



(Oct. 1990)
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

1. NAME OF PROPERTY

HISTORIC NAME: Crabapple School
OTHER NAME/SITE NUMBER: N/A

2. LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER: 14671 Lower Crabapple Road
CITY OR TOWN: Fredericksburg
STATE: Texas CODE: TX COUNTY: Gillespie
NOT FOR PUBLICATION: N/A
VICINITY: X
CODE: 171 ZIP CODE: 78624

3. STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this (x nomination) (___ request for determination of eligibility) meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property (x meets) (___ does not meet) the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant (___ nationally) (___ statewide) (x locally). (___ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official

March 24, 2003
Date

State Historic Preservation Officer, Texas Historical Commission
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria. (___ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. NATIONAL PARK SERVICE CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
___ See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register
___ See continuation sheet
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain):

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

5/6/05

5. CLASSIFICATION

OWNERSHIP OF PROPERTY: Public - local

CATEGORY OF PROPERTY: Building

| NUMBER OF RESOURCES WITHIN PROPERTY: | CONTRIBUTING | NONCONTRIBUTING |
|---|---------------------|------------------------|
| | 5 | 0 BUILDINGS |
| | 0 | 0 SITES |
| | 2 | 0 STRUCTURES |
| | 0 | 0 OBJECTS |
| | 7 | 0 TOTAL |

NUMBER OF CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES PREVIOUSLY LISTED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER: 0

NAME OF RELATED MULTIPLE PROPERTY LISTING:

6. FUNCTION OR USE

HISTORIC FUNCTIONS: EDUCATION/school, school-related

CURRENT FUNCTIONS: SOCIAL/clubhouse

7. DESCRIPTION

ARCHITECTURAL CLASSIFICATION: N/A

MATERIALS: FOUNDATION STONE/Limestone
WALLS STONE/Limestone, WOOD, METAL/Tin, CERAMIC TILE
ROOF METAL/Tin
OTHER GLASS, WOOD

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION (see continuation sheets 7-5 through 7-8).

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Continuation Sheet

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Crabapple School
Fredericksburg vicinity, Gillespie County, Texas

The Crabapple Community is in northern Gillespie County, Texas along and east of Farm to Market (FM) Road 965, fourteen miles north of the county seat of Fredericksburg. The Crabapple School complex consists of five buildings and two structures that form part of the historic core of the community, adjacent to an 1897 limestone church and associated buildings that are under separate ownership. The 2.8-acre school site on the south side of Lower Crabapple Road consists of a rectangular-plan limestone schoolhouse, a frame pavilion and stage building, a limestone teacherage, a cistern and well, barbecue pits, a restroom building, and a metal baseball field backstop. Together with the St. John's Lutheran Church and associated buildings just to the west, the Crabapple School complex has been the center of social activity for the community since the first building was completed in 1877. With relatively little alteration since the school was deactivated in 1957, the site presents an intact view of rural life from the late nineteenth and early twentieth century.

Setting

Crabapple Creek rises a mile northwest of Hilltop in northern Gillespie County and runs northeast for twenty-eight miles to its mouth on Sandy Creek, about a mile west of State Highway 16 in southern Llano County. The stream, which is intermittent in its upper reaches, rises in the hills of the eastern Edwards Plateau and crosses into an area of the Central (or Llano) basin. It runs through flat to rolling terrain surfaced by loamy and clayey soils that support grasses and open stands of live oak, mesquite, and Ashe juniper.¹

The Crabapple community is an unincorporated area approximately fourteen miles northeast of the county seat of Fredericksburg, scattered along FM 965 and nearby county roads. Predominantly German immigrants settled the area in the 1850s, including the families of Friedrich Wellgehausen, Jacob Land, Adam Pehl, Mathias Schmidt, Nicolas Rusche, James Riley, Heinrich Keese, and Jacob and Adam Fries. At the center of Crabapple is the school complex, with a schoolhouse that also served as a post office, and a Lutheran church complex and nearby cemetery. Immediately west of the school buildings are the St. John's Lutheran Church, built in 1897, and other associated resources, including a 1951 Sunday School building to the south of the church and a brush arbor to the east between the church and the school.²

The Crabapple School grounds lie on the south side of Lower Crabapple Road, east of FM 965 and north of Crabapple Creek. The school complex consists of the 1882 schoolhouse, a pavilion and stage, a teacherage which was built as an earlier schoolhouse in 1877, a barbecue pit, a baseball field and backstop, a storage building, and a restroom. These facilities were built between 1877 and 1950. The rectangular-plan 1882 limestone schoolhouse faces west and is near the northeast corner of the acreage. Adjoining the school to the south is the frame pavilion and stage, and further south is the limestone teacherage, formerly the 1877 schoolhouse. South of the teacherage is a storage building, formerly the concession stand for school picnics. To the west of the teacherage is a stone-capped well with metal shelter. Barbecue pits and a baseball field and west-facing metal backstop are at the southwest corner of the acreage. A restroom building is at the northwest corner of the parcel. The land slopes south and west from the 1882 schoolhouse towards Crabapple Creek.

¹ "Crabapple Creek."

² "St. John's Lutheran Church, Recorded Texas Historic Landmark file at Texas Historical Commission.

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Crabapple School
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Five buildings (school, pavilion/stage, teacherage, storage building and restroom) and two structures (well and barbecue pits) are considered contributing resources in this nomination (see table of resources on page 7-8).

Architectural description

The limestone schoolhouse (built 1882) measures 21 by 31 feet, with the longer side running east-west and the west elevation providing the main entry. The one-room school has three ten-light metal casement windows on the north elevation, measuring three feet by five feet, and double five-panel wooden doors with a segmented transom light at the west entry. An additional door and two metal casement windows on the south elevation now open into the pavilion/stage building. The east elevation is a solid limestone wall with no fenestration. A corrugated tin roof covers the schoolhouse. To the front of the building on the south side is an 8' x 19' open porch that has a concrete floor, v-crimp tin roof, and four wood posts for support. The steps include a 32" x 27" rock on the west side, a 52" x 21" rock on the front south side, and a 32" x 22" rock and a 27" x 21" rock side-by-side on the east side. The original cast iron metal bell has been moved from the porch into the pavilion room for security purposes. The interior features a waxed pine floor and a white painted bead board ceiling. The white plastered interior walls have light orange-brown vertical beaded boards extending two feet from the floor with a horizontal molding. The room now uses fluorescent lights and has one electrical outlet. The room continues to use a wood-burning stove for heat. The original four by twenty foot blackboard remains in place on the north interior wall. The original pine and bead board bookcase stands in the northwest corner. The historic teacher's desk and several student desks are also present. The original blackboard recitation bench, used by students to come up by class grade and sit in front of the teacher's desk to recite and answer questions on their lessons, is located in the northwest corner along the west wall.

