

01 Jan 2001 – Alton J. Rahe

Original Mountain Valley School (1874-1957)

The original Mountain Valley School was located in this one-acre site for eighty-three years. The land was originally purchased from Carl and Matilda Kanz Marschall by Fritz Krause, Fritz Pantermuehl and Joachim Pantermuehl, trustees of the Mountain Valley School. The Marschall home was located behind the right side of the school property.

For seven years (1874-1883), instructions were given to the students in a one-room log structure. In 1883, a larger one-room school was built about 75 feet away, and the log structure was incorporated into a larger building to be used for the teacherage.

Grades 1 through 8 were taught by one teacher, and the attendance ranged from 15 to 30 students per year. The school building was also used for community religious activities.

The school was closed at the end of the 1956-57 school year, as were many other smaller schools, after the Comal County Rural High School District was formed in 1956. The students in the community had a choice of being bussed to either Sherwood School at Smithsons Valley or New Braunfels Schools.

The first school of this community was called Jacob Creek School and was located about one-mile from here down the River Road near Jacobs Creek. After serving the community for seven years (1867-1874), it was moved here to better serve the community by being more centrally located.

The ninety years of service provided to this predominately German community by the original Mountain Valley and Jacobs Creek Schools is a reminder of the vital role of rural education in Texas' past.

The community was without a school building from 1957 until 1976. Then the Mountain Valley Elementary School was built on the current Sattler Road.

Suggested
writeup

21 Dec 00

Original Mountain Valley School Site Marker (1874-1957)

The purpose of this document is to provide background information for a site marker to be placed where the original Mountain Valley School was located from 1874 until 1957.

On the 2nd of March in 1874, Carl Marschall and his wife, Matilda, deeded for the consideration of five dollars “one acre of land more or less situated, and being in the aforesaid county (Comal) and the state about twelve miles north of New Braunfels on the right bank of the Guadalupe River and known as part of Survey 321 in the name of Charles A. Smith and sold to me by Alphonse Kinsley”.¹ See the 1960s map of the Sattler-Canyon Lake area in Comal County for the location of the original Mountain Valley School.

From all indications, a one-room log building was constructed in 1874 and instructions were given to the students of the community in this room until 1883. According to the old school statutes, at this time a new school was built about 20 yards away and the one-room log structure became part of the teacherage, a house where the teacher and his family resided. Enclosed is a picture of the Mountain Valley School which was constructed in 1883, and a picture of the teacherage,. All exterior walls of the teacherage were covered with board and batten with none of the log school walls showing. The interior walls were plastered. Hence, the logs were not visible from the inside or the outside.

The writer of this article lived in the teacherage during his first sixteen years when his father, Albert Rahe, was a teacher at the one-room school from 1926 until 1948. The family was not aware of the log room in the house until the building was destroyed in the early 1960s.

At this school, grades 1 through 8 were taught by one teacher, and the attendance ranged from 15 to 30 students per year. Enclosed is a sketch of

¹ Comal County Clerk's Office, Volume M, pp 371-372.

the Mountain Valley School grounds, with details of the school and teacherage, as recalled by the writer of this article.

In the 1930s, Protestant Church services were held in the Mountain Valley School building on Sunday afternoons on a monthly basis. The community had no church buildings at this time.

The one-room rural school at Sattler was closed at the end of the 1956-57 school year, as were many other rural schools in the county, after the Comal County Rural High School District was formed on 12 November 1956. Later the name was changed to Comal Independent School District. The students from the community were bused to either Sherwood Rural High School or New Braunfels Independent School District. The community was without a school building from 1957 until 1976, when a new Mountain Valley Elementary School was constructed about one-half mile from the original Mountain Valley School. See 1960s map.

In March of 1962, the Comal County Rural High School District sold the one acre of land, plus the school and teacherage buildings to Emil Weilbacher for 4,000 dollars.² In late 1962, Mr. Weilbacher sold both buildings to land developers, Mr. Sheridan and Mr. Lee. The school was renovated and became a residence at another location, while the teacherage was destroyed.

Enclosed is a photo of what the site of the original Mountain Valley School looks like at the present time. In the background are RVs parked in the Rio Raft campgrounds located near the fourth crossing of the Guadalupe River along the River Road.

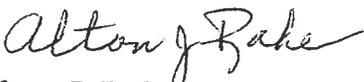
See the table for a listing of the teachers that taught at the school from 1874 until 1957. Also, available are fifty-four lists of students who attended Mountain Valley School during its eighty-three years of existence.

The first school of the community was located about one-mile from the original Mountain Valley School down the River Road near Jacobs Creek

² Comal County Clerk's Office, Volume 127, pp 642-645.

