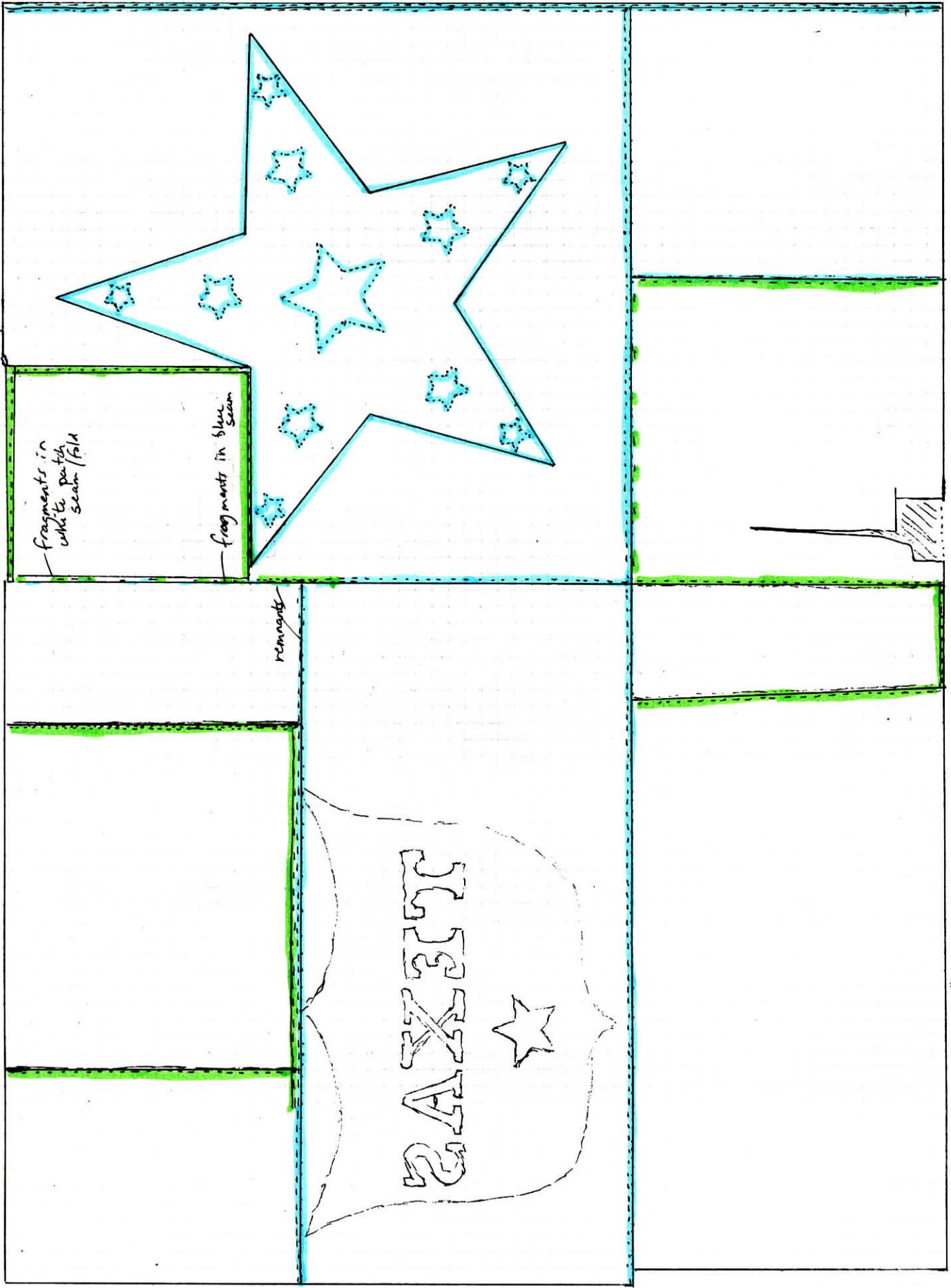
Shield and Star Flag, Confederate First National Pattern Variant

REVERSE Diagram 6

scale: 1/4" = 2"

- 2.5 silk
- 3/2 5 cotton (black)
- 3 5 cotton (off-white)

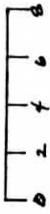
SEWING THREADS



TPA # 921
Cat # M-31-80

Shield and Star Flag, Confederate First National Pattern Variant OVERSE Diagram 7