The 50' x 31' one-room pavilion hall (built 1936) has a concrete floor, a corrugated tin roof, and two 6' x 10' metal, overhead, manual garage doors on the east side. The large room has no finished ceiling, with the roof rafters exposed. The unsealed walls are 1"x10" wood planks attached to the framing and are painted white on the exterior. Fourteen windows of various sizes are constructed of wood like the walls and are hinged to open and drop down to the outside. The 8'x16' stage is constructed of various sized lumber, mainly 2" x 6" boards. The stage floor is approximately two feet higher than the concrete floor of the pavilion. The stage floor is constructed of 1"x10" wood plank boards and is raised approximately two feet above the concrete floor. One solid, off-white door with a single clear window pane opens to the west of the stage into the one-room school. Three standard 30" doors, constructed of 2" x 4" lumber, are attached with a 2" x 4" in a "Z" fashion. One door exits from the pavilion to the north and one to the south, while one door exits from the stage to the south. Three steps lead from the stage down to the pavilion floor. Fluorescent and incandescent lights, ceiling fans, and electrical outlets have been installed in this large room.

The 20' x 30' four-room teacherage (built 1877 as previous schoolhouse) is a limestone building with a corrugated tin roof. A standard 30" wood door leads into the 12' x 20' small schoolroom which has a brick fireplace, and two 2' x 2' windows. The 18' x 20' large room, originally used as living quarters, includes a chimney for a wood stove and three 3' x 5' windows. Both rooms have beaded board ceilings, wood floors, and plastered limestone rock walls. An off-white solid wood door with a single clear window pane leads into the

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Crabapple School
Fredericksburg vicinity, Gillespie County, Texas

10' x 17' added room, originally used as the kitchen, which has two 3' x 5' windows. The exterior wall of the kitchen room is boards covered with pressed tin. The small plastered limestone rock upstairs room is boards covered with pressed tin. All rooms have wood floors. The window frames are wood with several original existing panes, and each room used one incandescent light and has one electrical outlet.

The 20' x 16' storage building, used as the concession stand for annual school picnics in the 1950s, has v-crimp tin walls attached to studs, a concrete floor, and no ceiling other than the rafters and v-crimp tin roof. The north door is a 6' x 10' sliding garage door and the south door is a metal four foot wide door. There are three 2' x 3' openings cut into the metal on the west wall. These windows swing up to open and were propped up as needed to use the counter for sales of drinks or snacks. This wooden counter is attached approximately 30" off of the floor. This smaller building used one incandescent light and has two electrical outlets.

The 14' x 12' restroom building, built in the early 1950s, has an 8' x 12' room for the ladies and a 6' x 12' room for the men. The tan hollowed clay tile walled building has a concrete floor. Each room has one wood entrance door, one 2' x 3' white painted window with four glass panes and one light. The ladies' room has a sink with a cold water faucet and two commode stalls, one for wheelchair access and the second with a lower set toilet. The men's room has a sink with a cold water faucet, one commode stall and a urinal.

The 4' x 4' x 5' well cover has a concrete floor and a rounded top and walls made of an iron metal welded to contour to the area. There is no door because the whole building swings up when work needs to be done to the water pump or tank. A 17' x 27' v-crimp tin roof, supported by ten strong cedar posts, covers the open shed over the two barbecue pits. This open canopy shed has no walls, no doors, and no windows. There are two regular lights above the pits on the rafters. One barbecue pit is made of metal and one is made of red clay tile plastered with cement. On the west side there is a long wood counter. The backstop of the softball diamond overlooks the meadow towards the Crabapple Creek.

Changes since construction

The property is largely unchanged since the school was consolidated with Fredericksburg in 1957. The 1877 schoolhouse was converted into a teacherage after a new school was built adjacent in 1882. A kitchen was added to the limestone teacherage, built of pressed metal over framing. The 1882 school was extended with a frame pavilion/stage building, and wooden window frames were replaced with metal casement windows about 1950. Ancillary structures, such as a concession stand, restroom building, and baseball field backstop, and the construction of St. John's Lutheran Church in 1897 and associated buildings completed the rural landscape that remains intact today. In 1994 the Texas Historical Commission designated St. John's a Recorded Texas Historic Landmark, and posted an Official Texas Historical Marker for the Crabapple School.

Even before the rural schools of Gillespie County closed as educational facilities, they were also serving as social gathering centers, polling places, and community clubs, often for several decades. As the schools closed the students and facilities were absorbed into the Fredericksburg Independent School District. In 1999 a concerted effort to document and preserve these properties was begun, with the establishment of Friends of

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Crabapple School
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Gillespie County Country Schools. In an effort to assume full stewardship of the historic buildings, a group of twelve community clubs that were leasing their meeting spaces from the Fredericksburg ISD sought to have the properties donated to them. But state law forbade school districts from donating such surplus property, even to non-profit groups and community associations. The Friends wrote legislation, sponsored by State Senator Jeff Wentworth and State Representative Harvey Hilderbran, to allow donation of these properties to a governmental or non-profit organization. The bills were passed in the Texas Legislature and ratified by voters as an amendment to the state constitution in November, 2001. The Friends have received preservation awards from the Texas Historical Commission and Preservation Texas, and have also sponsored open houses and fundraisers to build support for the preservation of twelve of the rural schools of Gillespie County. The Friends are now completing nominations to list these twelve schools on the National Register of Historic Places.