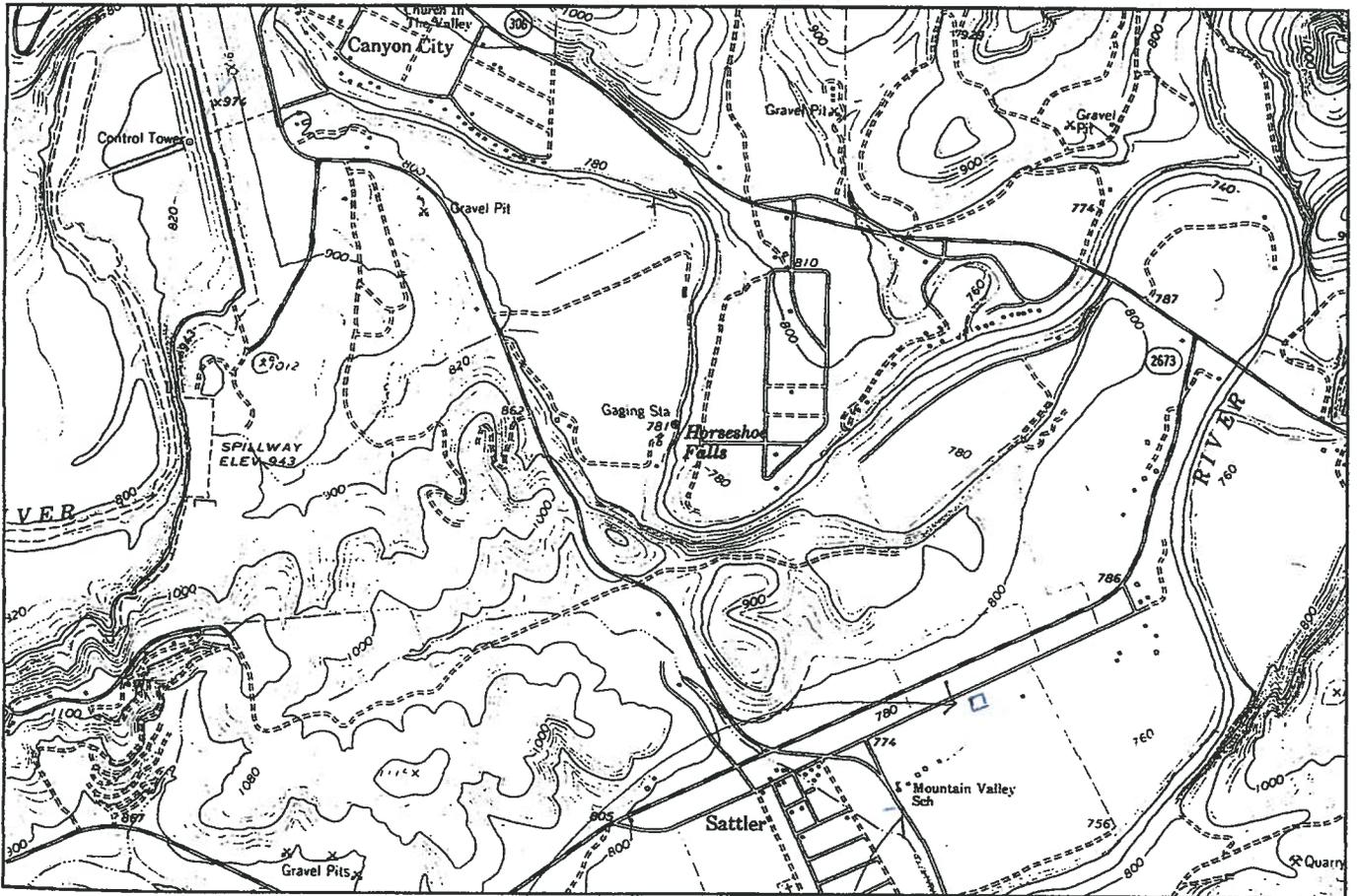
(Jacobs Creek School). After serving the community for seven years (1867-1874), the school was moved to the Mountain Valley School site to better serve the community by being more centrally located.

Respectfully,


Alton J. Rahe

Reference: *History of Sattler and Mountain Valley School in Comal County, Texas 1846-1964* by Alton J. Rahe, Walsworth Publishing Co., NK Associates Producer, Dallas, Texas, 1999

