

Texas Historical Commission staff (BB), 3/19/2009, rev 4/3/09  
18" x 28" Official Texas Historical Marker WITHOUT post, attach to MASONRY  
Comal County (Job #09CM01) Subject (Atlas) UTM;  
Location: New Braunfels, 1135 Mission Valley Road

### **MISSION VALLEY SCHOOL**

GERMAN SETTLERS ESTABLISHED THE MISSION VALLEY COMMUNITY, NAMED FOR AN EARLIER SPANISH MISSION, IN THE MID-1840s. AREA FAMILIES EDUCATED THEIR CHILDREN IN THEIR HOMES BEFORE BROTHERS KARL AND JULIUS BREHMER DONATED LAND FOR THE FIRST COMMUNITY SCHOOL IN 1870. TRUSTEES BUILT A FRAME SCHOOLHOUSE, AND IN 1884 A LARGER LIMESTONE SCHOOL WAS BUILT ON LAND ACQUIRED FROM FRIEDRICH AND EMILIE HEIDRICH; THE FRAME SCHOOL THEN BECAME A TEACHERAGE. NEW BRAUNFELS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT ANNEXED MISSION VALLEY IN 1952. SINCE THAT TIME THIS SITE, WHICH INCLUDES THE HISTORIC FRAME AND STONE SCHOOLHOUSES, STONE CISTERNS AND OTHER FEATURES, HAS SERVED AS A COMMUNITY CENTER.

RECORDED TEXAS HISTORIC LANDMARK - 2009  
MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

**RECORDED TEXAS HISTORIC LANDMARK MARKERS:  
2009 Official Texas Historical Marker  
Sponsorship Application Form**

Valid October 15, 2008 to January 15, 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 Valley School

**County:** Comal

**Town** (nearest county town on current state highway map): New Braunfels, Texas

**Street address of marker site or directions from town noted above:** 1135 Mission Valley Rd., New Braunfels, Texas 78132

**Marker Coordinates:**

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

Latitude: N 29 degrees 43.214 minutes      Longitude: W 98 degrees 12.104 minutes

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):

**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).

- 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 January 15, 2008.
- 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:**

**Name of CHC contact** (chair or marker chair): Laura West

**Mailing address:** 152 E Coll St. **City,** New Braunfels, Texas **Zip:** 78130

**Daytime phone** (with area code): 830 626 7623 **Email address** (required): lbmbwest@gmail.com

**PERMISSION OF PROPERTY OWNER FOR MARKER PLACEMENT**

**Property owner:** Mission Valley Community Center (Melvin Kreusler, president)

**Address:** 1135 Mission Valley Rd. **City,** New Braunfels **state,** Texas **zip:** 78132

**Phone:** 830 625 2087 **Email address:** mgkreusler@hotmail.com

**Legal Description of the property** (metes and bounds, lot and block, etc.):

**Legal Description of Original School Property – Brehmer (Comal County Clerk’s Office, Vol. K, pp 297-298)**

One acre of land lying and being in Comal County and described as follows: Said acre of Land is the most northern part of original Survey 358, granted in the name of J. H. Hartman – five miles West from the City of New Braunfels – Beginning at a stone at S. 37 deg. E. at 4 1/3 varas from the most northern corner of said Survey 358. Thence with said boundary line between Survey 358 and Survey 284. S 37 deg. E. **75 1/5** varas to a stone. Thence S. 53 deg. W **75 1/5** varas to a stone. Thence N 37 deg. W. **75 1/5** varas to a stone. Hence N 53 deg. E **75 1/5** varas to the place of beginning.

**Legal Description of Second School Property – Heidrich (Comal County Clerk’s Office, Vol. S, pp 31-32)**

About 1 4/5 acres of land, situated in Comal County, Texas, about 5 miles West from the City of New Braunfels, being a part of Survey 284, originally granted to J. Heidrich and now owned by said Friedrich Heidrich. Beginning at a stake, set for the original West corner of said Survey 284, being also the original North corner of Survey 358, from which an Elm 8 “ dia. brs. S 33 deg. W. 2 1/4 varas and a cedar 6” dia. brs. S 66 ½ deg. E. 6 varas, marked +. Thence S. 37 deg. E. **215** varas the boundary line between said Surveys 284 and 358 to a stone. Thence N. 53 deg. E **47** varas to a stone-Thence N. 37 deg. W. **215** varas to a stake. Thence S. 53 deg. W. **47** varas to the place of the beginning.