Table of resources within property:

| | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------|-----------|--------------|
| Crabapple School | 1882 | BUILDING | contributing |
| Teacherage (originally a schoolhouse) | 1877 | BUILDING | contributing |
| Pavilion / stage | c. 1936 | BUILDING | contributing |
| Cistern | 1936 | STRUCTURE | contributing |
| Barbecue pits | c. 1936 | STRUCTURE | contributing |
| Storage building (concession stand) | c. 1950 | BUILDING | contributing |
| Restroom | c. 1950 | BUILDING | contributing |

8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

APPLICABLE NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA

- A** PROPERTY IS ASSOCIATED WITH EVENTS THAT HAVE MADE A SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION TO THE BROAD PATTERNS OF OUR HISTORY.
- B** PROPERTY IS ASSOCIATED WITH THE LIVES OF PERSONS SIGNIFICANT IN OUR PAST.
- C** PROPERTY EMBODIES THE DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERISTICS OF A TYPE, PERIOD, OR METHOD OF CONSTRUCTION OR REPRESENTS THE WORK OF A MASTER, OR POSSESSES HIGH ARTISTIC VALUE, OR REPRESENTS A SIGNIFICANT AND DISTINGUISHABLE ENTITY WHOSE COMPONENTS LACK INDIVIDUAL DISTINCTION.
- D** PROPERTY HAS YIELDED, OR IS LIKELY TO YIELD, INFORMATION IMPORTANT IN PREHISTORY OR HISTORY.

CRITERIA CONSIDERATIONS: N/A

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: EDUCATION

PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE: 1877-1955

SIGNIFICANT DATES: 1877

SIGNIFICANT PERSON: N/A

CULTURAL AFFILIATION: N/A

ARCHITECT/BUILDER: N/A

NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (see continuation sheets 8-9 through 8-15).

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES

BIBLIOGRAPHY (see continuation sheets 9-16 through 9-20).

PREVIOUS DOCUMENTATION ON FILE (NPS): N/A

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

PRIMARY LOCATION OF ADDITIONAL DATA:

- State historic preservation office (*Texas Historical Commission*)
- Other state agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other -- Specify Repository

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The Crabapple School complex in the vicinity of Fredericksburg in Gillespie County, Texas is nominated for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A in the area of Education at the local level of significance. The property has undergone little alteration since the historic period, and is able to convey its significance as a place where the process of conveying and acquiring knowledge and skills through systematic instruction, training and study was undertaken. The property retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association to a high degree.

Education in Gillespie County

German immigrants set the standard for education after Texas achieved statehood in 1845. Historian and educator Frederick Eby asserted that the German settlements had a spirit of intellectual development and social improvement:

By far the most progressive measures for the promotion of schools were adopted by the German communities of south central Texas. As early as 1845 a colony of Germans settled in New Braunfels. After the Prussian Revolution in 1848 large numbers emigrated for political reasons and located upon the fertile lands of the south central portion of the state. Among them were many of superior intelligence and training; they brought with them the customs, love of learning, and idealism of the older Germany of Kant, Fichte, and Schiller. Many of them had left the Fatherland to secure a larger measure of political and religious freedom. They had been educated in schools which from the lowest to the highest were maintained and supported by the state and were free to all children. They naturally desired similar advantages for their children here in Texas.³

The German immigrants who settled Gillespie County carried with them a keen interest in education, and as a result educational institutions and facilities around Fredericksburg tended to be of higher quality than typical rural schools in Texas. The first school was established in the *Marketplatz* (Market Square) at the center of Fredericksburg. The *Vereins Kirche* (Community Church) was an octagonal-shaped structure built in 1847 as a combination church, school, fort, and storehouse. Tuition at the school began at one dollar per pupil per quarter, and the *Vereins Kirche* could hold about seventy pupils. The earliest teachers, including Johann Leyendecker, Jacob Brodbeck, Reverend Burchard Dangers, and Heinrich Ochs, were also noted writers, scientists, and men of letters. August Siemering was secretary for an intellectual community established at Sisterdale, 25 miles southeast of Fredericksburg.⁴

In 1854, the Texas Legislature established a public school system for the first time, encouraging counties to create public school districts to bring educational opportunities to more citizens. Out of one hundred counties, only a handful organized a public school system. Gillespie County created five school districts that year to cover the entire county population. The state provided some financial support, including a steady income for teachers who taught English, an improvement for teachers over the uncertain tuition-supported system. The

³ Eby 130.

⁴ Mohon and Mohon, 125-126.

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first public schools in Gillespie County opened that year, as well as the first parochial school through St. Mary's Catholic Church.⁵

The Civil War disrupted educational efforts, but following the war there was an increase in the establishment of rural schools. Rural schools were organized through the county commissioners court, and a superintendent of education oversaw the educational program within the county. The superintendent had jurisdiction over all the schools in the county except the independent school districts, which were organized starting in the 1880s. Many rural schools were built on donated land centrally located in dispersed agricultural communities, with many children walking or riding horses several miles to school. Rural schools operated through an ad valorem property tax, providing income for the teachers and perhaps a small maintenance budget for the school building and grounds. The school year was often scheduled around the fall harvest, and many students' attendance was irregular when their help was needed at home. Some children received the majority of their schooling at home. One writer recalled the he was "more than fifteen years old before I ever attended school. My mother had given us all the help she could, and we had applied ourselves to studying such books as we had."⁶

Many of the Gillespie County schools offered courses both in German and English to cater to the predominantly German-speaking settlers. The end of the school year was often celebrated with an all-day affair called the *Schulpruefung* (school examination). The students demonstrated their knowledge of subjects through oral exams, and often when the testing was complete a picnic was held, with barbecue, beer and dancing for the families of the students. The *Schulpruefung* tradition continued through the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.⁷

From 1876 to 1884 the German Methodist Church in Fredericksburg operated Fredericksburg College as a way to supplement the educational opportunities of area students. The school was one of four in the state to receive aid from the Peabody Fund, established by George Peabody to assist the former Confederate states in establishing free public schools.⁸ The building converted to a public school in Fredericksburg, and is still used today on the Fredericksburg Independent School District middle school campus.

The African-American population in Gillespie County was never very high historically, and none of the rural schools had separate facilities for African-American students. In the late 1860s children of the Washingtons, who were freed slaves, attended Meusebach Creek School with Anglo children, probably one of the first cases of an integrated school in the South.⁹ In 1937 the Fredericksburg Independent School District was the only district in Gillespie County with separate facilities for African-American students. Seven colored students were reported that year, out of a countywide total of 2,862.¹⁰

⁵ Mohon and Mohon, 126.

⁶ Biggers 85.

⁷ Mohon and Mohon, 127-128.

⁸ Gold 28.