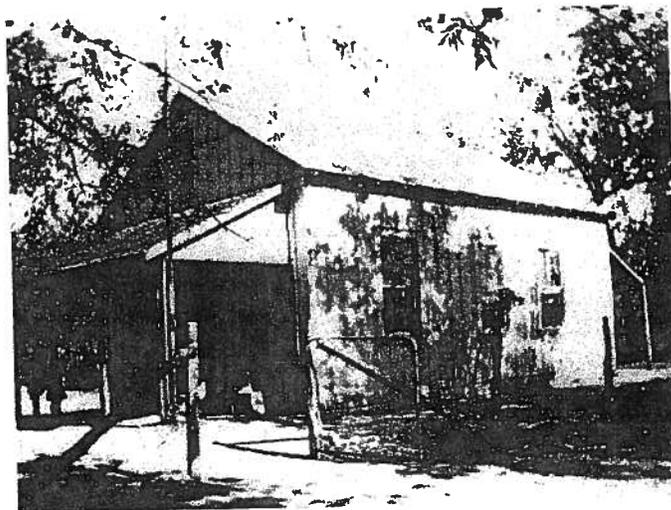
Canyon Dam



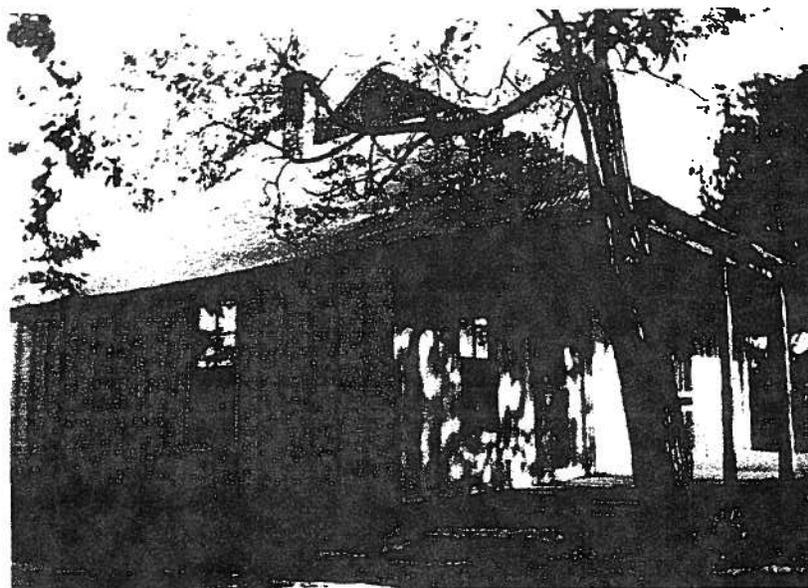
1960S MAP TO SHOW CURRENT CONDITIONS OF SATTLER-CANYON LAKE AREA.

Original Mountain Valley School
(1874 - 1957)

Site of Mountain
Valley Elementary
in 1976

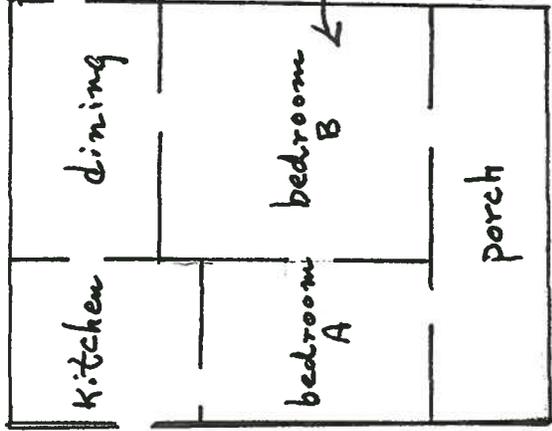


ORIGINAL MOUNTAIN VALLEY SCHOOL CIRCA 1935

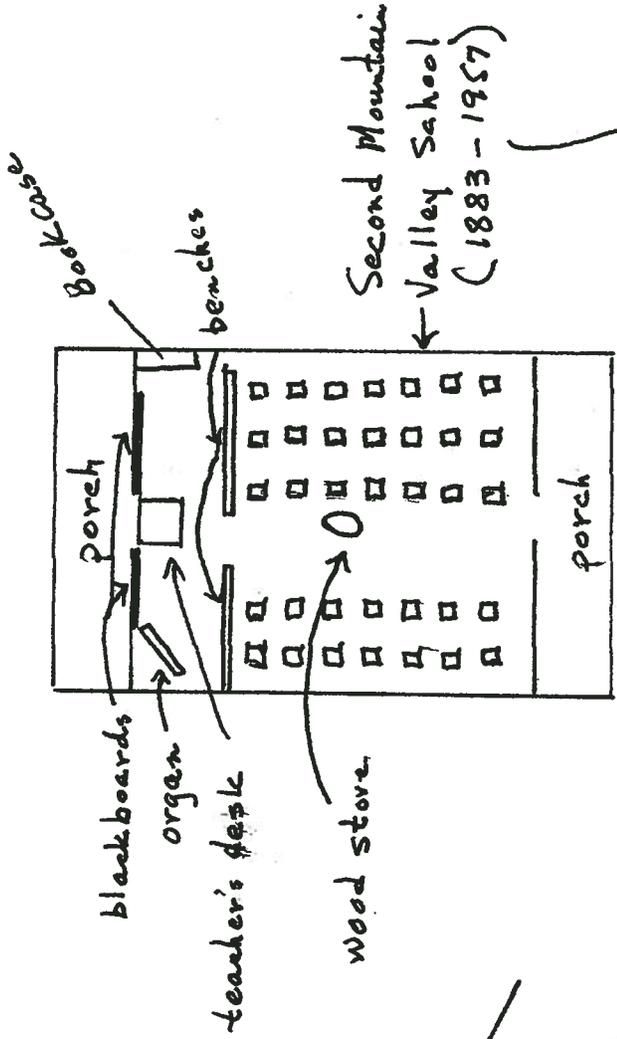


THE TEACHERAGE WAS LOCATED ABOUT 20 YARDS EAST FROM ORIGINAL MOUNTAIN VALLEY SCHOOL. THE PORCH FACED THE ROAD.

