

Texas Historical Commission staff (CTS), 3/21/2010
Official Texas Historical Medallion and 16" x 12" plaque with post
Reeves County (Job #10PO99) Subject (Atlas) UTM: 14 000000E 0000000N
Location: Balmorhea, 6.5 miles west of Balmorhea

MISSION MARY

FROM 1895 TO 1935, FATHER NICHOLAS BROCARDUS EIKEN SERVED SEVERAL MISSION STATIONS IN THIS REGION, INCLUDING MISSION MARY, ESTABLISHED BY 1902 IN THE CALERA COMMUNITY. THE ORIGINAL ADOBE AND RUBBLE SANCTUARY WAS BUILT IN 1925 AND FEATURED PILLARS, WHICH WERE REMOVED WHEN THE BUILDING WAS PLASTERED IN THE 1940s. THE RECTANGULAR PLAN CHURCH FEATURES A BELL TOWER AND A LOW PITCH ROOF WITH EXPOSED RAFTER TAILS. TODAY, MOST OF THE AREA'S SMALL MISSIONS HAVE DISAPPEARED, AS HAS CALERA. MISSION MARY STANDS AS A MONUMENT TO AREA SETTLEMENTS AND TO THE CHURCHES AND THE RESIDENTS THEY SERVED.

RECORDED TEXAS HISTORIC LANDMARK – 2010

MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

**RECORDED TEXAS HISTORIC LANDMARK MARKERS:
2010 Official Texas Historical Marker
Sponsorship Application Form**

Valid September 1, 2009 to November 30, 2009 only

This form constitutes a public request for the Texas Historical Commission (THC) to consider approval of an Official Texas Historical Marker for the topic noted in this application. The THC will review the request and make its determination based on rules and procedures of the program. Filing of the application for sponsorship is for the purpose of providing basic information to be used in the evaluation process. The final determination of eligibility and therefore approval for a state marker will be made by the THC. This form is to be used for Recorded Texas Historic Landmark (building marker) requests only. Please see separate forms for either Historic Texas Cemeteries or subject markers.

Proposed marker topic (official title will be determined by the THC): Mission Mary

County: Reeves

Town (nearest county town on current state highway map): Balmorhea, Texas

Street address of marker site or directions from town noted above: 6.5 miles west of Balmorhea

Marker Coordinates:

If you know the location coordinates of the proposed marker site, enter them in one of the formats below:

UTM Zone Easting Northing
Lat: Long: (deg, min, sec or decimal degrees)

Otherwise, give a precise verbal description here (e.g. northwest corner of 3rd and Elm, or FM 1411, 2.6 miles east of McWhorter Creek): 1 mile west of Toyah Creek on FM 3078

NOTE: Recorded Texas Historic Landmark markers must be placed at the structure being marked.

Recorded Texas Historic Landmark markers definition: Recorded Texas Historic Landmark (RTHL) markers are awarded to structures deemed worthy of preservation for their historical associations and architectural significance. RTHL is a legal designation and comes with a measure of protection; it is the highest honor the state can bestow on a historic structure, and the designation is required for this type of marker. The RTHL designation becomes effective upon approval by the THC. Official Texas Historical Markers signify the RTHL designation, which comes only through application to and approval by the THC and must include public display of an Official Texas Historical Marker. Owners of RTHL-designated structures must give the THC 60 days written notice before any alterations are made to the exterior of the structure. RTHL status is a permanent designation and is not to be removed from the property in the event of a transfer of ownership. Only the THC can remove the designation or recall the marker. The marker must remain with the structure and may not be removed or displayed elsewhere until or unless the THC gives express approval in writing for such action. Once designated as RTHL, properties are subject to provisions of Texas Government Code, Section 442.006(f).

Criteria:

1. **Age:** Structures eligible for the RTHL designation and marker must be at least 50 years old.
2. **Historical significance:** Architectural significance alone is not enough to qualify a structure for the RTHL designation. It must have an equally significant historical association, and that association can come from an event that occurred at the site; through individuals who owned or lived on the property; or, in the case of bridges, industrial plants, schoolhouses and other non-residential properties, through documented significance to the larger community.
3. **Architectural significance:** Structures deemed architecturally significant are outstanding examples of architectural history through design, materials, structural type or construction methods. In all cases, eligible architectural properties must display integrity; that is, the structure should be in a good state of repair, maintain its appearance from its period of significance and be considered an exemplary model of preservation. Architectural significance is often best determined by the relevance of the property to broader contexts, including geography. Any changes over the years should be compatible with original design and reflect compliance with accepted preservation practices, e.g., the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation*.
4. **Good state of repair:** Structures not considered by the THC to be in a good state of repair are ineligible for RTHL designation. The THC reserves the sole right to make that determination relative to eligibility for RTHL markers.