⁹ Mohon and Mohon, 133.

¹⁰ Texas Statewide School Adequacy Survey, 659-670.

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Crabapple School
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Rural school districts proliferated in Gillespie County in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, reaching a peak of 42 districts at one point. In 1937, thirty of forty-one rural school districts were served by a single teacher, while eight districts had two teachers, two had three each, and one rural district, Stonewall, had four teachers for its average daily attendance of 86 students. Average daily attendances (A.D.A.) at the other rural schools ranged from six at Flat Rock to 65 at Morris Ranch.¹¹

Today Gillespie County is served by four school districts. Fredericksburg Independent School District serves the largest area and offers courses in grades one through twelve. Harper, west of Fredericksburg, also teaches twelve grades. Doss schools, in the northwest part of the county, teach grades one through eight, and Stonewall in the east part of the county offers classes through fifth grade.¹²

The Gilmer-Aikin Law of 1949 resulted in the consolidation of most rural schools in Texas. But in Gillespie County, a stronger sense of rural community prevailed, and a dozen of the rural schools operated well beyond the mandated consolidation into the 1950s and 1960s. Stonewall and Rocky Hill schools held off consolidation with Fredericksburg until the 1970s. Many of the rural schools in Gillespie County were already serving multiple purposes as community centers and as hubs of social activity when they ceased to operate as educational centers. As a result, Gillespie County has perhaps the most intact collection of rural schoolhouses remaining in Texas. With few exceptions, the schoolhouses and ancillary buildings and structures retain a high degree of integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. The White Oak School was moved to the Pioneer Museum Complex in downtown Fredericksburg in 1990. The 1905 schoolhouse at Doss now serves as the local fire station. A few of the former schools, such as at Nebo (Eckert), have been converted to residences. The Petersburg and Squaw Creek schools are used as hay barns. Out of more than forty historic schools, only the main buildings at Hayden and Palo Alto have been demolished, but even at the latter site the barbecue pit remains standing.¹³ Other school buildings that remain still operate as community centers, reunion halls, festival headquarters, and voting places.

The table "Gillespie County School Districts" on page 8-11 includes the rural district number, name, years established and consolidated, average daily attendance in 1937 (A.D.A.), and historical designations for each of 42 rural school districts and two independent school districts in Gillespie County. Abbreviations for historical designations are OTHM (Official Texas Historical Marker), RTHL (Recorded Texas Historic Landmark), NRHP (National Register of Historic Places), and NHL (National Historic Landmark, for the Junction School at Lyndon B. Johnson National Historic Park).

¹¹ Texas Statewide School Adequacy Survey, 659-670. See also table on page 8-11.

¹² Mohon and Mohon, 130.

¹³ Gillespie County School Histories.

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Gillespie County School Districts

| No. | Name | Established | Consolidated | A.D.A. | Consolidated with | Historical designations |
|-----|-------------------------|-------------|--------------|-----------|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 | Big Flat (Tasca) | | 1939 | 15 | Willow City | |
| 2 | Live Oak | 1854 | 1949 | 25 | Fredericksburg | |
| 3 | Luckenbach | 1855 | 1964 | 29 | Fredericksburg | RTHL 1982 |
| 4 | Cave Creek | 1870 | 1950 | 28 | Fredericksburg | |
| 5 | Rocky Hill | 1885 | 1977 | 39 | Fredericksburg | |
| 6 | Palo Alto | 1870 | 1946 | 48 | | |
| 7 | Pilot Knob | 1880 | 1963 | 40 | Fredericksburg | |
| 8 | Grape Hill | 1859 | before 1937 | -- | Luckenbach | |
| 9 | Squaw Creek | 1867 | 1954 | 12 | Doss | |
| 10 | Crabapple | 1877 | 1957 | 33 | Fredericksburg | OTHM 1994 |
| 11 | Meusebach Creek | 1858 | 1951 | 47 | Fredericksburg | |
| 12 | Pedernales | 1867 | 1945 | 10 | | OTHM 1993 |
| 13 | Young's Chapel | before 1889 | | 11 | | |
| 14 | Grapetown | 1859 | 1949 | 25 | Rocky Hill | RTHL 1984 |
| 15 | Junction | 1881 | 1947 | 30 | Stonewall | NHL |
| 16 | Cherry Spring | 1859 | 1962 | 22 | Fredericksburg | OTHM 1985 RTHL 1988 |
| 17 | Honey Creek | before 1889 | 1942 | 7 | Fredericksburg | |
| 18 | Stonewall | 1860 | 1970 | 86 | Fredericksburg | |
| 19 | Hayden | before 1904 | 1942 | 18 | Morris Ranch | |
| 20 | Wrede | 1871 | 1960 | 14 | Fredericksburg | |
| 21 | Lower South Grape Creek | 1871 | 1960 | 25 | Fredericksburg | RTHL 1994 |
| 22 | Rheingold | 1873 | 1949 | 33 | Fredericksburg | |
| 23 | Knopp | before 1889 | 1947 | 49 | Fredericksburg | |
| 24 | Doss | 1884 | -- | 44 | -- | OTHM 1985 |
| 25 | Tivydale | 1880 | 1950 | 21 | Harper | |
| 26 | Wolf Creek | 1899 | 1946 | 15 | Morris Ranch | |
| 27 | Cherry Mountain | 1883 | 1949 | 11 | Fredericksburg | RTHL 1992 |
| 28 | Onion Creek | 1881 | 1947 | 9 | Doss | |
| 29 | Pecan Creek | 1889 | 1955 | 25 | Fredericksburg | |
| 30 | Nebo (Eckert) | 1889 | 1950 | 36 | Willow City | |
| 31 | Bear Creek | 1889 | 1949 | 13 | Wrede | |
| 32 | Klein Branch | 1884 | | 22 | | |
| 33 | Nebgen | 1881 | 1949 | 14 | Stonewall | |
| 34 | Pocket | | 1940 | 10 | Harper | |
| 35 | Flat Rock | 1889 | 1937 | 6 | Harper | |
| 36 | Klein Frankreich | 1900 | 1949 | 12 | Fredericksburg | |
| 37 | White Oak | 1892 | 1950 | 20 | Morris Ranch | |
| 38 | Williams Creek | 1890 | 1950 | 31 | Stonewall | |
| 39 | Petersburg | 1890 | 1951 | 16 | | |
| 40 | Morris Ranch | 1890 | 1962 | 65 | Fredericksburg | NRHP 1983 RTHL 1980 |
| 41 | Willow City | 1876 | 1961 | 35 | Fredericksburg | |
| 42 | Cain City | 1915 | 1949 | 19 | Rocky Hill | |
| | Fredericksburg ISD | 1847 | -- | 601 | -- | |
| | Harper ISD | 1884 | -- | 139 | -- | |