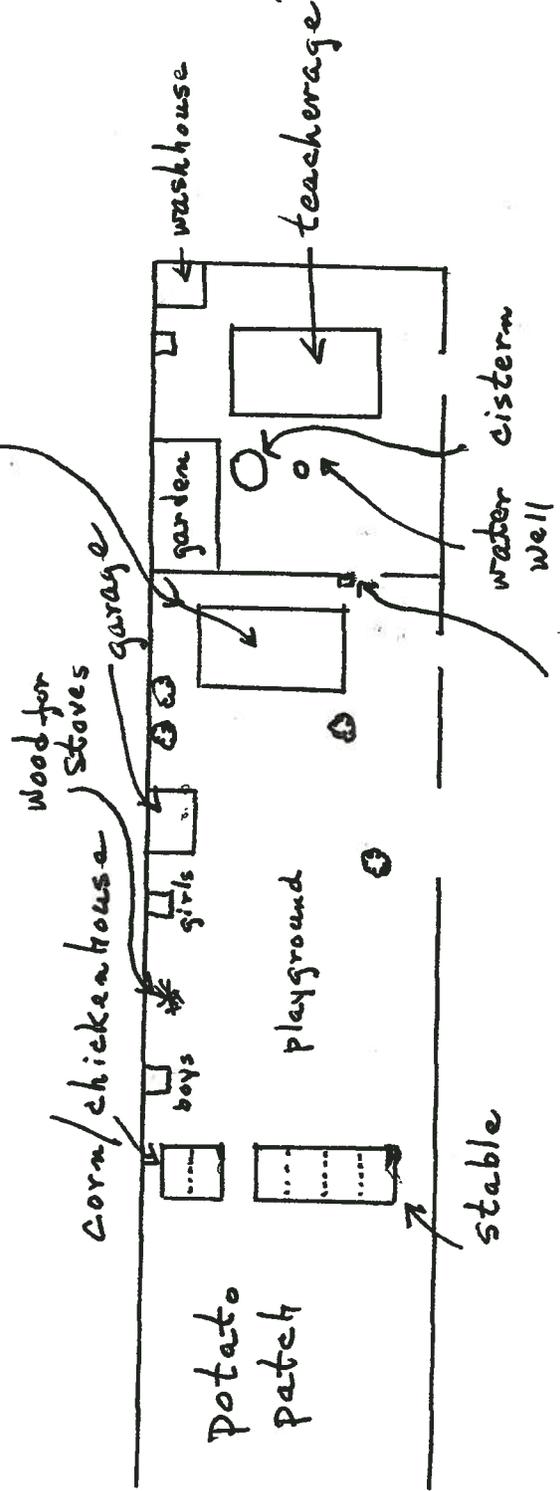
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First Mountain Valley School (1874-1883) [Bedroom B only.]



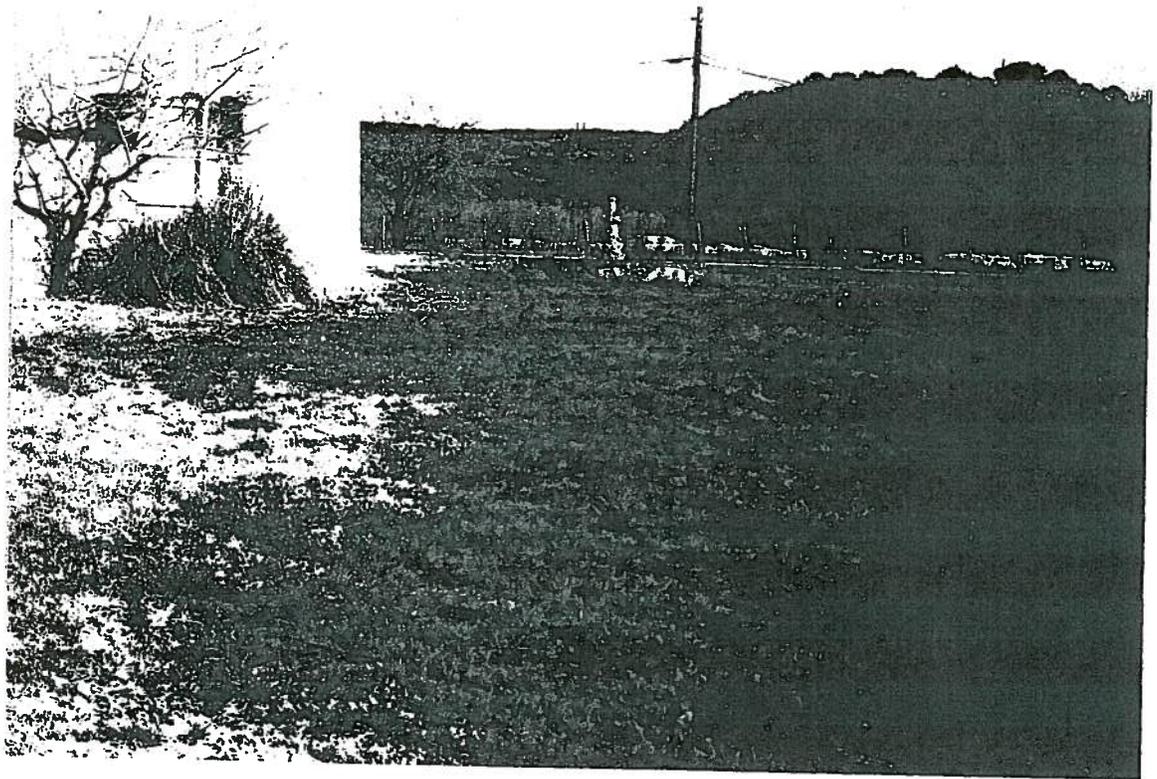
Second Mountain Valley School (1883-1957)