Special National Register considerations for RTHL marker applications: If a structure has been individually listed in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) under either Criterion A or B **and** Criterion C (Architecture), the historical text compiled as part of the National Register nomination process may be submitted as part of the marker process, provided it includes the required reference notes and other documentation. Acceptance of the National Register information for the purposes of the marker process will be up to the sole determination of the THC. Listing in the NRHP does not guarantee approval for an RTHL marker. See the THC web site at <http://www.thc.state.tx.us/markerdesigns/madnrcrit.html> for National Register criteria.

Check this box if the property is individually listed in the NRHP.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Any individual, group or county historical commission (CHC) may apply to the THC to request an Official Texas Historical Marker for what it deems a worthy topic. Only complete marker applications that contain all the required elements and are submitted online as required can be accepted or processed by the THC (for RTHL markers, the required elements are: sponsorship application form; narrative history; documentation; legal description of the property; site plan; floorplan; historic photograph; and current photographs clearly showing each side of the structure—please resize photographs to 1-2 MB, or approximately 1024 x 768 pixels).

- Completed applications must be duly reviewed, verified and approved by the county historical commission (CHC) in the county in which the marker will be placed.
- The sponsorship application form, narrative history and documentation must be submitted as Microsoft Word or Word-compatible documents and sent via email attachments to the THC by no later than November 30, 2009.
- Required font style and type size are a Times variant and 12-point.
- Narrative histories must be typed in a double-spaced (or 1.5-spaced) format and include separate sections on context, overview, significance and documentation.
- The narrative history must include documentation in the form of reference notes, which can be either footnotes or endnotes. Documentation associated with applications should be broad-based and demonstrate a survey of all available resources, both primary and secondary.

- Upon notification of the successful preliminary review of required elements by the THC, a non-refundable application fee of \$100 is required. The fee shall be submitted to the THC within ten working days of application receipt notification.

APPROVAL BY COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

The duly appointed marker representative (chair or marker chair) noted below for the county historical commission will be the sole contact with the THC for this marker application. To ensure accuracy, consistency and efficiency, all information from and to the THC relative to the application—and throughout the review and production processes—will be via direct communication with the CHC representative. All other inquiries (calls, emails, letters) to the THC will be referred to the CHC representative for response. By filling out the information below and filing the application with the THC, the CHC representative is providing the THC with notice that the application and documentation have been reviewed and verified by the CHC and that the material meets all current requirements of the Official Texas Historical Marker program.

As chair or duly appointed marker chair, I certify the following:

- Representatives of the CHC have met or talked with the potential marker sponsor and discussed the marker program policies as outlined on the THC web site. CHC members have reviewed the history and documentation for accuracy and made corrections or notes as necessary. It is the determination of the CHC that the topic, history and documentation meet criteria for eligibility.

CHC comments or concerns about this application, if any: more historic info is available

Name of CHC contact (chair or marker chair): Bill Oglesby

Mailing address: P.O. Box 1784

City, Zip: Pecos 79772

Daytime phone (with area code):432-445-5076 **Email address** (required):

wpmuseum@nwol.net

PERMISSION OF PROPERTY OWNER FOR MARKER PLACEMENT

Property owner: Calera Foundation

Address:PO Box 12 **City, state, zip:**Toyahvale, TX 79786

Phone:432-448-2430 **Email address:** caleratexas@gmail.com

Legal Description of the property (metes and bounds, lot and block, etc.): 5.043 tract of land out of the SW/4, Section 15, Block13, H&GN, Reeves County, Texas

Upon receipt of the application, the THC will provide the owner with a letter that outlines the legal responsibility of ownership under the Recorded Texas Historic Landmark statute. The letter must be signed by the owner and returned to the THC before the evaluation can be completed.

NOTE: The property owner will not receive any additional copies of correspondence from the THC. All other correspondence—notice of receipt, request for additional information, payment notice, inscription, shipping notice, etc.—will be sent via email to the CHC representative, who is encouraged to share the information with all interested parties as necessary. Given the large

volume of applications processed annually and the need for centralized communication, all inquiries about applications in process will be referred to the CHC for response. The CHC is the sole liaison to the THC on all marker application matters.