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Crabapple School

Records indicate that formal education was established in Crabapple by 1867, with courses taught in various homes, including the Heinrich Keese home, rather than a central schoolhouse. In the same year A. Erlenmeyer of the Crabapple School was one of teachers certified by the county commissioners.¹⁴ By the mid-1870s many early Crabapple community settlers wanted their children to have a good education close to their homes. The settlers along Crabapple Creek fell into two camps regarding the schoolhouse's proposed location. Those of lower Crabapple preferred a site on Crockett Riley's land, while upper Crabapple was represented by Conrad Welgehausen. It was decided to have a foot race to see who would have the honor of giving the land. Though he was the smaller of the two runners, Welgehausen outraced Riley and the upper Crabapple faction prevailed. On land less than a mile from Welgehausen's house, Mathias Schmidt donated the acreage on which the Crabapple School complex stands.¹⁵

Parents of the first students quarried limestone from their land to build the walls of the school, with much of the stone coming from the properties of Conrad Welgehausen, Adam Fries, and Peter Pehl. William Durst and B. Strackbein were the stonemasons. Schmidt and Pehl drove horse- and mule-powered wagons from Austin (70 miles east) to transport the lumber. The building was designed as one large room and a smaller room sharing a fireplace. Julius Rusche, a carpenter, built the desks for the school, each about eight feet long with shelving underneath, built-in places for pens and ink bottles, and able to seat three students.¹⁶

The building was paid for by means of subscription money and took about a year to open, with the first classes on January 5, 1878. The first trustees were George H. Ottmers, Conrad Welgehausen, and Nicolas Rusche. The first teacher, Henry Grote, taught at Crabapple for fourteen years. The earliest teachers received \$40.00 per month, plus the use of the teacherage at no cost as well as donations of food and fuel to keep the cost of living low. Guida Callan was the second teacher, and went on to law school, becoming a patent attorney and trademark expert in the United States Patent Office. Students typically ranged from eight to thirteen years of age, with some going on to higher years of instruction at Fredericksburg. Students walked or rode horseback to school, although some who lived furthest out would spend the week at the home of Julia K. Schmidt near the schoolhouse.¹⁷ The study of arithmetic was regarded as being of special importance. Geography, spelling, and grammar were taught in addition to reading and writing. History was added to the curriculum somewhat later.¹⁸

When the first rock building could not handle the enrollment, a new schoolhouse was built in 1882 north of the existing one. This new building had one large room plus a porch on the west side. The new schoolhouse cost \$600.00 for building supplies that could not be donated. The older school building served as a teacherage after that date, and also was the Crabapple post office from 1887 to 1910. The teacherage was also a practice hall for the community band for many years.

¹⁴ Gillespie County Commissioners Court minutes, Volume B, page 38.

¹⁵ "Crabapple School," Gillespie County Deed Records, Volume N, page 180, dated January 3, 1877, Gold 81.

¹⁶ "Crabapple School."

¹⁷ "Crabapple School."

¹⁸ Gold 83.

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Crabapple School
Fredericksburg vicinity, Gillespie County, Texas

Max Schmidt, a student at Crabapple, helped plant the cedar trees still standing in front of the 1882 schoolhouse. This building also served as the meeting place for the St. John's Lutheran congregation until their own building, a 44 by 26 foot limestone sanctuary, was completed just west of the school in 1897. Crabapple was a one-teacher school throughout its history. The peak enrollment of about forty occurred around 1900. Besides the school trustees, the remainder of the adult male population also decided school business at community meetings, typically called on Sunday afternoons following church service and Sunday school. The Crabapple School was initially supported through state funds and private tuition, but in 1920 a local property tax was passed to support the school. The tax was 20 cents per 100 dollars of property, and was later reduced to 15 cents per \$100.00. In the 1920s the teacher salary varied from 75 to 80 dollars per month over the eight-month school term.

In the 1930s a pavilion was constructed on the south side of the one-room school, and on the end closest to the school a stage was constructed for the use of programs and plays. The first drinking water for the school came from a drilled well with a hand pump. In 1941 the well was drilled to a depth of 182 feet and an electric pump was added, providing water for the school and church. A cistern was constructed near the teacherage in 1936.¹⁹ Crabapple School had a community picnic each year at the school closing, held either at the school site or in a pecan grove along Crabapple Creek on the Rusche place. Activities included a barbecue with ice cream, lemonade, cold drinks, candy and popcorn, an afternoon program of drills, songs, recitations and a three-act play, plus races, horseshoe pitching and volleyball and baseball games.²⁰ In addition to this traditional year-ending *Schulpruefung*, Crabapple School also held a picnic on Ascension Day, forty days after Easter. Entertainment at these events often included a band or community choir composed generally of male voices. Eventually these two major celebrations were combined into a single picnic and closing program.²¹

When the enrollment decreased to nine students, trustees decided to consolidate with the Fredericksburg Independent School District in May 1957. The one-room school building has continued to be the Crabapple community's center for social gatherings, ranging from the community club playing games of 42 (dominoes) and holding business meetings, to class, church, and family reunions, wedding and birthday celebrations, and use as an election site. In 1994 the Texas Historical Commission placed a historical marker at the site.

Conclusion

Rural schools were the primary educational institutions for the majority of Texans in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. These facilities provided the highest level of schooling for many individuals, and as training and education centers for those who went on to high school or college in larger cities. Rural schools also served as social centers for smaller communities. The school buildings were most often vernacular, with no discernible architectural style, and built from local materials with log, frame, or stone construction. Through

¹⁹ "Crabapple School."

²⁰ "Crabapple School."

²¹ Gold 84-85.

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Continuation Sheet**

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Crabapple School
Fredericksburg vicinity, Gillespie County, Texas

the process of school consolidation, the majority of these rural school buildings were vacated and subsequently demolished. In Gillespie County, the tradition of community activity continued in these rural buildings, preserving many of the structures that otherwise would have been lost. In addition, the tradition of rural education was continued in Gillespie County for a longer period than elsewhere in the state. As a result, Gillespie County has one of the most intact concentrations of rural schools in Texas.

