

[TSLAC 306-4035]

Textile Preservation Associates, Inc.

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TREATMENT REPORT

Date January 21, 1999

TPA No. 917

Object Gransbury's Brigade flag

Catalog No 7-5-2

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

6 Kodachrome 25, 35mm color slides were taken before and after treatment.

Analysis: See attached report.

Dye Analysis Reports

Description

Size Leading edge 30" Fly 38"

The flag is constructed in the pattern of a "Hardee" flag with a (presently gray but originally believed to be blue) wool field, and a white cotton disc appliquéd to each side of the center of the fly. There is a single layer white cotton, forming a border, around the perimeter of the fly and a pole sleeve on the leading edge. The circular cotton disc has a five-pointed star appliquéd to each side. The stars originally were red and have "6th & 15th" embroidered across the center with white running stitches. The word "TEXAS" is cross-stitched in red on the disc (both sides) by placing one letter between each point of the star. The flag has a combination of hand and machine sewing.

Condition

Previous Treatment

The flag had been sewn to a cotton backing for support using 3/2 S cotton thread.

Present Condition

The fly is damaged with about 20% of the fabric missing, much of which appears to be insect damage. The white borders are severely stained/discolored and the field extremely soiled. The star and thread used for its attachment have faded completely from its original red to off-white. The cross stitching on the reverse has also lost all color. A tear across the center of the fly border traveling up along the border attachment has been repaired using off-white 2 ply S cotton thread. A short horizontal tear at the central fly is also repaired with brown 2 ply S cotton thread.

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. Samples of the wool fly were sent to Jim Liles and McCrone Associates for analysis.

Stabilization

3. The flag was vacuum cleaned to remove all airborne particles and loose accumulations of soil.
4. The obverse side was laid on a section of ecru colored Stabiltex¹, a multifilament polyester crepeline. The reverse was covered with a layer of blue Stabiltex. The layers were attached by sewing through the voids. Fragments were aligned and sewn around their perimeter to hold them in place. In large areas with no damage, the fabrics was secured with random rows of vertical running stitch through all three layers. Sewing was carried out with thread pulled from the Stabiltex. On the obverse, the star in the center disc was covered with tomato soup red Stabiltex. The red Stabiltex was attached to the ecru Stabiltex then the red cut away to cover just the star. On the reverse, the star was covered with cherry red Stabiltex and attached to the blue Stabiltex in the same manner. The blue Stabiltex over the disc was then cut away. The flag was photographed on both sides after encapsulation (see photos 3-4).

Preparation for Exhibition

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

6. 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. After viewing both sides, it was decided to place the reverse side up. The flag was photographed on the panel (see photo 5).

7. 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 silver colored wooden frame with an aluminum backing for support. The frame was custom manufactured for Textile Preservation Associates by Ivy Industries⁶.

8. A final photo was taken (see photo 6) and a treatment report prepared.

PROGNOSIS

The flag has been finished on both sides for exhibit. It is a matter of individual preference as to which side the client exhibits. The reverse side is now up but the flag could be easily turned over to change the exhibit.

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.

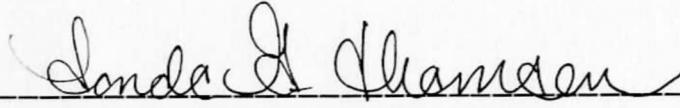
HANGING THE FRAME

There are two metal tabs along the top of the frame for hooking onto a screw or bolt.

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: 40

Signed:  Date: 1/21/99
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.