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): Mission Valley Community Center

**Contact person** (if applicable): Melvin Kreusler

**Mailing address:** 11222 Schoenthal Rd. **City,** New Braunfels, Texas **zip:** 78132

**Email address** (required): mgkreusler@hotmail.com **Phone:** 830 625 2087

#### **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:** Melvin Kreusler

**Street address:** 11222 Schoenthal Rd. **City,** New Braunfels, Texas **zip:** 78132

**Daytime phone** (required): 830 625 2087 **Email** (required): mgkreusler@hotmail.com

### **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)
- X 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
- X 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](mailto: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>).

## **Mission Valley School Historical Marker**

### **I. Context**

The Mission Valley settlement was formed around the same time that New Braunfels was established in 1845. Its location is northwest of Mission Hill, where the Spanish had established a Mission, Nuestra Senora De Guadalupe, in 1758.<sup>1</sup>

As was customary in many German communities, education of the children was of high priority and the Mission Valley community was no exception. Initially, the community bonded and educated their children in private homes. Later, one acre of land was donated for the construction of a public free school building. As the community grew, a larger school and playground were needed. Soon another family donated 1.8 acres adjacent to the above one acre. A new rock building was constructed for the education of the children and the original school building on the acre was converted into a teacherage, a house for the teacher to live.

The rock school building was the only educational center for many years when in 1950 the community school closed its doors. The entire 2.8 acres are currently referred to as the Mission Valley Community Center.

### **II. Overview**

The 2008 address of the location under consideration is: 1135 Mission Valley Road, New Braunfels, Texas 78132. The name of the road had changed several times during the years. See Attachment 1 – Mapquest of Area in Comal County.

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<sup>1</sup> Historical Marker is located on Hwy 46 W outside of Loop 337, erected in 1936.

The Mission Valley settlement is located about five miles northwest of New Braunfels in Comal County, and about four miles northwest of Mission Hill. It was formed around the time that New Braunfels was established in 1845 with perhaps eleven families living there in the earlier years.<sup>2</sup> Education was important to the German people. By 1861, the settlement held classes for their children in private homes.<sup>3</sup> The instructions were held in five different homes during the next eight years.

Realizing that the home instructions were not ideal, in October of 1870, brothers, Karl and Julius Brehmer, gave one acre of land out of Survey 358 for the promotion of public education to the trustees Christian Pape, Heinrich Dietz and Heinrich Adams of the public free school in the Mission Valley settlement.<sup>4</sup> See Attachment 2 for the legal description of the property. The school building was constructed by volunteers of the community. See the **right** side of Attachment 3 for a sketch of the original school site. It was estimated that the original school was 16 ft by 18 feet in size, or 288 square feet. Records show 35 students in attendance during the 1873-1874 school year.<sup>5</sup>

It was during this time, in 1884, that Friedrich and Emilie Kunkel Heidrich offered to sell 1.8 acres of land out of adjacent Survey 284 to the school trustees Karl Brehmer, Gottlieb Kempin and Wilhelm Scheel for the promotion of public education.<sup>6</sup> See Attachment 4 for the legal description of the property. A rock building

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<sup>2</sup> Hermann Seele (Translated by Edward C. Breitenkamp), *The Cypress and Other Writings of a German Pioneer in Texas*, University of Texas Press, Austin and London 1979, p 41.

<sup>3</sup> Frieda Brehmer Heidrich, manuscript entitled *History of Mission Valley School*, pp 1-3. Copy is located at Sophienburg Archives in New Braunfels, Texas

<sup>4</sup> Comal County Clerk's Office, Volume K, pp 297-298. Family information shows that brothers, Karl and Julius Brehmer, gave the land: however, only Karl signed the deed record.

<sup>5</sup> Heidrich, p 4.