River Road

Sketch of Mountain Valley School-grounds, with details of second school (1883-1957), and teacherage, which included the first school (1874-1883)

09101



Present site of the original Mountain Valley School
on River Road

The following teachers taught at Mountain Valley School :

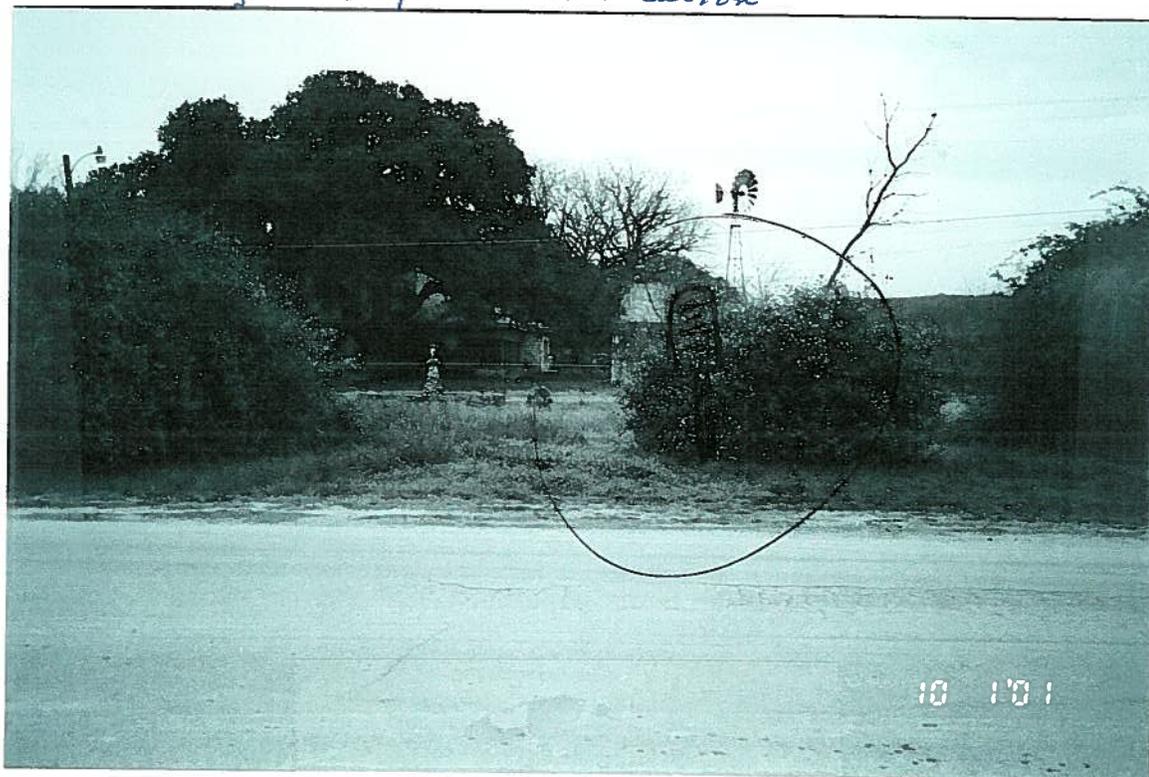
Julius Bose ¹⁹	1874-?
Mr. Reffie	?-1882
Emil Bose	1883-1895 (12 years)
J. P. Juergens	1896-1897 (1 year)
L. X. Barron	1898-1899 (1 year)
Mr. Schuette ²⁰	1900
Ernst Lutze	1901
A. M. Charpier ²¹	1901-1904 (3 years)
Robert M. Boerner ²²	1905-1921 (16 years)
Roland Boerner	1922 ²³ -1923 (1 year)
O. J. Crabill	1924-1925 (1 year)
Albert J. Rahe	1926-1948 (22 years)
Elizabeth Richter	1948-1953 (5 years)
Bonnie G. Goard	1953 1954 (1 year)
Ralph F. Jennings ²⁴	1954-1957 (3 years)