The Crabapple School complex comprises an intact rural landscape from the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Built largely of local materials in vernacular style, the buildings convey a sense of their time and place as a good example of the early days of education in the state. The resources are nearly unaltered since the historic period of 1877-1957, and much of the original historic material remains intact. The facility continues to serve as a social gathering place for the community of Crabapple. The Crabapple School complex meets Criterion A, in the area of Education, for its role in the process of conveying and acquiring knowledge and skills through systematic instruction, training and study. The property retains integrity of materials, workmanship, design, location, setting, association and feeling to a high degree.

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Cherry Spring School
Fredericksburg vicinity, Gillespie County, Texas

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Fredericksburg vicinity, Gillespie County, Texas

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Fredericksburg vicinity, Gillespie County, Texas

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Cherry Spring School
Fredericksburg vicinity, Gillespie County, Texas

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Fredericksburg vicinity, Gillespie County, Texas

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10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF PROPERTY: 2.802 acres

| UTM REFERENCES | <u>Zone</u> | <u>Easting</u> | <u>Northing</u> |
|-----------------------|-------------|----------------|-----------------|
| | 14 | 516170 | 3367550 |

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: Legal parcel number Property ID R83744, A0719 G. W. Ward #2, 2.802 acres in Gillespie County, Texas.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION: The boundary includes all property historically associated with the resource.

11. FORM PREPARED BY (with assistance from Bob Brinkman, Texas Historical Commission)

NAME/TITLE: Ronni Pue

ORGANIZATION: Save Rural Texas Schools

DATE: December 10, 2004

STREET & NUMBER: P.O. Box 413

TELEPHONE: (830) 997-8655

CITY OR TOWN: Fredericksburg

STATE: Texas

ZIP CODE: 78624

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION

CONTINUATION SHEETS

MAPS (see continuation sheets MAP-21 through MAP-22 and topographic map)

PHOTOGRAPHS (see continuation sheet PHOTO-23)

ADDITIONAL ITEMS

PROPERTY OWNER

NAME: Gillespie County, ATTN: The Hon. Mark Stroehrer

STREET & NUMBER: 101 West Main

TELEPHONE: (830) 997-7502

CITY OR TOWN: Fredericksburg

STATE: Texas

ZIP CODE: 78624

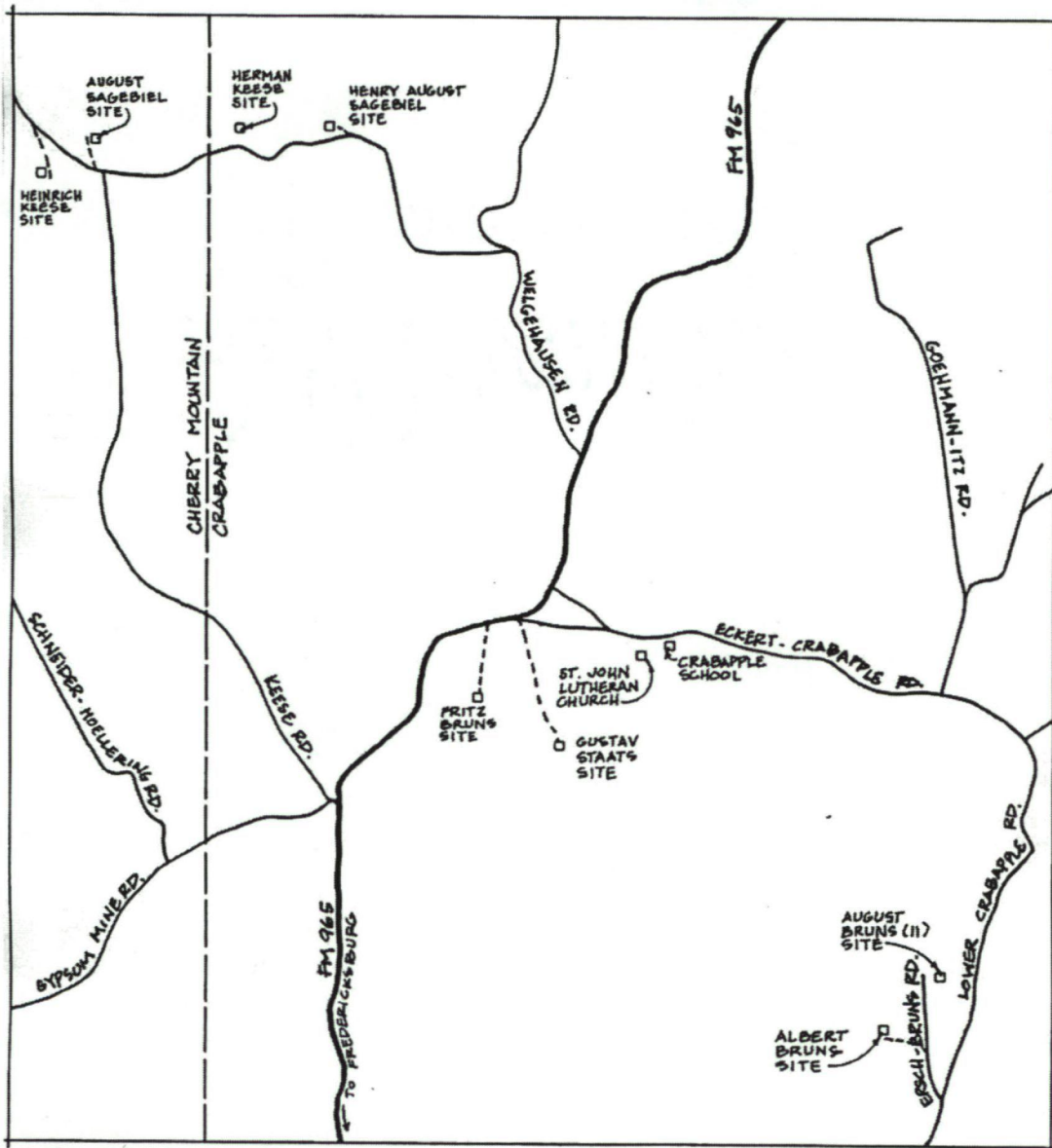
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Cherry Spring School
Fredericksburg vicinity, Gillespie County, Texas

Crabapple area map, north at top. Source: A Photographic Survey of Rural Gillespie County.