SPONSORSHIP PAYMENT INFORMATION

Prospective sponsors please note the following:

- Payment must be received in full within 45 days of the official approval notice and must be accompanied by the THC payment form. The THC is unable to process partial payments or to delay payment due to processing procedures of the sponsor. Applications not paid in the time frame required may, at the sole discretion of the THC, be cancelled or postponed.
- Payment does not constitute ownership of a marker; Recorded Texas Historic Landmark markers and other Official Texas Historical Markers are the property of the State of Texas.
- If, at any time during the marker process, sponsorship is withdrawn, a refund can be processed, but the THC will retain the application fee of \$100.
- The Official Texas Historical Marker Program provides no means of recognizing sponsors or property owners through marker text, incising or supplemental plaques.

Marker sponsor (may be individual or organization): Reeves County Historical Committee

Contact person (if applicable): Debra Thomas

Mailing address:P.O. Box 1784 **City, zip:** Pecos 79772

Email address (required):wpmuseum@nwol.net **Phone: 432-445-5076**

SHIPPING INSTRUCTIONS

In order to facilitate delivery of the marker, neither post office box numbers nor rural route numbers can be accepted. To avoid additional shipping charges or delays, use a business street address (open 8 a.m.—5 p.m., Monday through Friday).

Name: Pecos Area Chamber of Commerce

Street address:111 S. Cedar **City, zip:** Pecos 79772

Daytime phone (required): 432-445-2406 **Email** (required): pcoc@cebridge.net

TYPE AND SIZE OF RECORDED TEXAS HISTORIC LANDMARK MARKERS

As part of its review process, the THC will determine the appropriate size marker and provide options, if any, for the approved topic based on its own review criteria, including, but not exclusive of, historical significance, replication of information in other THC markers, relevance to the Statewide Preservation Plan and the amount of available documented information provided in the application narrative. In making its determination, however, the THC will also take into account the preference of the CHC, as noted below.

The sponsor/CHC prefers the following size marker:

- 27" x 42" RTHL marker with post (\$1500)
- 27" X 42" RTHL marker without post* (\$1500)

- 18" x 28" RTHL marker with post (\$1000)
- 18" x 28" RTHL marker without post* (\$1000)
- RTHL medallion and 16" x 12" plaque with post (\$750)
- RTHL medallion and 16" x 12" plaque without post* (\$750)

*For an RTHL marker without post, indicate to what surface material it will be mounted:

- wood
- masonry
- metal
- other (specify)

SUBMITTING THE APPLICATION (via email required)

When the CHC has determined the application is complete, the history has been verified and the topic meets the requirements of the Official Texas Historical Marker Program, the materials should be forwarded to the THC via email at the following address:
markerapplication@thc.state.tx.us.

- The CHC or marker chair should send an email containing the following attachments (see attachment function under file menu or toolbox on your computer):
 - This application form
 - The narrative history (including documentation)
 - Legal description of the property
 - Detailed floor plan for each floor of the structure
 - Detailed site plan of the property
 - At least one historic photograph
 - Current photographs clearly showing each side of the structure

RECORDS RETENTION BY CHC: The CHC must retain hard copies of the application as well as an online version, at least for the duration of the marker process. The THC is not responsible for lost applications, for incomplete applications or for applications not properly filed according to the program requirements. For additional information about any aspect of the Official Texas Historical Marker Program, see the Markers page on the THC web site (<http://www.thc.state.tx.us/markerdesigs/madmark.html>)

Texas Historical Commission
History Programs Division
P.O. Box 12276, Austin, TX 78711-2276
Phone 512/463-5853
history@thc.state.tx.us



TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
real places telling real stories

MISSION MARY

I. CONTEXT

Calera, Texas is located 2 miles west of Toyahvale, TX; both communities are at the foothills of the Davis Mountains called Madera Valley. The two communities played a valuable role in the deployment of Davis Mountains – Trans Pecos Region. In this vast semiarid desert, water was an important commodity. Calera's water source was from Phantom Lake while Toyahvale had San Solomon Springs. Water bubbling from the ground attracted Indians, Spanish Explorers, Mexicans and Anglos. After the Apache tribe was brought under control in 1880, development of the Davis Mountain Region quickly increased. Fort Davis became the center of the area and crops from Madera Valley supported growth of Fort Davis and the general area¹. Before 1871 only few Mexican families were settled in Madera Valley. Living along Toyah Creek in Tapias (dugouts), these early immigrants brought their religious faith with them from Mexico. La Virgen de Guadalupe appeared on the cloak of St. Juan Diego in 1531, fitting that the church at Calera be called Mission Mary.