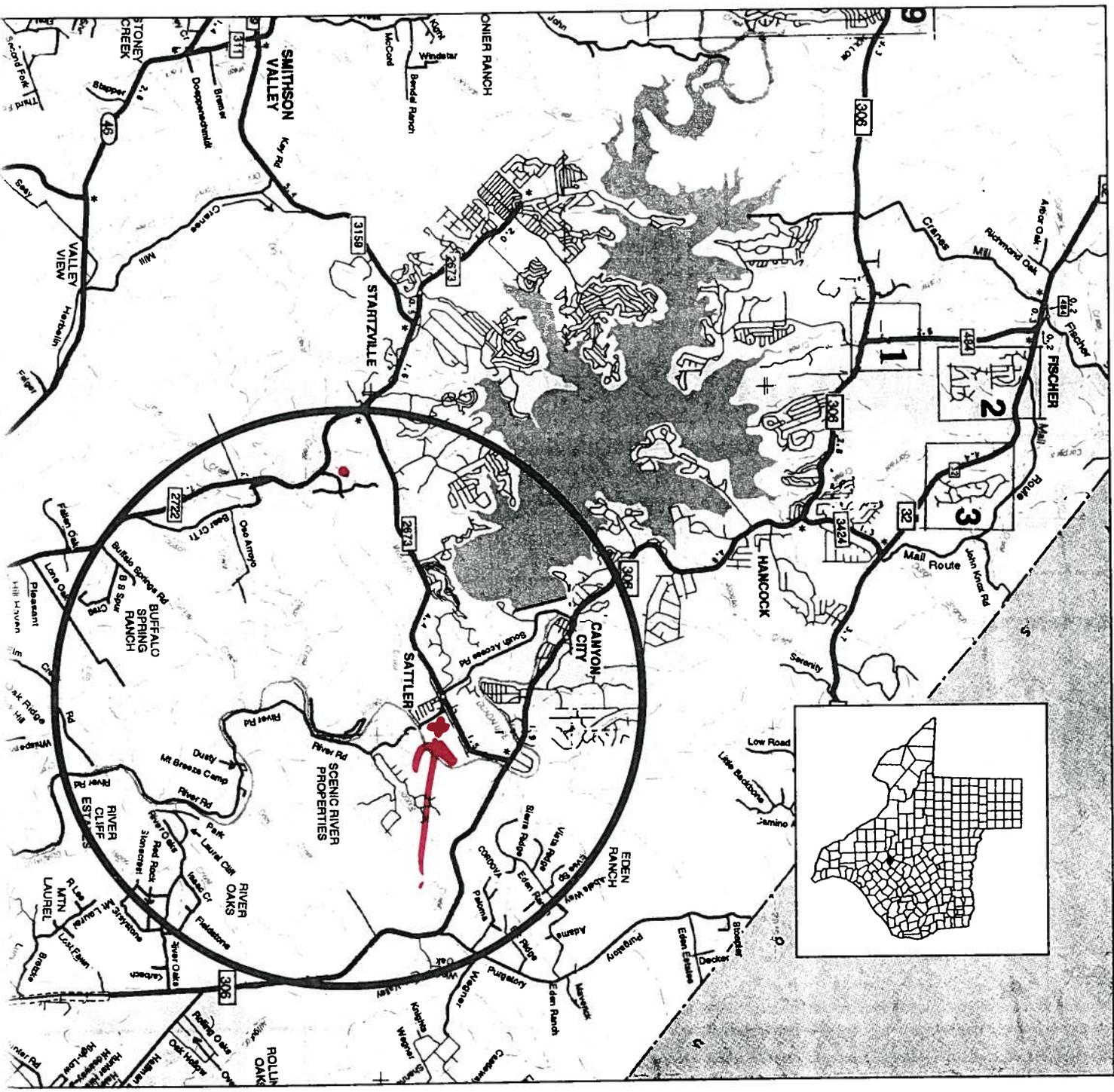
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Location of historic marker at 14300 River Rd. Canyon Lake, Tx



Background of marker location





A current Texas is sho help better u cal setting based. Boun map to show gion of intere the Guadalu New Braun roughly folle School Distri ary gives a l generally cor