<sup>6</sup> Comal County Clerk's Office, Volume S, pp 31-32.



was constructed with the material donated by the Kappmeyer family who had a quarry not far from the school site. This building is 23 by 33 feet, or 759 square feet. Thus, the new building was about 2.6 times as big as the original one. See the **left** side of Attachment 3 for a sketch of the second site (to be referred to as the rock building). Attachments 5a-c show photos of the rock school as it appears in 2008, and Attachment 6 shows the floor plan. Based on older school pictures, it is estimated that the porch was added in the early 1920s.

During the time that the rock building was constructed, the original school building was modified to become the teacherage. See Attachment 7 for the photo of the teacherage as it appears in 2008. A kitchen and bathroom were added on the west side of the original school building with a single roof over the complete structure. The original school apparently had a porch on the north side and on the south side.

Both schools depended on rain for their water uses. Each had a 10 by 10 feet square cistern about 12 feet underground. The rain gutter leading from the building can be seen in the 1920s photo of the rock structure. See Attachment 8.

Each school building used a wood stove for heating in the winter. The school patrons took turns supplying the wood for the school. At the rock building the wood was stored in the wood shed and the older male students were responsible for bringing in the wood for the single stove in the school room.

The original school had no electricity. Electricity became available to both the rock building and the teacherage in January, 1942.<sup>7</sup> Thus, the school did have electricity for the last eight years of its existence.

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<sup>7</sup> Information from New Braunfels Utilities.

After 80 years of public education at the site, the one-room rock school was closed in 1950 and the students went to New Braunfels Independent School District (NBISD). The Mission Valley Common School District was formally annexed by NBISD on 3 June 1952.

A few days before the annexation, 31 May 1952, the 2.8 acres of buildings and school property were bought by the Mission Valley Community Center.<sup>8</sup> The community center organization takes care of the property and sponsors an annual picnic for the community descendants and friends to reminisce and keep the spirit of the community alive.

The rock school structure still looks like it did when it was constructed in 1884, with the exception of the added front porch and rear storage room. This is the only school site in Comal County where the entire facility is still intact.<sup>9</sup> A few school buildings in the county have been preserved, however, their playgrounds, etc. were not. Many other schools have either been razed or modified for residency.

### **III. Significance**

In 2008, the Mission Valley School and associated grounds serve as a reminder of the community's commitment to education, and most importantly serves as a perfect example of what one-room schools and playgrounds used to look like.

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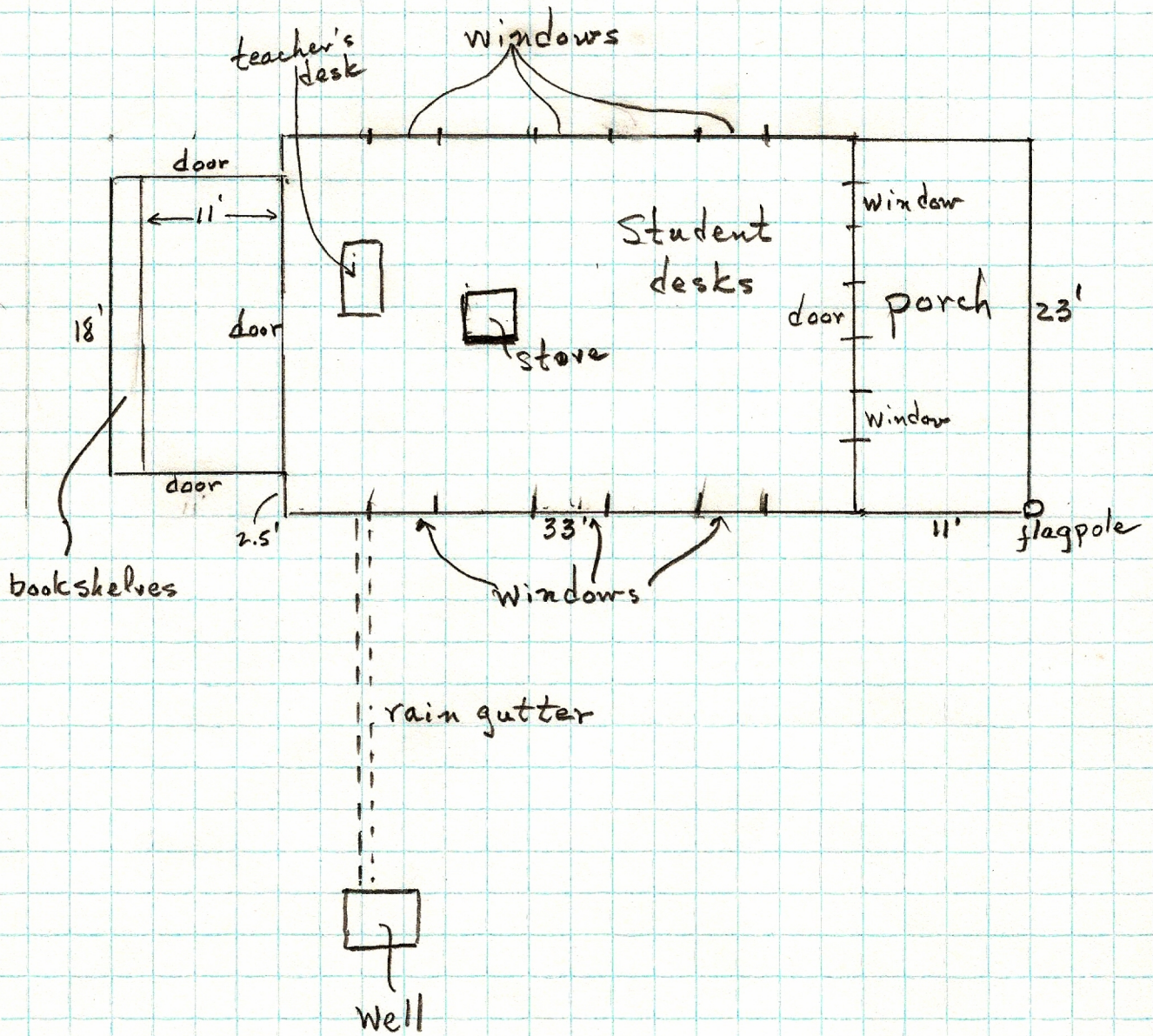
<sup>8</sup> Comal County Clerk's Office, Volume 98, pp 450-452.