6. Ivy Industries, Inc., P.O. Box 7747, Charlottesville, VA (800) 446-1600.

TPA # 917
Cat # 75-2

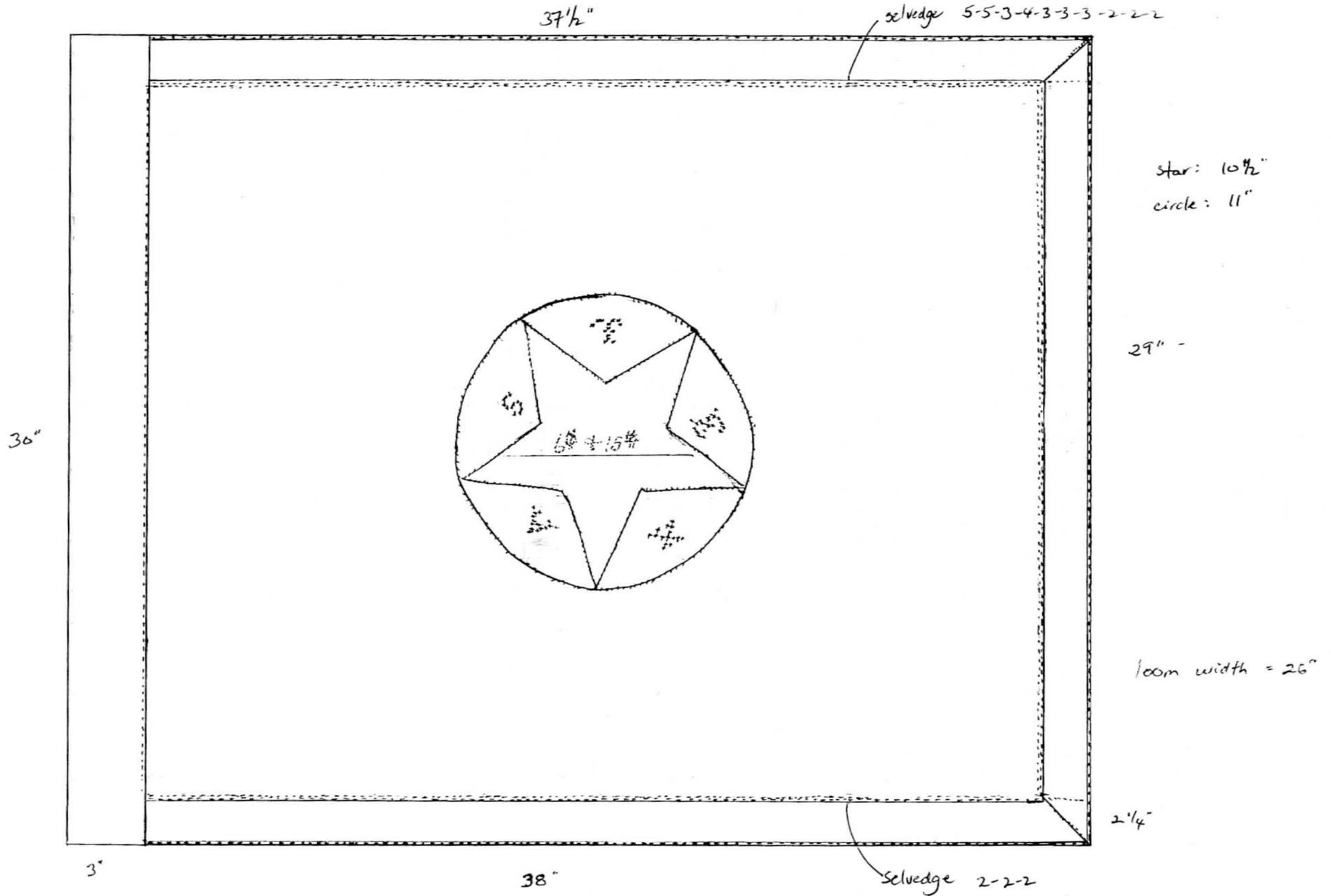
Gransbury's Brigade Flag

OBVERSE

Diagram 1

scale: 1" = 5"
0 2.5 5

CONSTRUCTION



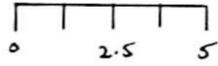
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Gransbury's Brigade Flag, 6th + 15th TEXAS

