

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service
National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For HCERS use only
 received **AUG 18 1979**

date entered **NOV 15 1979**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
 Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Saffold Dam

and/or common Starcke Park Dam

2. Location

street & number Across Guadalupe River in Guadalupe County, approximately 150 yards upstream from Highway 123 bridge off 24 123 not for publication

city, town Seguin vicinity of congressional district 23

state Texas code 048 county Guadalupe code 187

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name City of Seguin

street & number 201 N. River Street

city, town Seguin vicinity of state Texas 78155

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Guadalupe County Courthouse

street & number

city, town Seguin vicinity of state Texas 78155

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Historic Sites Inventory has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date February, 1979 federal state county local

depository for survey records Texas Historical Commission

city, town Austin vicinity of state Texas

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Saffold Dam is an impounding structure across the stream bed of the Guadalupe River in Max Starcke Park within the city of Seguin. Originally little more than a line of boulders across the river bed, the dam today consists of a series of the three reverse curves approximately 250 feet in length and 30-40 feet in width. A small concrete wall, approximately 1.5 feet high forms the crest of the dam, the overall height of which varies as high as 16 feet. Founded on the blue clay shale of the river bed, the dam is constructed largely of boulders with smaller stones and gravel, and later, concrete used as infill. Through the years gradual improvements were made to the dam solidifying its structure and increasing its strength. Today a coat of concrete blankets the boulders, many of which protrude on the downstream side of the dam. These boulders tend to break up the flow as water cascades down the crest of the dam, falling 2-5 feet into the pool formed by the river downstream. Old grout holds in the structure indicate that at one time grout was injected for reinforcement. The 1.5-foot-high crest wall was a late addition to the dam and sharply defines the undulating line of the form.

Today the structurally sound dam creates an impoundment on the Guadalupe in the Starcke Park. Located on the north bank of the river at the dam is the City Water Filtration, Treatment, and Pumping Plant and on the south bank is a power plant, both of which utilize the dam in their operations.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates c. 1853 **Builder/Architect** unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Impounding the waters of the Guadalupe River with a graceful serpentine sweep, the Saffold Dam is historically linked to the settling of Seguin. It facilitates a steady supply of power and water, as well as a beautiful recreational site. Typical of many mill dams constructed on the rivers of central Texas in the 19th and early 20th centuries, the Saffold Dam, readily visible from the Highway 123 Bridge, is one of the few remaining examples.

Dams such as this were often constructed on sites where naturally occurring rock outcroppings created small reservoirs. The water was raised to a level which would operate a mill wheel by simply placing more rocks on top of the outcrop. Through the years mill capacity was increased by compiling more rocks. Often, particularly after the turn of the century, entire stone dams were covered with concrete to both stabilize the structure and increase its height. An historic photograph, ca. 1885, indicates that the dam originated as an outcropping built up with a reinforcement of boulders.

Spanning the river south of the city, the Saffold Dam, just upstream from the Highway 123 bridge, is connected to the original Humphrey Branch grant on the north and the Eligio Gortari League on the south. Wounded in an Indian attack in 1834, Gortari died soon after leaving all of his property to his wife. Mrs. Gortari married Manuel Flores and the Gortari-Flores house became a meeting place for area colonists. The main north/south road of the time forded the Guadalupe at the Gortari League. Santa Anna travelled this route on his way to San Jacinto, confiscating most of the animals and destroying the property. In 1850 the Flores family sold 200 acres to J.M. Rodriguez for \$500.00. The legal description of this property mentions... "the mouth of a small branch near the falls of the river." Rodriguez sold the same 200-acre tract back to the Flores family for \$1000.00 in 1853; this increase in land value could have been caused by improvements to the falls. The entire Gortari League was then sold to Bird Saffold who in turn gave it to his son William Saffold and his wife Sarah Herring. In 1866 Saffold advertised his mill, ferry, and lime kiln for rent, all of these properties grouped on the south bank of the Guadalupe. Saffold and Herring sold six acres to Thad Miller in 1874 which embraced... "the mill site, mill houses and the southern ferry landing." In addition they granted Miller the privilege of obtaining rock from their land ... "for the purpose of repairing or strengthening the natural dam." In 1875 Miller, Herring, and Saffold agreed to cover particulars concerning the construction of a bridge across the Guadalupe near the present Highway 123 bridge. This bridge was completed in 1879. That same year Miller sold "lands embracing my mill and gin" to Henry Troell. Troell enlarged the mill and gin in 1899 and then built a hydro-electric plant to power a new cotton gin. This electrically operated gin proved to be unsuccessful so Troell enlarged his plants and constructed a 75-barrel-per-day flour mill. It is believed that between 1879 and

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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CONTINUATION SHEET

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1900 Troell made improvements and raised the level of the dam in an effort to develop more power. The Commissioners' Court minutes of September 27, 1895 record electric lighting installed in the courthouse. In 1900 the city of Seguin refused to renew or grant a franchise to Troell for his electric distribution system. In 1907 Troell sold three acres of land including the falls, water rights, and electric plant to the city which has continually repaired and improved the dam.