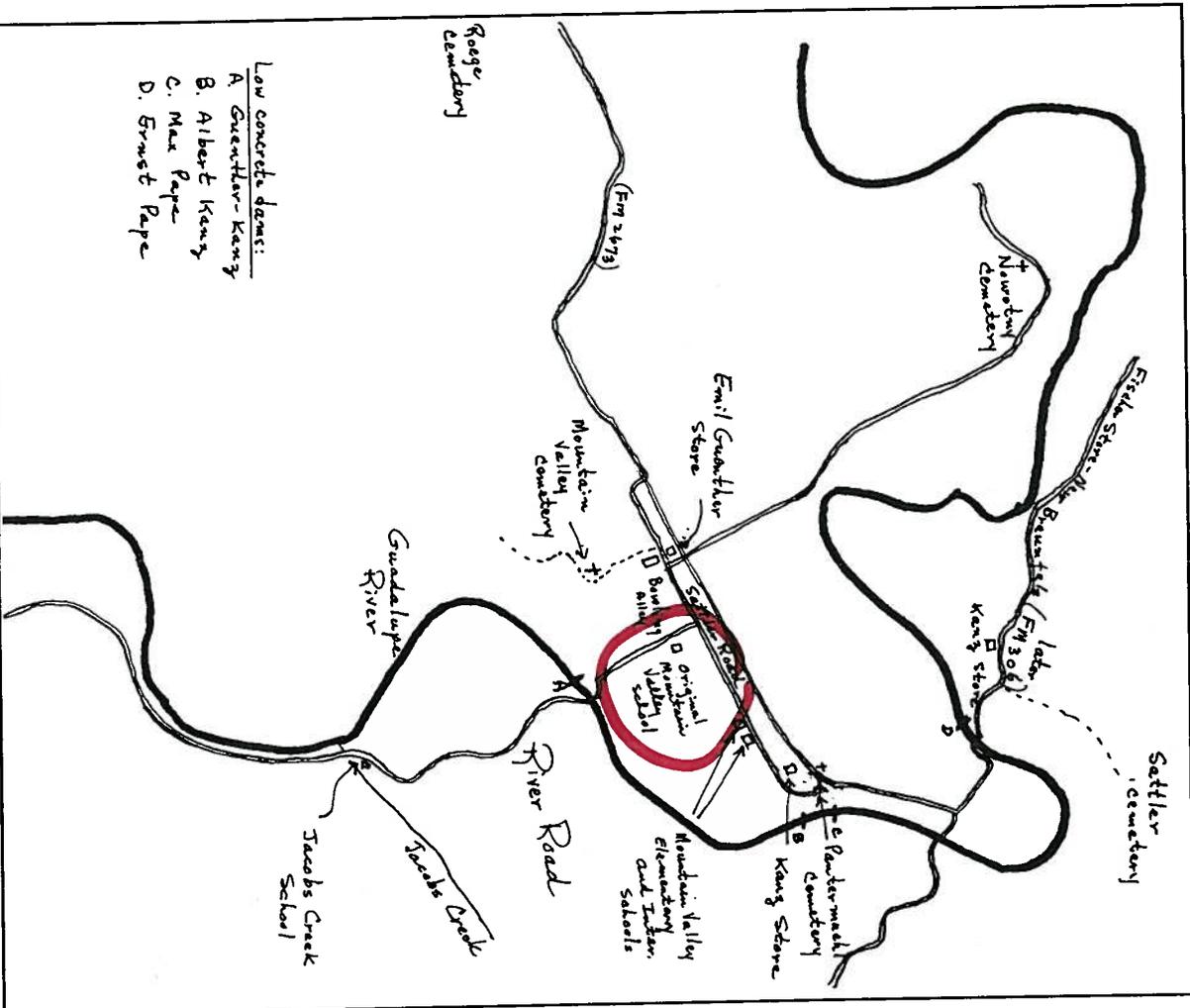
WATER—

The reality is never been settle its contributories all know. life is to good quality wat when setting in was not only use as a source of po It is of interest!

HISTORY OF SATTLER AND MOUNTAIN VALLEY SCHOOL

until his death in 1880.¹⁹ The first post office was located on his property about three miles north of the Emil Guenther Store.²⁰ After Mr. Sattler's death, other members of the community held the office of postmaster while maintaining the name of Sattler Post Office. After 1880, the post office was moved to the Mountain Valley area in order to be more centrally located for the people. The Sattler Post Office was closed in 1942, and then the mail was postmarked Fischer Store, Texas.²¹

In summary, the names of *Walhalla* (name of the hall) and *Marienthal* (name of the farm) were perhaps used for general regional identification in the early years. The name Mountain Valley appears to have been used for community identification since the dates associated with the establishment of the original Mountain Valley school (1874) and the Mountain Valley cemetery (1905) were after the establishment of the first post office (1856) several miles away. After many years the residents called the entire community by the name of Sattler because their



LOCATION OF SCHOOLS, CEMETERIES, AND LOW CONCRETE DAMS IN THE COMMUNITY FOR LATER REFERENCE.

area on FM 306 between Sattler and Canyon City which appears to be unnamed. Many of the businesses listed include the names of Cam-