II. OVERVIEW

Written church records for Calera began in 1902. A baptism took place at Calera on April 27, 1902. On that day Father Brocardus baptized Meleton Flores son of Carpio Flores and Gabrina Sotelo². Born in Holland Father Nicholas Brocardus Eiken arrived in the United States in 1887³. Father Brocardus stationed at Fort Davis served the region from 1895 till 1935. Delivering the sacraments to mostly Mexican Americans in Ft. Davis and mission stations like Calera, Brogado, Ft. Stockton, Alpine, Big Bend, Boquillas, Castelon, Chisas, Lajitas, Marathon, Pera, Saragosa, and Terlingua. Traveling on horseback or buggy father Brocardus became well known throughout the entire region⁴. Although records started in 1902, Mission Mary was not built until 1925. In the account of her life at Calera, Lupe Renteria Lyles recounted that having moved to Calera at the age of 8 in 1923, there was no church at Calera. Father Brocardus would give mass, baptize and marry once a month. Two years after moving to Calera, her brothers

helped build Mission Mary. Mrs. Lyles family which included her mother and five siblings lived in one of the Tapias along Toyah Creek. She recalls life at Calera was one of small farms and ranches. While one group supplied the livestock the other group provided the grains, cotton, and vegetables. Life was hard, happy, and abundant and filled with great people. According to Mrs. Lyles there were about 80 to 90 persons living in Calera⁵. The last record from the Sacramental Record book of St. Joseph's in Fort Davis was on May 14, 1931. On that date, Juan Ortega the son of Jose Ortega and Ladislada de Ortega was baptized. His parents had been married at Mission Mary on September 23, 1916⁶. After 1931 Priest from Brogado began serving Calera and records were then kept by the El Paso Diocese. Timeline for Mission Mary become faded because of lack of records. During the 1940s a new church, Christ the King, was built in Brogado. During this time Mission Mary was plastered over by workers that built Christ the King. The two original pillars were removed and Mission Mary was now a rectangular building⁷. Eventually Mission Mary was abandoned and fell in disrepair. In 2004 Calera Foundation restored the mission and opened Mission Mary as Calera Chapel. Calera Chapel is now open to the public.

III. SIGNIFICANCE

Mission Mary is not architecturally significant, built by poor people with limited resources, early residents who lived in dugouts along Toyah Creek. Mission Mary is a testament to the strength of these settlers and the priest who served in this vast area. Most of the small missions served by Father Brocardus have disappeared; Mission Mary is a standing monument to these early residents of Reeves County, Texas. From Calera Mexican American families spread to other parts of the United States and yet Calera Church (Mission Mary) remains in their hearts. Stories retold to the young who can now visit and ponder the lives of their ancestors. Calera, TX is important in the history of Reeves County being only two miles from Balmorhea State Park and Toyahvale, TX. All that remains of Calera is a few ruins and this Church, which withstood the elements of this beautiful yet harsh environment. Short on written records, it is still hard to deny the simple beauty of this building. What we do have is the names of these early settlers,

whose faith brought them to build this simple church; its location begs the question, who were these people?

IV. DOCUMENTATION

¹ The Journal of Big Bend Studies Volume II: Madera Canyon: Historic Corner of the Davis Mountains, Robert S. Weddle, Page 45 & 46

² Sacramental Records, St. Josephs Church, Ft. Davis, TX as researched by Mary Williams

³ Recollection of Father Nicholas Brocardus Eiken by Dr. John Totter

⁴ Catholic Directory for 1911, St. Joseph Church, Ft. Davis, as researched by Mary Williams Ft. Davis

⁵ My Life at Calera, by Lupe Renteria Lyles

⁶ Sacramental Records, St. Josephs Church, Ft. Davis, TX as researched by Mary Williams