The north bank of the dam site was settled in 1831 as part of the Humphrey Branch grant, though Branch soon sold his land due to Indian conflicts. The property changed hands several times prior to the turn of the century during which time a privately owned water works was constructed. In the early 20th century the city purchased the water works which initially suffered many financial and mechanical difficulties but has remained on the site, today operating as a pumping and treatment plant. Though founded in the 19th century, both the water and electric plants have been continually improved and renovated and are not to be considered part of the nomination.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Arwerd, Max. A History of Guadalupe County, Texas. Thesis, 1938.
 Baker, Lindsay T., Research Associate, History of Engineering Program, Texas Tech University, Lubbock, Texas; Correspondence with, 1977.
 Deed Records, Guadalupe County.

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property approximately 1/3 acre

Quadrangle name Seguin, Texas

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A	<u>1</u> <u>4</u>	<u>5</u> <u>9</u> <u>9</u> <u>7</u> <u>8</u> <u>5</u>	<u>3</u> <u>2</u> <u>6</u> <u>9</u> <u>2</u> <u>9</u> <u>5</u>	B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

Beginning at the point where the west edge of the Highway 123 bridge crosses the Guadalupe River, proceed 300 feet upstream along the south edge of the river. Then proceed north across the river, 25 feet east of the center line of the dam a distance of

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Joe L. Bruns, Chairman/Linda C. Flory, Historian
 organization Guadalupe County Historical Commission /Texas Historical Commission date July 1, 1979
 street & number 404 N. Camp St./Box 12276 telephone (512) 475-3095
 city or town Seguin/Austin state Texas 78722 / 78711

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

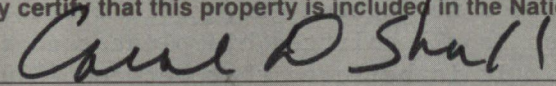
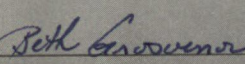
national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature 

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date August 3, 1979

For HCRS use only
 I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

 Keeper of the National Register
 Attest: 
 Chief of Registration
 date 11-15-79
 date 11/15/79

FHR-8-300A
(11/78)

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CONTINUATION SHEET

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PAGE 1

Fitzsimon, Father L.J. "History of Seguin." Seguin City Directory, 1938.
Newsclippings furnished by Ella Jandt, Mrs. L.K. McDaniel, and Mrs. Meta Wille.

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(11/78)

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250 feet to the northern edge of the river. Thence upstream a distance of 50 feet perpendicular to the longitudinal center line of the dam. Then south for 250 feet parallel to and 50 feet from the south-north line. Thence downstream for 50 feet, parallel to the south bank of the rim to the point of beginning.

October 30, 1979

Beth -

Enclosed are two continuation sheets for Saffold Dam Seguin, Guadalupe Co, Texas. Verbal Boundary Description was revised to include dam only (as opposed to previous VBD which included part of bank)

Other sheet specifies construction date for addition of crest wall - as requested.

Linda C. Hary
Historian
Texas N.R. Office

FHR-8-300A
(11/78)

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CONTINUATION SHEET Saffold Dam ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 1

The concrete lip was added to the dam during the summer of 1934.
It raised the water level 12 to 18 inches above the dam.

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1

ITEM NUMBER 10

PAGE

1

Nominated property includes the dam structure with a fifty foot extension upstream and downstream. North boundary is identified as a point where the dam abuts the north bank of the river. South boundary is identified as a point where dam abuts the concrete footing for the power plant. East and west boundaries are identified as lines fifty feet upstream and downstream from the dam and parallel to the longitudinal center line of dam.

NAME OF PROPERTY Saffold Dam

STATE Texas

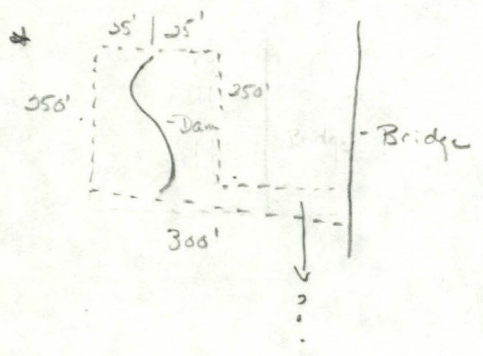
Date Information Requested/Date Put in "Hold" Drawer: 10/24/79

Date to Be Pulled from "Hold" Drawer: 11/24/79
(30 Days from Date Requested)

Information Requested From: Lissa Anderson / Linda Flory

Information Requested/Reason Nomination Is Being Held:

new VBD ~~removing~~ removing "ell" area
date of ^{latest} construction/improvement (crest wall) giving
down its present configuration.



per conversation - nothing remains of historic mills.