CANYON LAKE

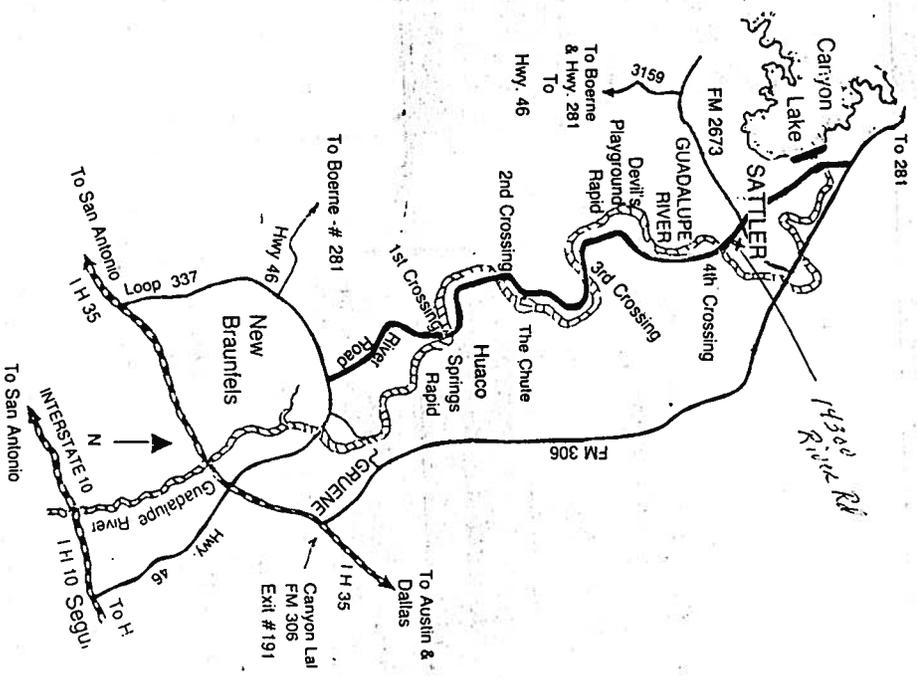
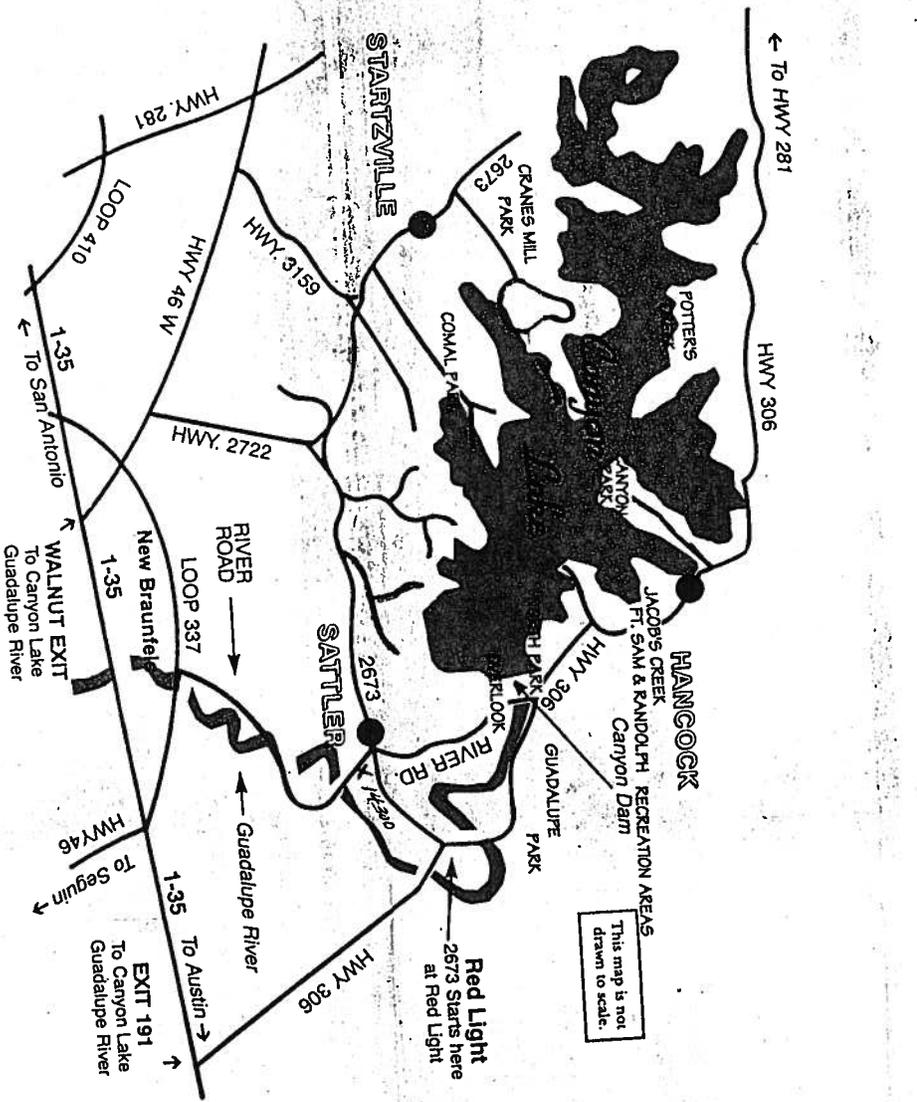
and

Guadalupe River

Guadalupe River

JANUARY-MARCH 2001

JANUARY-MARCH 2001



© 1993. Map designed by Irilee Haley, Aunt Nora's Countryside Inn, (830) 905-3989.



**TEXAS
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COMMISSION**

The State Agency for Historic Preservation

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July 8, 2003

Don Offerman, Chair
Comal CHC
401 West Coll
New Braunfels, TX 78130

RE: ORIGINAL SITE OF MOUNTAIN VALLEY SCHOOL
18"x 28" marker w/ post; Job # 09101
Date Shipped: 06/30/03; Shipping Company: CENTRAL

Dear Don:

The above-referenced marker was recently shipped to your attention, on the above referenced date. If it has not been received, please contact the Southwell Company at 210/223-1831 so that it may be traced. Please be prepared to give the job number, date shipped and shipping company name.

We would appreciate having photocopies of any newspaper clippings (rather than the original clippings, which aren't archival stable) or photos about the dedication ceremony to complete our file on this marker.

Thank you for your continued support and good work toward the preservation of the history of our state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Egina G. Reyes".

Egina G. Reyes
Office Manager
History Programs Division

pc: John & Delitha Guenzel