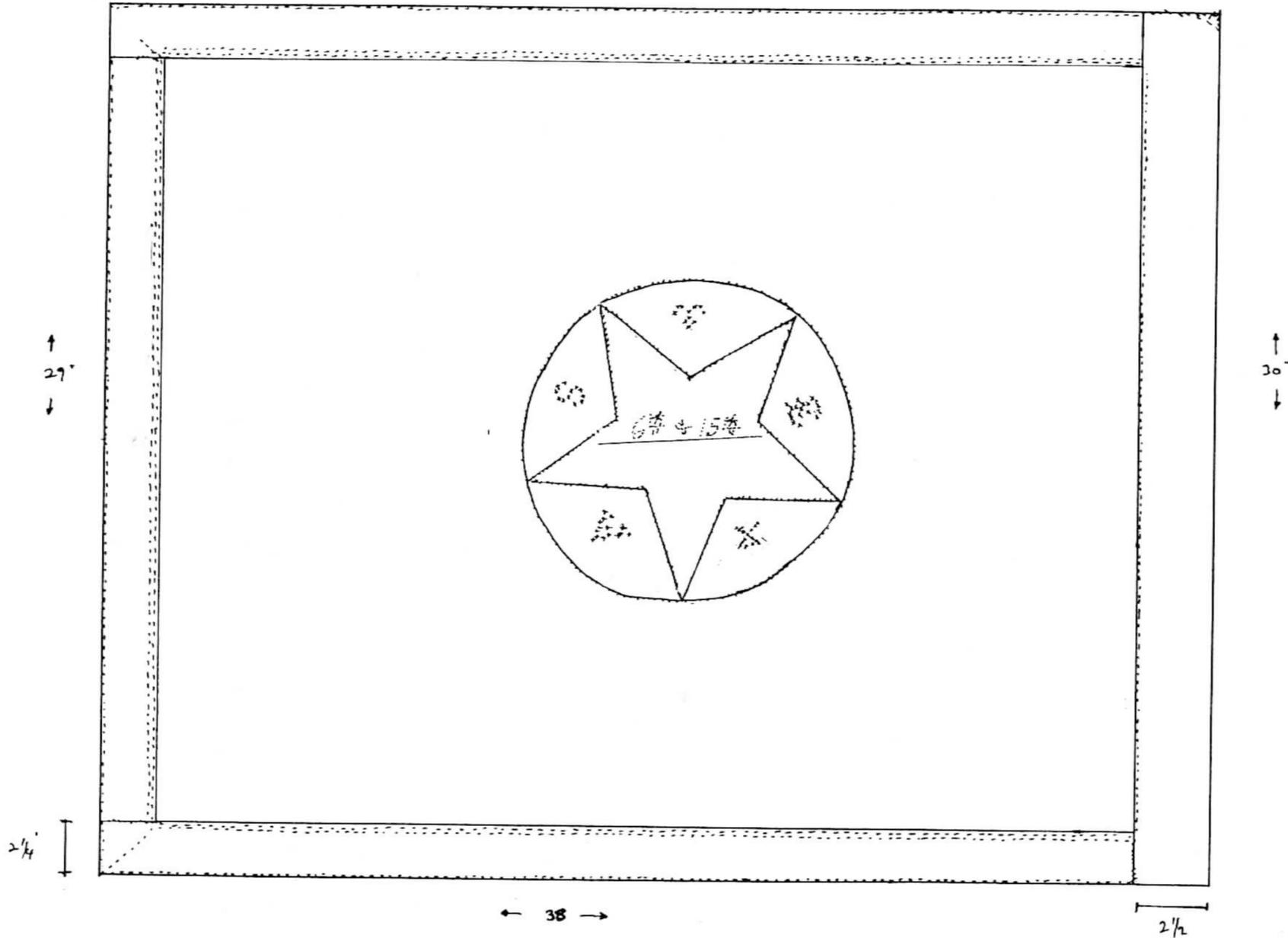
REVERSE

Diagram 2
CONSTRUCTION

scale: 1" = 5"



← 37 1/2" →



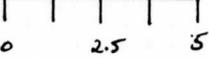
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Gransbury's Brigade Flag