**CRABAPPLE
COMMUNITY**

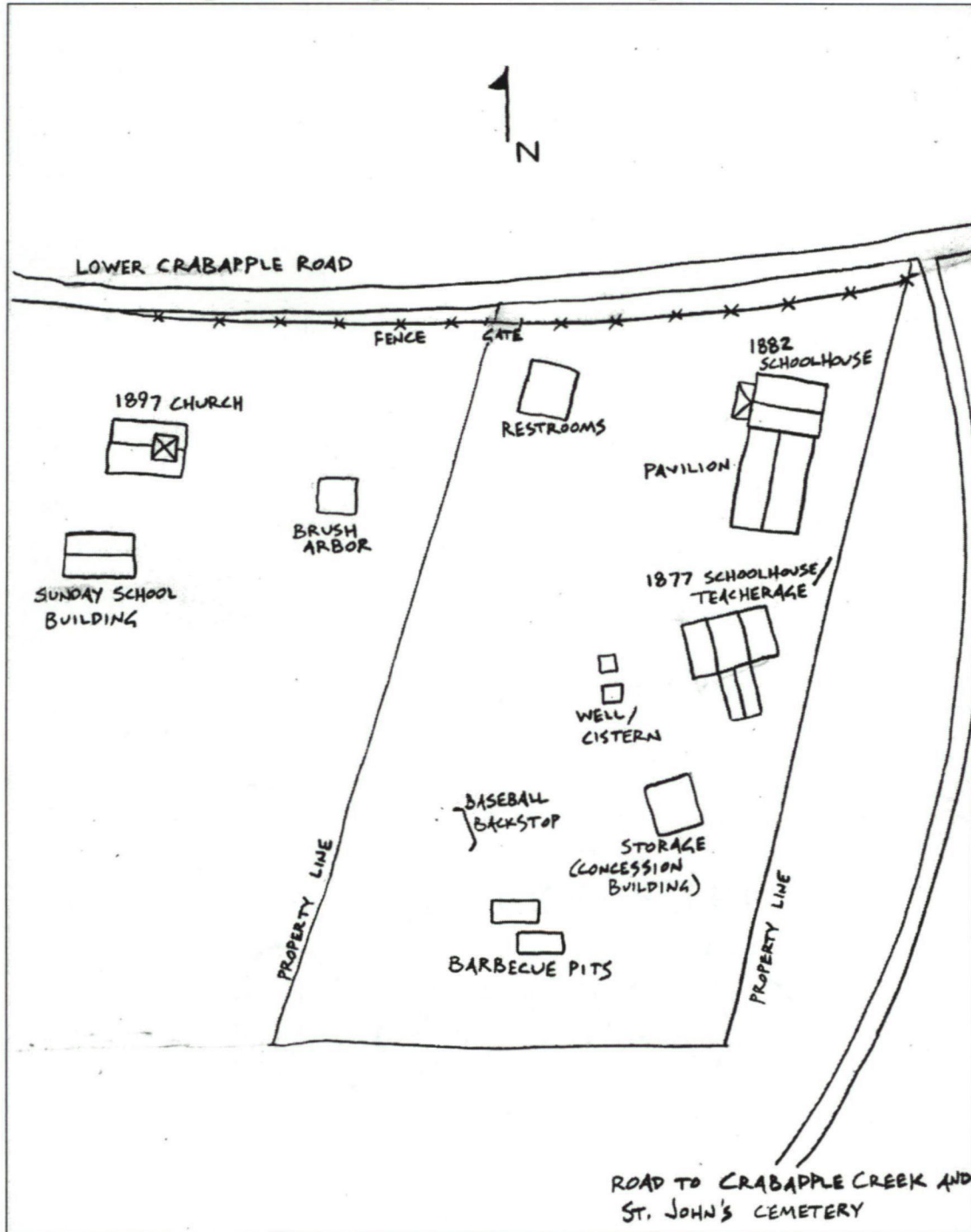
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Cherry Spring School
Fredericksburg vicinity, Gillespie County, Texas

Site plan of Crabapple School, north at top. Not to scale.



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Cherry Spring School
Fredericksburg vicinity, Gillespie County, Texas

PHOTOGRAPHIC INVENTORY

Crabapple School
14671 Lower Crabapple Road
Fredericksburg vicinity, Gillespie County, Texas
Photographs by Greg Smith, October 2004.
Negatives on file at Texas Historical Commission.

Photograph 1 of 2
Crabapple School (1882) and pavilion, northwest oblique
Camera facing southeast

Photograph 2 of 2
Crabapple School teacherage (1877 school), northwest oblique
Camera facing southeast

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Crabapple School

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: TEXAS, Gillespie

DATE RECEIVED: 3/25/05 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 4/20/05
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 5/05/05 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 5/08/05
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 05000390

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 5/6/05 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in the
National Register