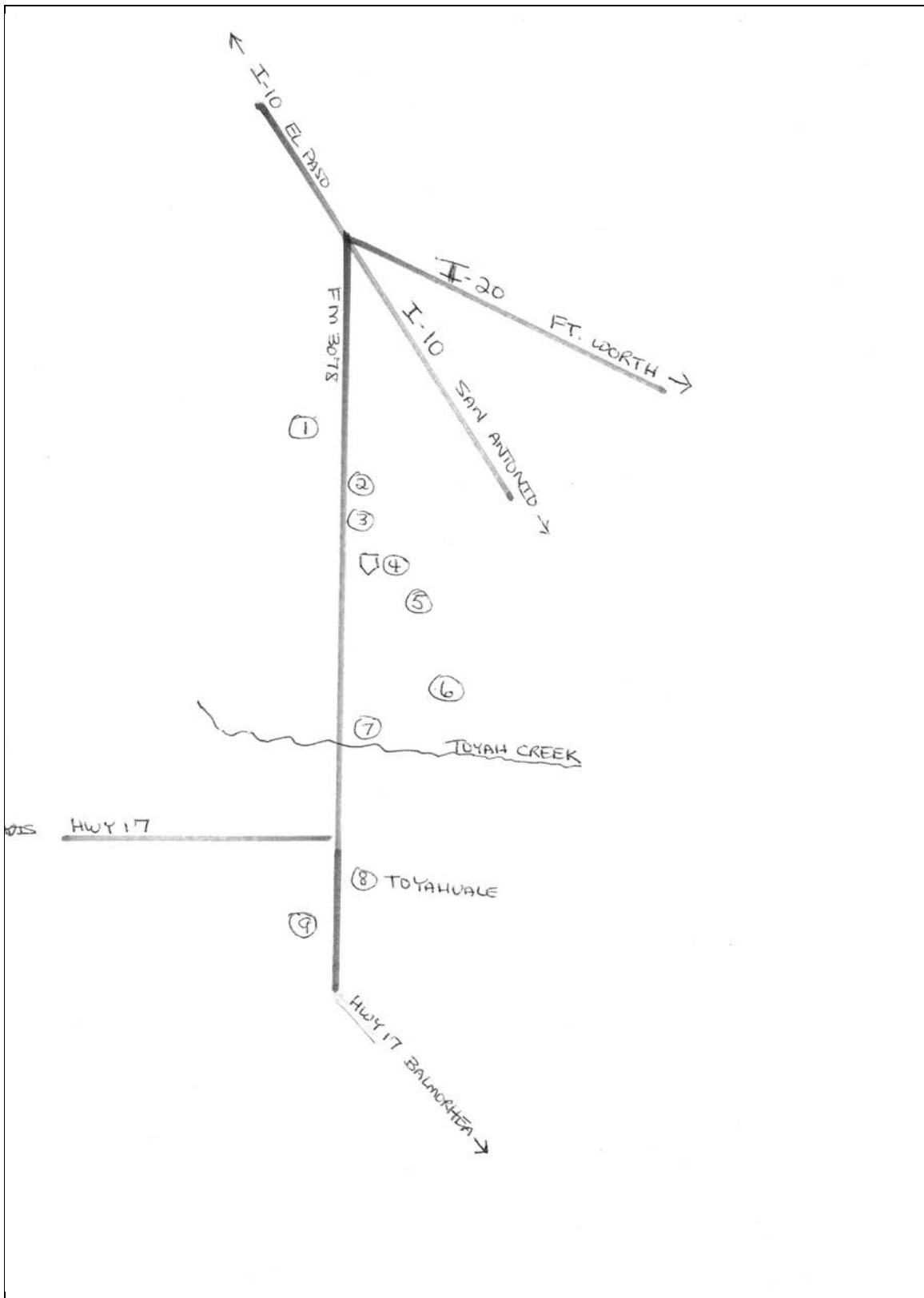
⁷ Photographs at West of the Pecos Museum, Balmorhea Room

Mission Mary Floor Plan

Call 1-800-768-3729.



Mission Mary Site Map



1. Ruins of Tourist Camp
2. Ruins
3. Ruins
4. Mission Mary
5. Ruins
6. Calera Cemetery
7. Ruins of Tapia
8. Toyahvale Post Office
9. Balmorhea State Park

WARRANTY DEED

State: Texas

County: Reeves

Grantor: McLelland James Crummy Trust, Keith McLelland Trurtee.