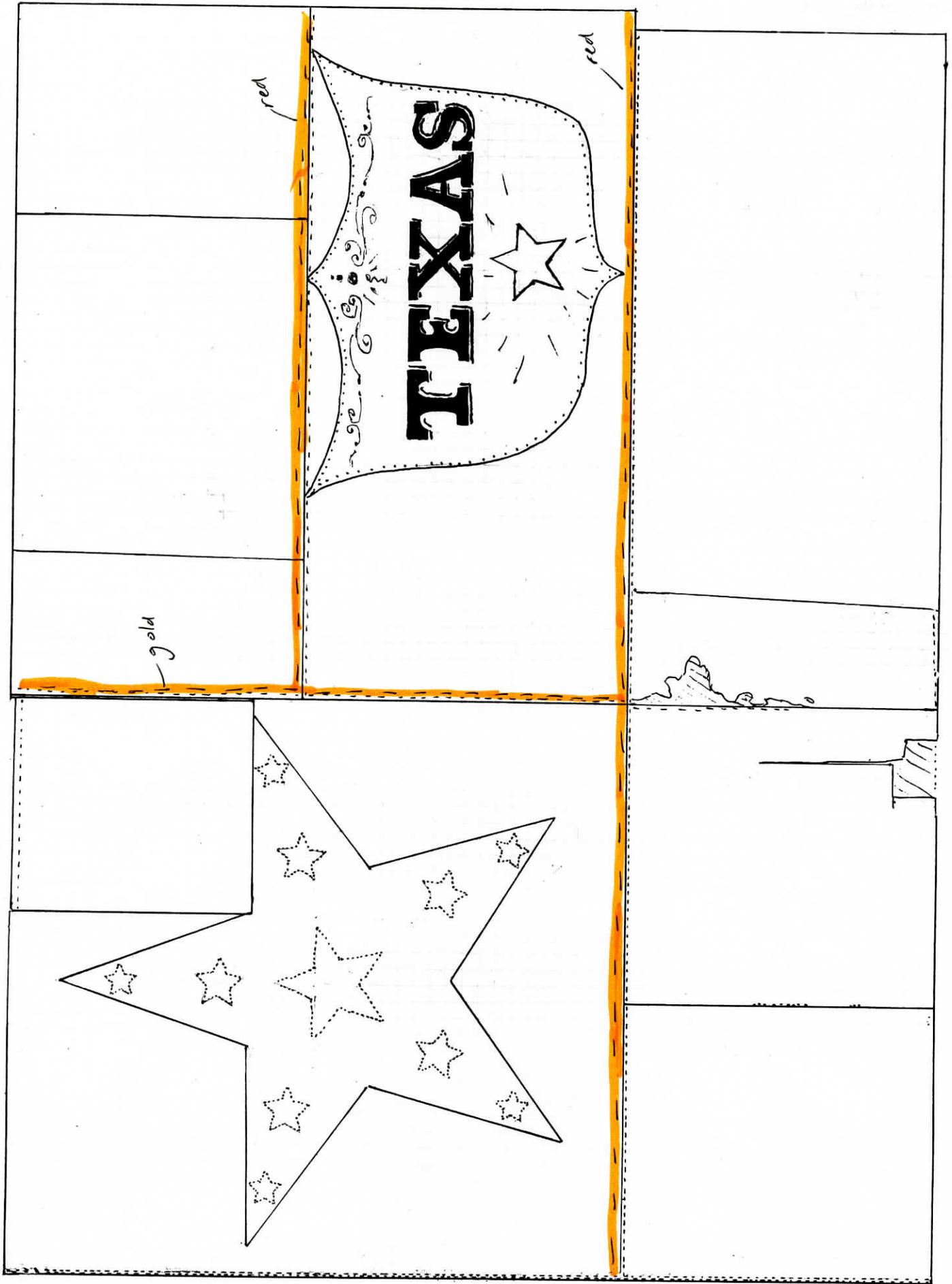
Scale: 1/4" = 2"



← 77" →

3 Z silk

PREVIOUS TREATMENT
SEWING THREADS



TPA # 721

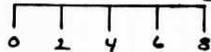
Cat # M-31-80

Shield and Star Flag, Confederate First National Pattern Variant

REVERSE

Diagram 8

scale: 1/4" = 2"



