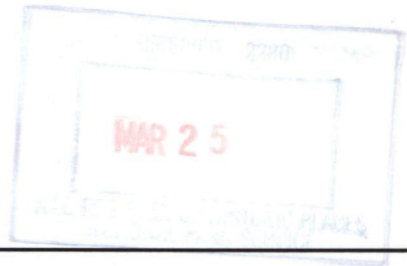


(Oct. 1990)
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

1. NAME OF PROPERTY

HISTORIC NAME: Williams Creek School
OTHER NAME/SITE NUMBER: Albert School

2. LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER: 5501 South RM 1623
CITY OR TOWN: Stonewall
STATE: Texas CODE: TX COUNTY: Gillespie
NOT FOR PUBLICATION: N/A
VICINITY: X
CODE: 171 ZIP CODE: 78671

3. STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this (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 (meets) (does not meet) the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant (nationally) (statewide) (locally). (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)


Signature of certifying official

March 24, 2005
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

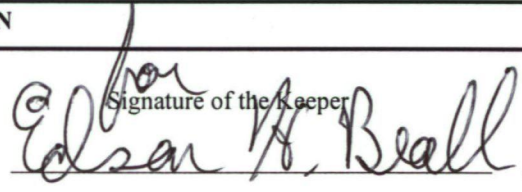
Date

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
	2	2 BUILDINGS
	0	0 SITES
	3	0 STRUCTURES
	0	0 OBJECTS
	5	2 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
ROOF METAL/Tin
OTHER GLASS, WOOD

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

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Section 7 Page 5

Williams Creek School
Stonewall vicinity, Gillespie County, Texas

Williams Creek School is in the community of Albert in southeastern Gillespie County, Texas, approximately sixteen miles southeast of the county seat of Fredericksburg. The school complex consists of two buildings and three structures built between 1897 and 1950. The 5.46-acre school site north of Ranch Road 1623 includes a rectangular-plan limestone schoolhouse from 1897 whose size was doubled with a 1923 frame addition with metal cladding, as well as a cistern and two barbecue pits. The school grounds have been a center of social activity for Albert since the site was established in 1897. With relatively little alteration since the school was closed in 1950, the property presents an intact view of rural life from the late nineteenth and early twentieth century.

Setting

The community of Albert is on Williams Creek sixteen miles southeast of Fredericksburg and one mile west of the Blanco county line in southeastern Gillespie County. Albert is a small village that retains some historic commercial and residential buildings, generally concentrated along Ranch Road 1623 roughly halfway between the towns of Fredericksburg and Blanco. Williams Creek and other tributaries drain to the north, emptying into the Pedernales River approximately eight miles northeast of Albert. The well-watered land provided fertile grasslands where ranchers could feed their cattle.

The school complex consists of a rectangular plan, side gabled limestone schoolhouse that was expanded with a frame and metal cladding addition, creating a dogtrot plan building in 1923. Additional resources on the site include a cistern and two barbecue pits, as well as two modern privies. The surrounding land is generally farmland, and slopes to the west toward Williams Creek. Two buildings (schoolhouse and barbecue pit shelter) and three structures (cistern and two barbecue pits) are considered contributing resources in this nomination. Two modern privies are noncontributing (see table of resources on continuation sheet 7-7).

Architectural description

The original section of the Williams Creek School, measuring 43 by 23 feet, was built in 1897, constructed of locally quarried limestone block and mortared with lime around the exterior. The interior walls were covered with plaster. The building has limestone rock lintels and windowsills. Four single hung aluminum windows on the north side and four on the south side have replaced the original windows, each having three clear window panes and sliding vertically to open and close. These windows were installed shortly before the school closed in 1950. The two original wood-framed windows on the west wall each have eight clear window panes. This side of the building has the original tongue and groove pine wood floor, the original bead board ceiling with an opening for bell and tower maintenance, and a corrugated tin roof with rain gutters on the north and south sides. The room uses two incandescent lights hanging from cords dropped from the ceiling, two electrical outlets, two modern ceiling fans, and three turnbuckle brace rods expanded from the north to south walls. The original double solid core entrance doors with original latches have three clear window panes overhead. The one original cupboard, used for a bookshelf, is located in the northeast corner by the original wall to wall blackboard on the east wall. The metal flagpole still stands close to the blackboard on a round metal disc and supports an American flag. The original school bell, with the original rope, still sits in the bell tower. This room continues

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Williams Creek School
Stonewall vicinity, Gillespie County, Texas

to use the centrally located wood burning stove for heating. Fifteen wooden tables are surrounded by seven long benches and metal folding chairs.