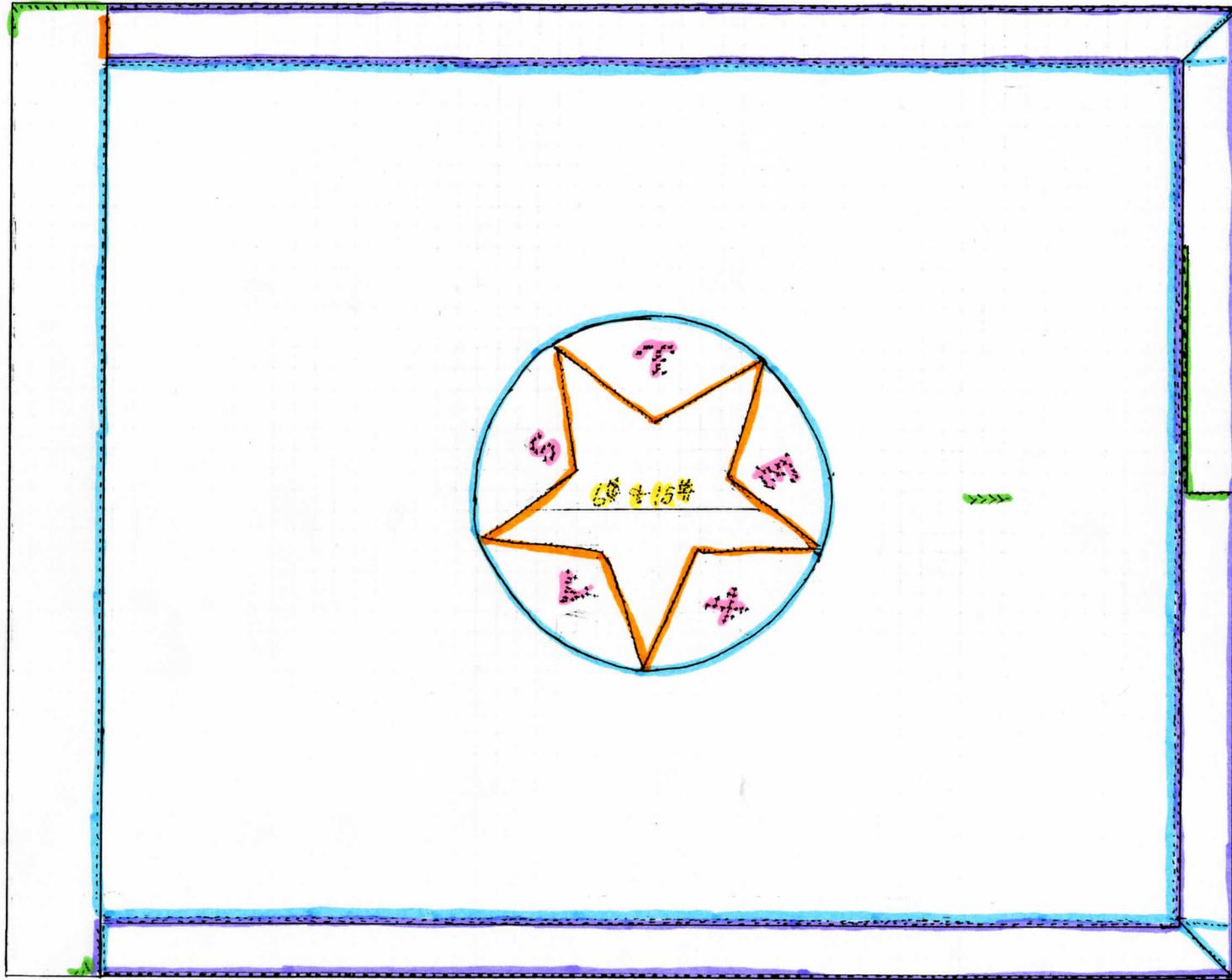
OBVERSE

Diagram 3

scale: 1" = 5"



SEWING THREADS
↓
REPAIR THREADS



- 3/2 S cotton
- 2 1/2 S cotton
- 3 S cotton
- 2 S cotton
- 22 silk
- 2 S cotton, repair