32 silk

22 cotton

PREVIOUS TREATMENT
SEWING THREADS

folded edge

overlapped

gold

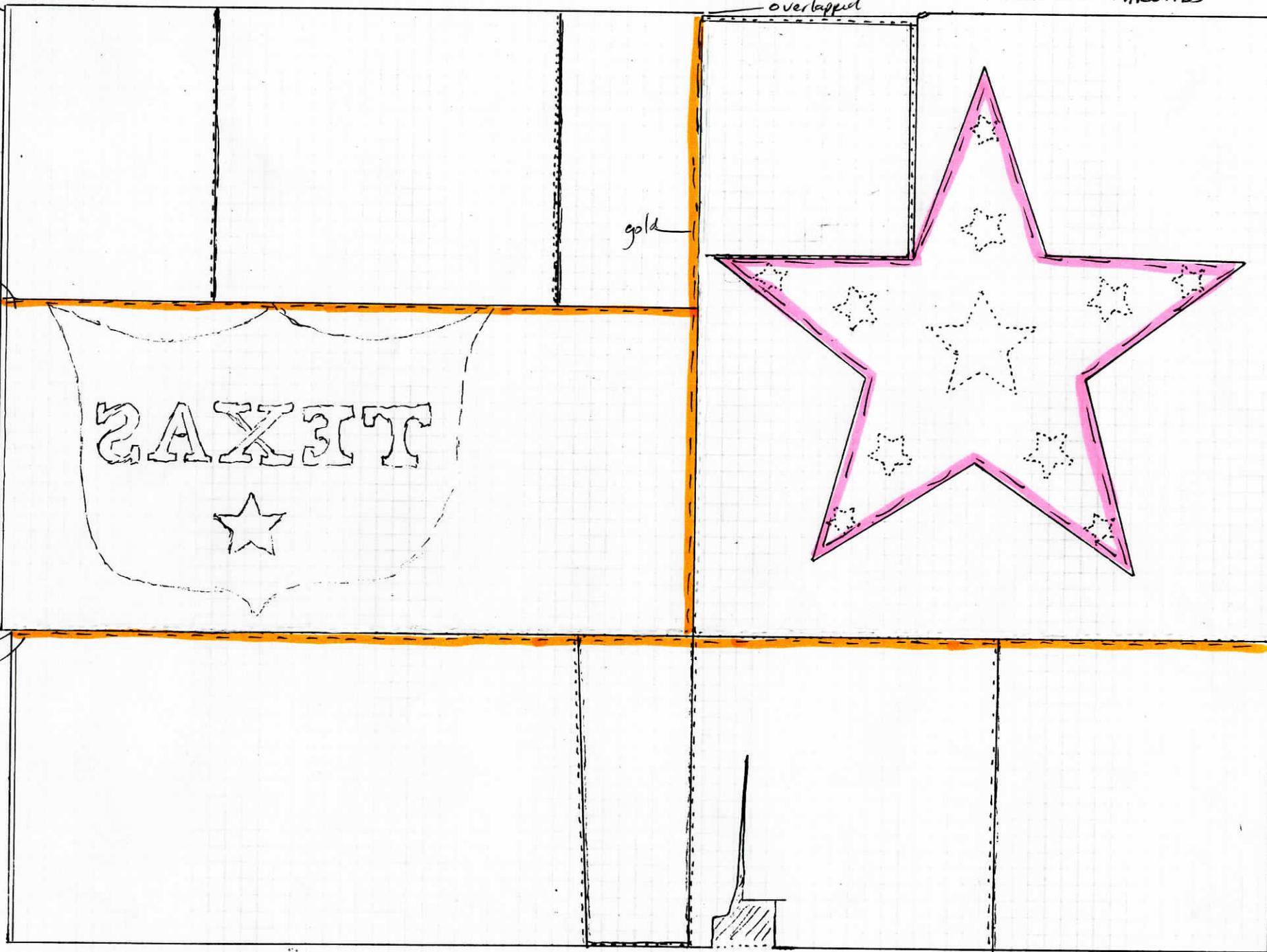
red

overlapped

GAZETTE



overlapped
red



TPA #921
Cat # M-31-80

Shield and Star Flag, Confederate First National Pattern Variant
Scale: $\frac{1}{4}'' = 2''$