<sup>9</sup> Research by Alton J. Rahe, author of *History of Sattler and Mountain Valley School, Comal County, Texas*, Walsworth Publishing Company, 1999.

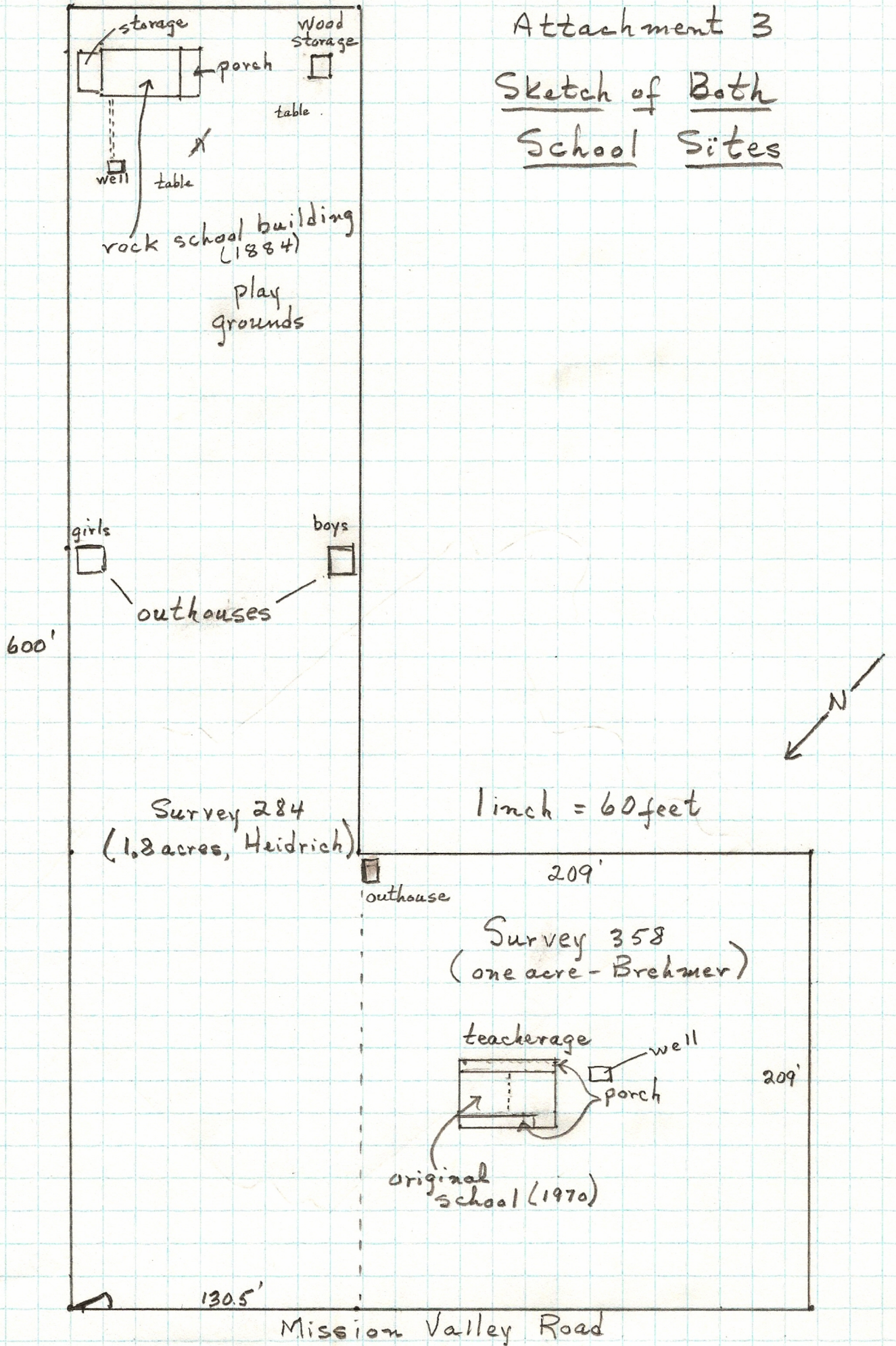
- Attachment 1 – Mapquest map of Comal County
- Attachment 2 – Legal Description of Original School Property
- Attachment 3 – Sketch of Both School Sites
- Attachment 4 – Legal Description of Second School Property
- Attachment 5 – Photo of Rock Structure in 2008
- Attachment 6 – Floor Plan of Rock Structure
- Attachment 7 – Photo of Teacherage in 2008
- Attachment 8 – 1920 Photo of Rock Structure

# Attachment 6

## Floor Plan of Rock Structure



Attachment 3  
Sketch of Both  
School Sites



#### **Attachment 4**

#### **Legal Description of Second School Property – Heidrich (Comal County Clerk’s Office, Vol. S, pp 31-32)**

About 1 4/5 acres of land, situated in Comal County, Texas, about 5 miles West from the City of New Braunfels, being a part of Survey 284, originally granted to J. Heidrich and now owned by said Friedrich Heidrich. Beginning at a stake, set for the original West corner of said Survey 284, being also the original North corner of Survey 358, from which an Elm 8 “ dia. brs. S 33 deg. W. 2 1/4 varas and a cedar 6” dia. brs. S 66 1/2 deg. E. 6 varas, marked +. Thence S. 37 deg. E. **215** varas the boundary line between said Surveys 284 and 358 to a stone. Thence N. 53 deg. E **47** varas to a stone-Thence N. 37 deg. W. **215** varas to a stake. Thence S. 53 deg. W. **47** varas to the place of the beginning.

## **Attachment 2**

### **Legal Description of Original School Property – Brehmer (Comal County Clerk’s Office, Vol. K, pp 297-298)**

One acre of land lying and being in Comal County and described as follows: Said acre of Land is the most northern part of original Survey 358, granted in the name of J. H. Hartman – five miles West from the City of New Braunfels – Beginning at a stone at S. 37 deg. E. at  $4 \frac{1}{3}$  varas from the most northern corner of said Survey 358. Thence with said boundary line between Survey 358 and Survey 284. S 37 deg. E.  **$75 \frac{1}{5}$**  varas to a stone. Thence S. 53 deg. W  **$75 \frac{1}{5}$**  varas to a stone. Thence N 37 deg. W.  **$75 \frac{1}{5}$**  varas to a stone. Hence N 53 deg. E  **$75 \frac{1}{5}$**  varas to the place of beginning.







Mission Valley School  
Dist. No. 10