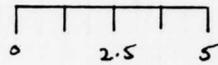
TPA # 917
Cat # 7-5-2

Gransbury's Brigade Flag, 6th + 15th TEXAS

REVERSE

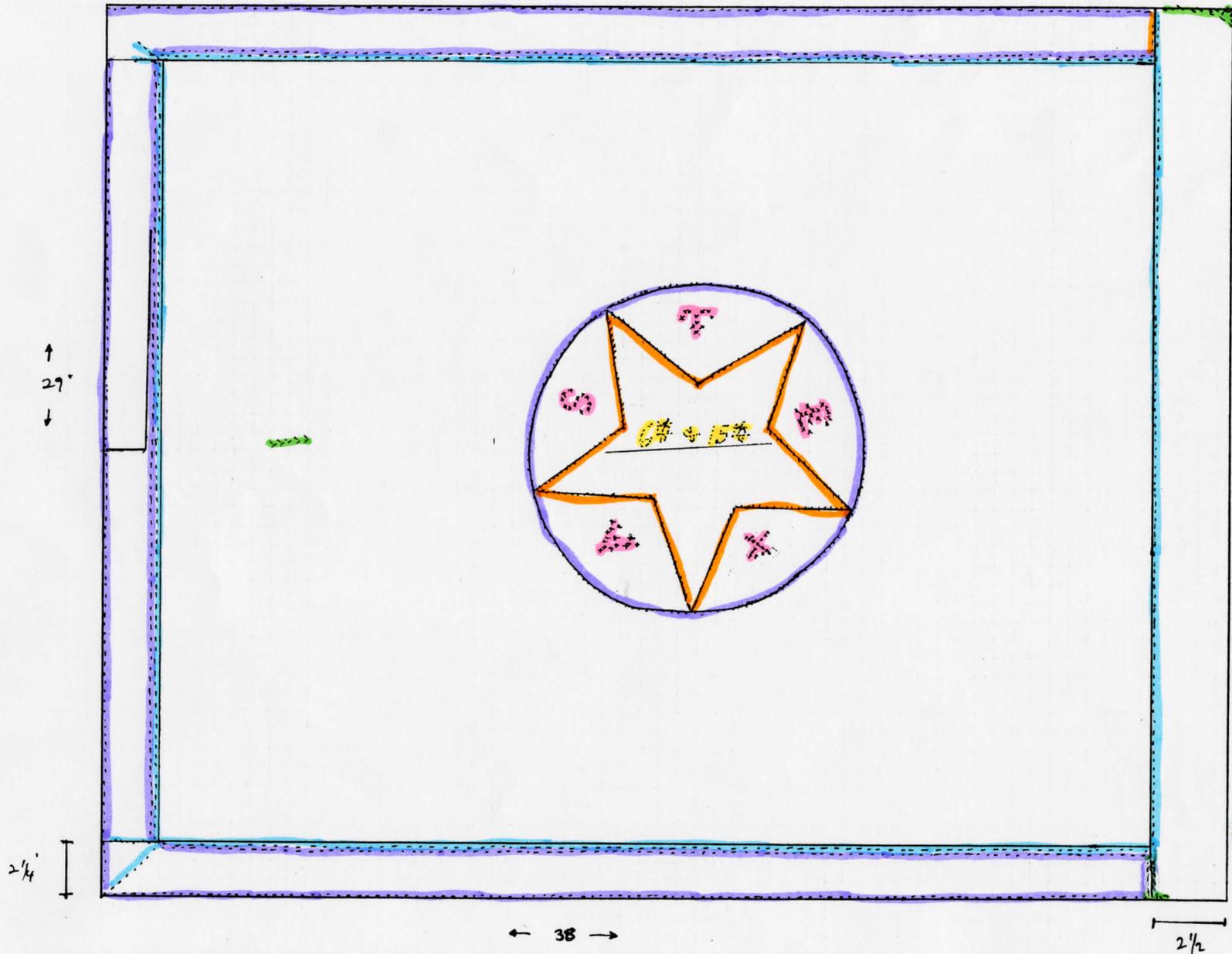
Diagram 4

scale: 1" = 5"



← 37 1/2" →

SEWING THREADS
+
REPAIR THREADS



- ↑ 30" ↓
- 3/2 S cotton
 - 2 1/2 S cotton
 - 3 S cotton
 - 2 S cotton
 - 2 S silk
 - 2 S cotton, repair

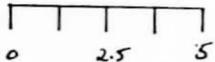
TFA # 917
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Gransbury's Brigade Flag