← N 97" →

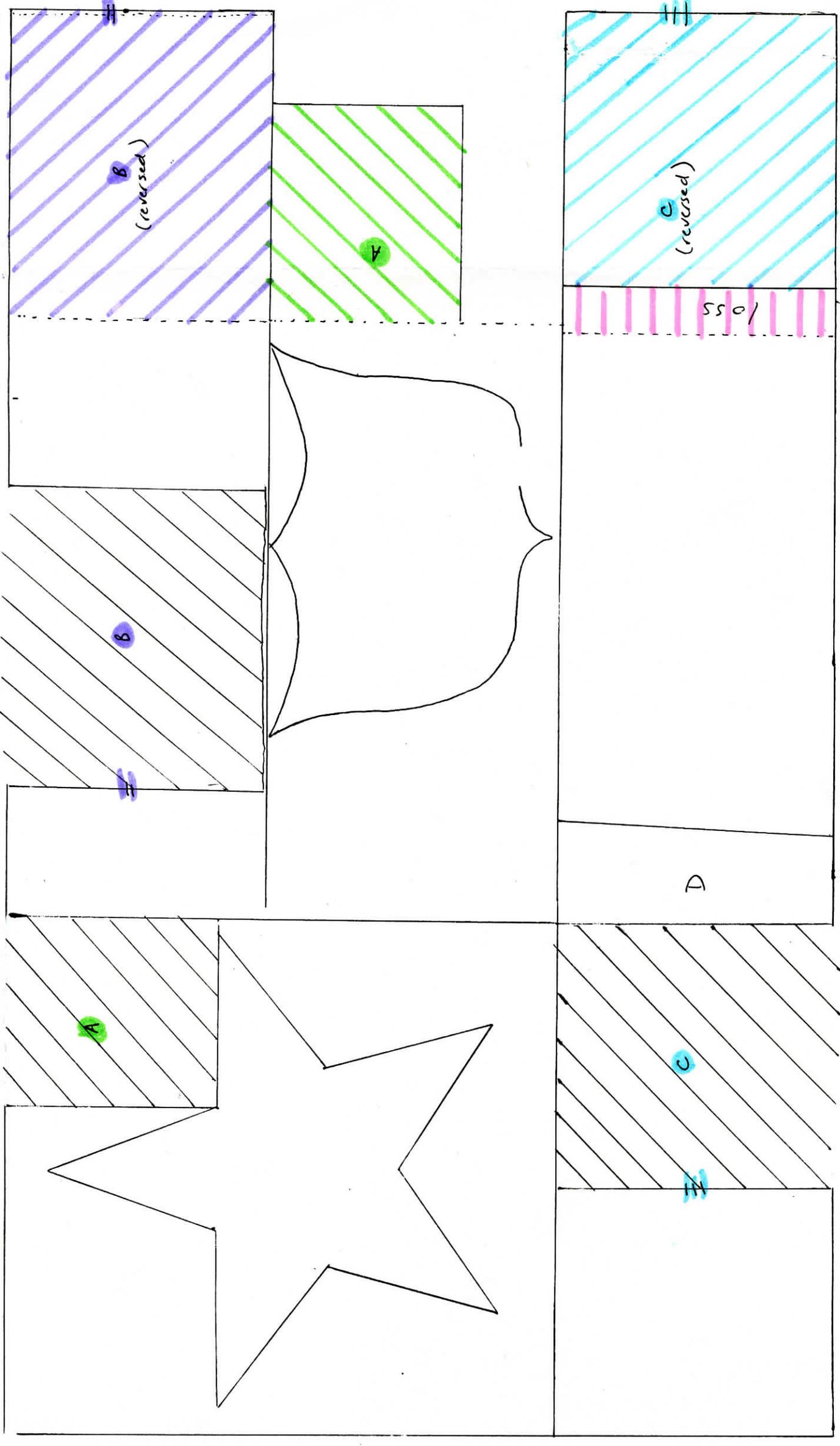


Diagram 9

ORIGINAL PLACEMENT

silk bound fly edge

silk bound edge

loss

Cat # M-31-80

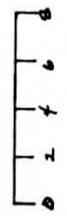
Shield and Star Flag, Confederate First National Pattern Variant

OBVERSE

Diagram 10

CONSERVATION

Scale: 1/4" = 2"



← 77" →

← 57" →