The 31 by 23 foot classroom addition was built in 1923. This room is a frame building with brick pattern pressed tin siding. The original double wood entrance doors in the east wall have original latches, lock with a skeleton key and have four clear window panes overhead. The building has six original double-hung 4/4 windows, while four higher four-pane windows with chain latches to hang open are on the north side. The room has three original drop lights hanging from the ceiling, original bead board walls and ceiling, and original pine tongue and groove wood floor. This additional room continues to be set up as a classroom. Sixth through tenth grade classes were taught in this west building, which was also used for a stage for plays at school closings. The original stage curtain, with more than thirty advertisements painted on it, hangs rolled up from the ceiling and can be let down manually by ropes on each side, thus hiding the wall to wall blackboard on the west side during play intermissions. The wooden map holder box that originally hung over the middle of the main blackboard, now lies underneath. The chimney is located in the northwest corner of the room, while the original wood burning stove setting in a tin sandbox is about ten feet away from the wall. One original easel blackboard stands along the north side of the room. The east wall has twelve coat hooks, and a trophy case with glass doors sits in the northeast corner. One floor dustbox, to hold sawdust shavings used for sweeping the floor, sits in the southeast corner. Three 3' x 6' wood tables, two 10' x 4' wood tables, one small bench, one long bench, and twenty original student desks fill the room.

When the second room was built and connected with the dogtrot, students used this middle breezeway to enter either classroom. The west wall of this room still has the two shelves that were used for storing lunch boxes. The top shelf was used for sixth through tenth grades and the bottom shelf was for first through fifth grades. The wooden walls on the north side still have six nails for hanging brooms or mops. This dogtrot is 11 feet across and the length of the school rooms. It has the original limestone rock east wall, the beaded board north and west walls, the original pine tongue and groove floor, and the original beaded board ceiling with one manhole. One original solid core door on the north side has two clear window panes overhead. As you step out of the north door, steps lead to a small open porch covered by a corrugated tin roof in back of the breezeway. The one original window with eight clear panes remains on the north side next to the door. This room uses one original hanging light. A person uses two original rock steps with a metal pipe hand railing to hold onto in order to enter the rock school building on the right.

The 10' x 20' open porch addition in front of the breezeway has a corrugated tin roof, four galvanized pipes used as support posts, and a concrete floor. Southeast of the schoolhouse are two barbecue pits and a 10' x 27' open canopy shed with a corrugated tin roof supported by eight original cedar posts. The cistern is southeast of the limestone rock school building and was used for drinking water.

Changes since construction

The Williams Creek School complex reflects the continued use and expansion of the facilities through the historic period. The property is virtually unchanged since the school was consolidated with Fredericksburg in

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Continuation Sheet**

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Williams Creek School
Stonewall vicinity, Gillespie County, Texas

1950. The most significant change was the doubling of the footprint of the 1897 school with a 1923 classroom addition, which created a dogtrot connection and moved the bell tower that was on the end to near the center of the schoolhouse. The wood framed windows in the 1897 section were replaced with aluminum frame windows shortly before the school closed in 1950, but this change does not significantly alter the historic character of the building. A cistern and two barbecue pits and a shelter were built about 1936. In 2002 the Texas Historical Commission designated the Williams Creek School a Recorded Texas Historic Landmark.

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 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:

Williams Creek School	1897 / 1923	BUILDING	contributing
Barbecue pit shelter	c. 1936	BUILDING	contributing
Barbecue pit (1)	c. 1936	STRUCTURE	contributing
Barbecue pit (2)	c. 1936	STRUCTURE	contributing
Cistern	c. 1936	STRUCTURE	contributing
Privy (1)	2000	BUILDING	noncontributing
Privy (2)	2000	BUILDING	noncontributing

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: 1897-1950

SIGNIFICANT DATES: 1897

SIGNIFICANT PERSON: N/A

CULTURAL AFFILIATION: N/A

ARCHITECT/BUILDER: N/A

NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (see continuation sheets 8-8 through 8-13).

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES

BIBLIOGRAPHY (see continuation sheets 9-14 through 9-18).

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 (*Texas Education Agency*)
- Federal agency
- Local government (*Gillespie County Courthouse, Fredericksburg, Texas*)
- University
- Other -- Specify Repository (*German-Texan Heritage Society, Austin, Texas*)

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Williams Creek School
Stonewall vicinity, Gillespie County, Texas

The Williams Creek School complex in the vicinity of Stonewall 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.¹

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.²

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

¹ Eby 130.

² Mohon and Mohon, 125-126.