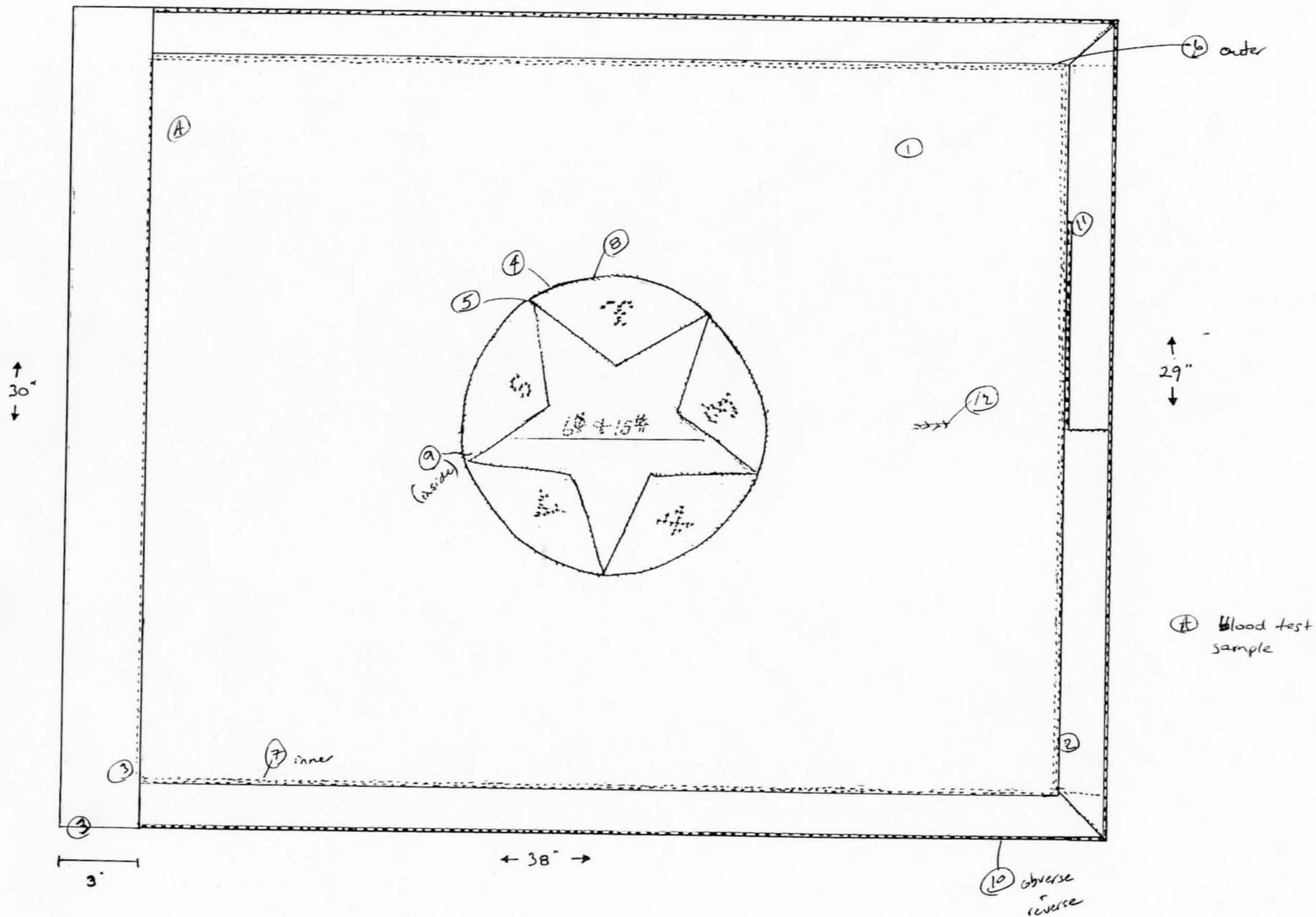
OBVERSE

Diagram 5
SAMPLING

scale: 1" = 5"



← 37 1/2" →



T/A # 917
Cat # 7-5-2

Gransbury's Brigade Flag

OBVERSE

Diagram 6
CONDITION

scale: 1" = 5"