Grantor's Address: 4007 Angelina, Midland, TX 79707

Grantee: LA CALERA FOUNDATION

Grantee's Address: P.O. Box 12, Toyahvale, TX 79786

Date: March 18, 2003

For adequate consideration, Grantor, named above, grants, sells, and conveys to Grantee, named above, All of their right, title and interest in all of the Surface of the following lands (the "Lands") in the county and state named above.

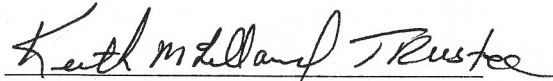
A Tract of land out of the SW/4 Section 15, Block 13, H&GN Ry. Co. Survey, Reeves County, Texas. More fully described in exhibit "A".

SAVE AND EXCEPT all Oil, Gas and Minerals.

If the La Calera Foundation should cease to exist, all of the above described lands will revert back.

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the above described premises, together with all and singular the rights and appurtenances thereto in anywise belonging unto the said grantee, his heirs and assigns forever; and we do hereby bind ourselves, our heirs, executors and administrators to WARRANT AND FOREVER DEFEND all and singular the said premises unto the said grantee, his heirs and assigns, against every person whomsoever lawfully claiming or to claim the same or any part thereof.

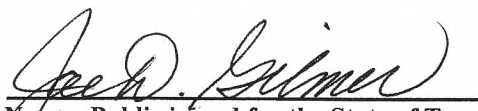
Grantor



McLelland, James Crummy Trust,
Keith McLelland, Trustee

THE STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF MIDLAND

This instrument was acknowledged before me on the 18TH day of March, 2003, by Keith McLelland, Trustee of the McLelland, James Crummy Trust.



JOB# 10RVO



Authorization for Recorded Texas Historic Landmark Designation

Property considered for designation:

Name of House, Address of House, Name of County, Texas: **Mission Mary (Calera Foundation, PO Box 12, Toyahvale, TX 79786)**

Legal Description (Lot and Block or Metes and Bounds):

SW/4, Section 15, Block 13, H&GN, Reeves County, Texas

The Recorded Texas Historic Landmark (RTHL) designation is awarded to historic structures deemed worthy of preservation for their architectural integrity and historical associations. Authorized by the Texas Legislature under Texas Government Code, Chapter 442, RTHL is the highest honor the state can bestow on historic structures in Texas. Designated properties are afforded a measure of legal protection and become part of the recorded history of the state's built environment.

Benefits of the RTHL designation:

- Recognition that a property is of local, regional or state significance.
- Protection for up to 90 days from exterior alterations, including demolition or relocation.
- Ad valorem tax exemptions, where granted by local taxing authorities.
- Inclusion in the Texas Historic Sites Atlas.
- Technical preservation assistance through the THC.

Responsibility of the property owner under the RTHL provision, as noted in Texas Government Code, Chapter 442.006 (f):
A person may not damage the historical or architectural integrity of a structure the commission has designated as a Recorded Texas Historic Landmark without notifying the commission at least 60 days before the date on which the action causing the damage is to begin. After receiving the notice, the commission may waive the waiting period or, if the commission determines that a longer period will enhance the chance for preservation, it may require an additional waiting period of not longer than 30 days. On the expiration of the time limits imposed by this section, the person may proceed, but must proceed not later than the 180th day after the date on which notice was given or the notice is considered to have expired.

Additionally:

- The designation requires the public display of the Recorded Texas Historic Landmark marker. The marker is the property of the State of Texas and may not be removed or relocated without the prior permission of the Texas Historical Commission.
- RTHL status is a permanent designation which is retained with the property even upon transfer of ownership. Only the Texas Historical Commission may remove the designation.
- Structures designated as RTHL do not have to be open to the public, but the marker must be accessible to the public.
- RTHL designation does not imply eligibility for federal tax incentives for rehabilitation.

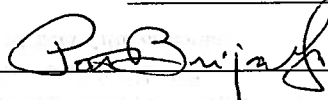
I, the property owner or legal administrator of the property noted herein, signify below that I have read the information regarding Recorded Texas Historic Landmarks and that I voluntarily seek the designation for the property. I further promise to comply with the provision noted in the Texas Government Code.

Name (print): **Pat Brijalba**

Mailing address: **PO Box 12**

City, state, zip: **Toyahvale, TX 79786**

Phone: **432-448-2430** Email: **caleratexas@gmail.com**

Signature:  **President Calera Foundation**