Beth

Reviewer

7900 2950

Property

Saffold Dam

State

24 (Guadalupe)

Working Number

8.16.79.1976

TECHNICAL

Photos

3

Maps

1

CONTROL

OK PL 8.16.79

HISTORIAN

call/hold/accept

B Grovner 11/13/79

10/24/79

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

Accept KO'C

10/19/79

Typical of a type - outcroppings which gradually evolved into a formally defined dam; an important feature in the development of the town. It would be nice to have some dates of the man-made improvements - at least the concrete blanket, which gives the dam its present configuration. Also, the "ell" wh/ appears thru the VSD should be justified or removed (see hold sheet)

Handsome curved dam, historically linked with development of town and still important to community, creating recreation area and powering ~~the~~ pumping & treatment plant + electrical plant.

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

HAER

Inventory _____

Review _____

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

accept

B Grovner

11/13/79

BRANCH CHIEF

KEEPER

National Register Write-up

2-5-80

Send-back

Entered

NOV 15 1979

Federal Register Entry

Re-submit



Saffold Dam

Guadalupe River, Max Starcke Park

Sequin, Guadalupe County, Texas

Photo: Courtesy Joe L. Bruns
Historic, Ca. 1879

View: Southwest

Photo # 1013

AUG 16 1979

DOE
NOV 15 1979



Saffold Dam

Guadalupe River, Max Starcke Park

Seguin, Guadalupe County, Texas

Photo: Texas Historical Commission, 2/79

View: West

Photo # 273

AUG 16 1979

DOE
NOV 15 1979



Saffold Dam

Guadalupe River, Max Starcke Park

Seguin, Guadalupe County, Texas

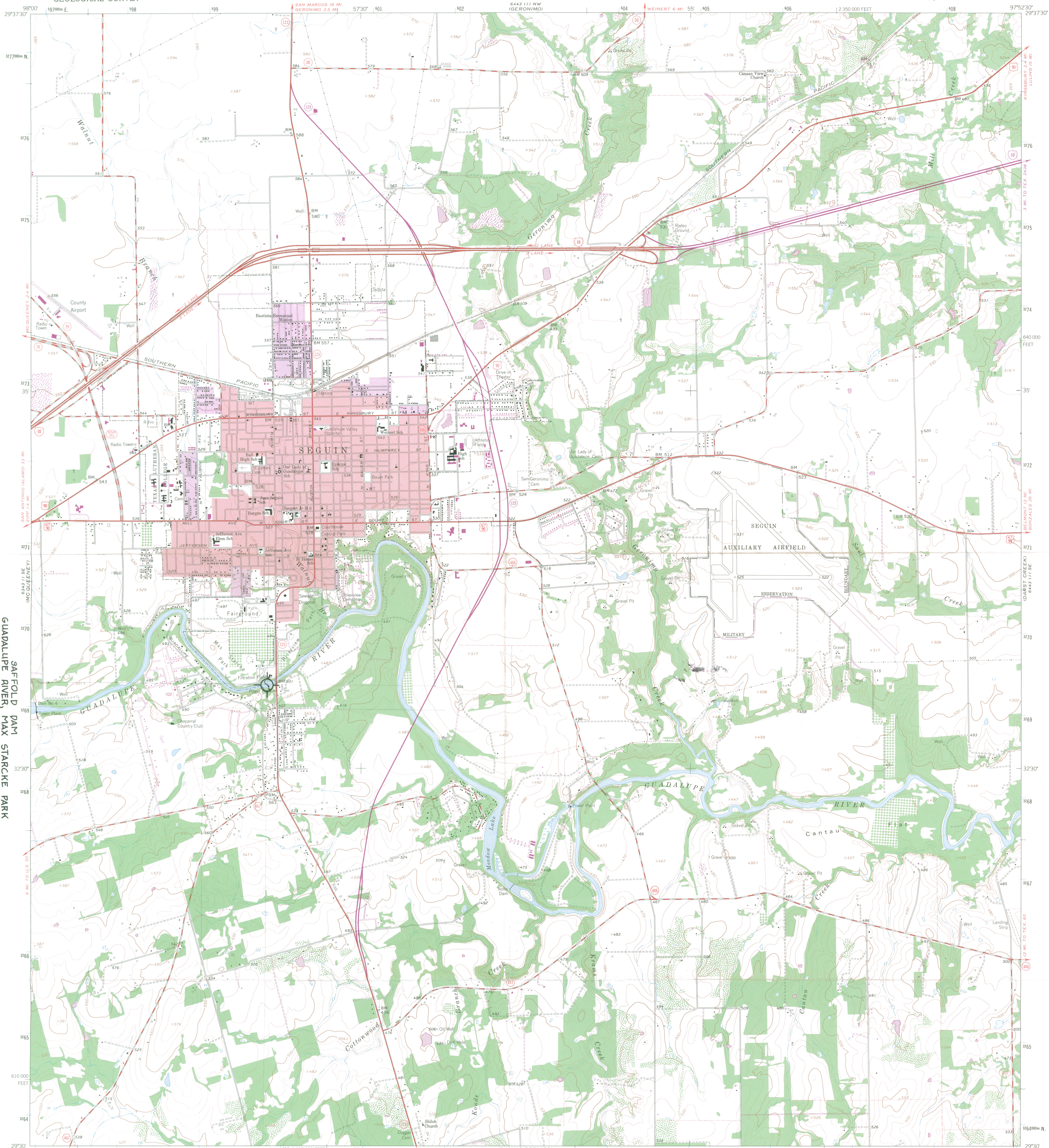
Photo: Texas Historical Commission, 2/79