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



CRABAPPLE SCHOOL

14671 LOWER CRABAPPLE ROAD

FREDERICKSBURG VICINITY, GILLESPIE COUNTY, TEXAS

PHOTO 1 OF 2

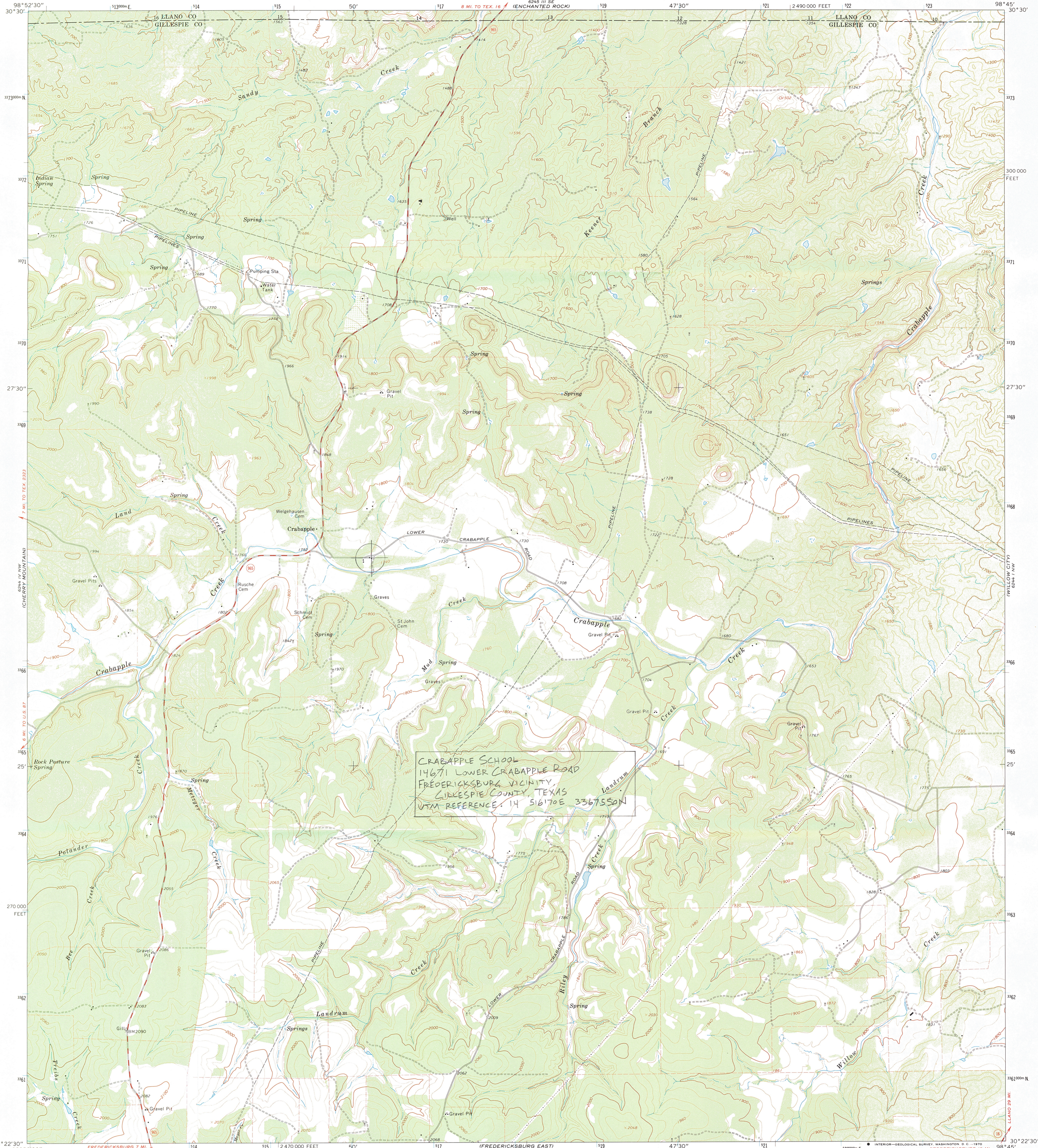


CRABAPPLE SCHOOL

14671 LOWER CRABAPPLE ROAD

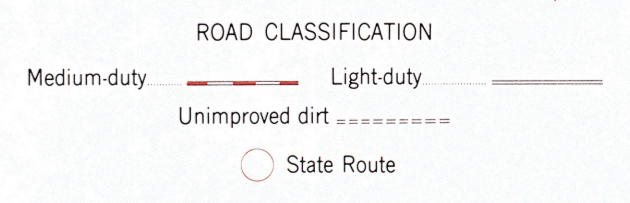
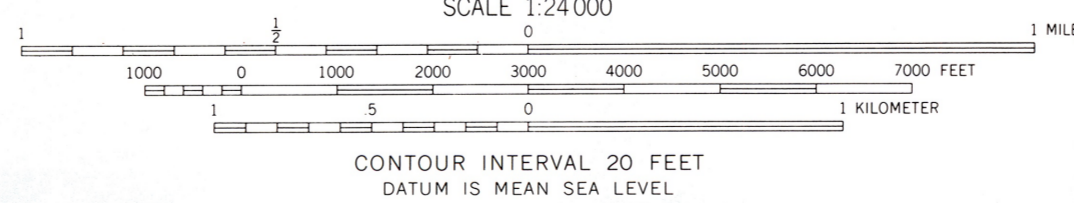
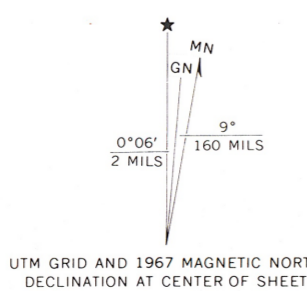
FREDERICKSBURG, VICINITY, GILLESPIE COUNTY, TEXAS

PHOTO 2 OF 2



CRABAPPLE SCHOOL
14671 LOWER CRABAPPLE ROAD
FREDERICKSBURG VICINITY,
GILLESPIE COUNTY, TEXAS
UTM REFERENCE: 14 516170E 3367550N

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS and USC&GS
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial
photographs taken 1966. Field checked 1967
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Texas coordinate system,
central zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 14, shown in blue
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence lines



QUADRANGLE LOCATION

CRABAPPLE, TEX.
N3022.5-W9845.7.5

1967

AMS 6244 IV NE-SERIES V882

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

3098-2 34



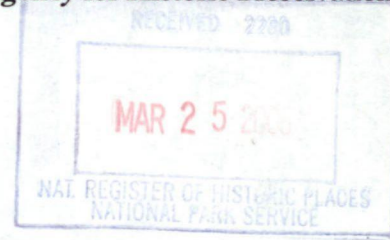
**TEXAS
HISTORICAL
COMMISSION**

Rick Perry • *Governor*

John L. Nau, III • *Chairman*

F. Lawrence Oaks • *Executive Director*

The State Agency for Historic Preservation



TO: Carol Shull, Keeper
National Register of Historic Places

FROM: Gregory W. Smith, National Register Coordinator
Texas Historical Commission

RE: Crabapple School, Fredericksburg vicinity, Gillespie County, Texas

DATE: March 25, 2005

The following materials are submitted regarding: Crabapple School, Fredericksburg vicinity, Gillespie County, Texas

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Original National Register of Historic Places form |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Resubmitted nomination |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Multiple Property nomination form |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Photographs |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | USGS map |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Correspondence |
| | Other: |

COMMENTS:

SHPO requests substantive review

The enclosed owner objections (do) (do not) constitute a majority of property owners

Other _____