View: South

Photo # 34/3

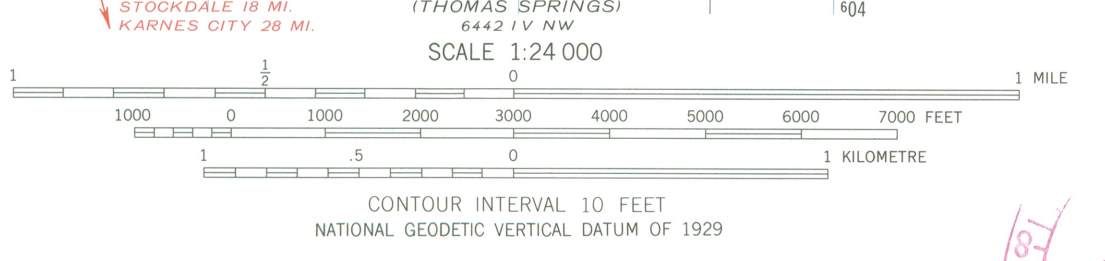
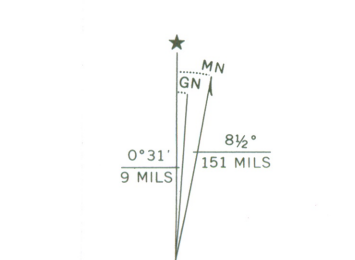
AUG 16 1979

DOE
NOV 15 1979



SAFOLD DAM
GUADALUPE RIVER, MAX STARCKE PARK
SEGUIN, GUADALUPE COUNTY,
TEXAS
UTM REFERENCE: 14/594780/3269300

Mapped by the Army Map Service
Edited and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, NOS/NOAA, and USCE
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial
photographs taken 1958. Field checked by USGS 1964
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Texas coordinate system, south central zone
1000-metre Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 14, shown in blue
Red tint indicates area in which only landmark buildings are shown
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence lines
Revisions shown in purple compiled by the Geospatial Survey from
aerial photographs taken 1973. This information not field checked
Purple tint indicates extension of urban areas



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QUADRANGLE LOCATION

ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Primary highway, hard surface
Secondary highway, hard surface
Light-duty road, hard or improved surface
Unimproved road
Interstate Route
U. S. Route
State Route

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

2997-322

SEGUIN, TEX.
N2930-W9752.5/7.5
1964
PHOTOREVISED 1973
AMS 6443 11 SW - SERIES V882
NOV 15 1979

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

TEXAS

STATE

Date Entered

NOV 15 1979

Name

Location

Saffold Dam

Seguin
Guadalupe County

Everett Building

Longview
Gregg County

Also Notified

Honorable Lloyd M. Bentsen

Honorable John G. Tower
Honorable Abraham Kazen, Jr.
Honorable Ray Roberts

State Historic Preservation Officer
Mr. Truett Latimer
Executive Director
Texas State Historical Commission
P.O. Box 12276, Capitol Station
Austin, Texas 78711

NR Byers/bjr 11/20/79

For further information, please call the National Register at (202)343-6401.