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Williams Creek School
Stonewall vicinity, Gillespie County, Texas

first public schools in Gillespie County opened that year, as well as the first parochial school through St. Mary's Catholic Church.³

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."⁴

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.⁵

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.⁶ 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.⁷ Records from 1871 report eighteen African-American students at a school in Fredericksburg. In 1937 the Fredericksburg Independent School District was the only district in Gillespie County with separate facilities for African-Americans, with seven students reported that year out of a

³ Mohon and Mohon, 126.

⁴ Biggers 85.

⁵ Mohon and Mohon, 127-128.

⁶ Gold 28.

⁷ Mohon and Mohon, 133.

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Williams Creek School
Stonewall vicinity, Gillespie County, Texas

countywide total of 2,862.⁸ The African-American school in Fredericksburg was moved from its original site to 107 E. Schubert Street.

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.⁹ 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.¹⁰

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.¹¹ 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).

⁸ Texas Statewide School Adequacy Survey, 659-670.

⁹ Texas Statewide School Adequacy Survey, 659-670. See also table on page 8-11.

¹⁰ Mohon and Mohon, 130, "Lower South Grape Creek."

¹¹ Gillespie County School Histories.

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Section 8 Page 11Williams Creek School
Stonewall vicinity, Gillespie County, Texas

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	1885	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 (Albert)	1890	1950	31	Stonewall	RTHL 2002
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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Williams Creek School
Stonewall vicinity, Gillespie County, Texas

Williams Creek School

The earliest known settlers in the community of Albert were George Cauley, Ben White, Sr., and a man named Jacobs. The town formally dates from 1877, when Fritz Wilke, George Maenius, and John Petri moved from Fredericksburg seeking new grazing lands for their cattle. Wilke, a blacksmith, bought his land from a man named Elmeier, who was murdered in a robbery several years later. The town was originally called Martinsburg after an early settler and was a stop on the Fredericksburg-Blanco stage route. The Martinsburg post office operated from 1877 to 1886, when mail was routed through nearby Hye in Blanco County.¹²

Early Williams Creek settlers petitioned the county to create a school district in May 1890, and so rural district number 38 was established. The school trustees bought one acre of land from B. F. and Lucy White on January 1, 1891, and built a one-room frame schoolhouse immediately adjacent to Williams Creek. Robert Bruns was the first teacher, followed by Henry White, Molly Carson and John Merz, Sr.. After 1892 Martinsburg got a new name, thanks to Albert Luckenbach, who sold his store in Luckenbach, moved to Martinsburg, and opened a new post office, which he registered as Albert. Within a few years, there was a need to find a new location for the school away from the creek, and on November 30, 1897 a new 1.5-acre tract was bought from Charles and Louise Kramer for five dollars.¹³ The school was alternately known as Albert School. John Merz, Sr. served as teacher in the new building. For many years, school was in session for only three months, and the school was supported by tuition.

The most famous student of Williams Creek (Albert) School was Lyndon Baines Johnson, 36th President of the United States, who attended during the 1920-21 term at the age of twelve. Johnson was educated in the rural schools of Gillespie County, attending the Junction School for several years, then one year at Stonewall and one year at Albert. He rode a donkey several miles to the Stonewall and Albert schools, and because of this and the predominantly German makeup of the students, Johnson was cast as an outsider.¹⁴

In the new limestone rock building lessons were taught only in German for a number of years. Later, however, English was also taught. By 1922, two teachers were needed for the growing number of students and another room was added with an enclosed porch between the two rooms. The school enrollment at that time was 70 students. A petition dated October 1, 1922 lists those pledging money to defray the costs of a classroom addition to the schoolhouse. The frame addition with metal cladding doubled the size of the school.

During recess and the lunch hour, students played marbles, fiddlesticks, red rover, prison base, volleyball, and baseball. The baseball games usually involved a tennis ball, since real baseballs cost too much. Whittled down 1x4's were used for bats. Picnics, programs and school closings were held frequently, often incorporating the Albert Dance Hall on the adjoining property west of the school.

¹² "Albert, Texas."

¹³ "Williams Creek School."

¹⁴ "Williams Creek School."

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Williams Creek School
Stonewall vicinity, Gillespie County, Texas

When the enrollment decreased to thirty-two students, trustees decided to consolidate with the Stonewall School District No. 18 in June 1950. The Williams Creek school building continues to be the Albert community's center for social gatherings, ranging from the community club playing games of 42 and pinochle and holding business meetings, to class and family reunions and wedding and baptism celebrations. The Albert School Community Club was begun when the school closed and started holding regular club meetings, playing cards and dominoes and sharing meals. The schoolhouse is also used for reunions, family parties and other community activities.

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 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 Williams Creek 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 school was active from 1897-1950, and much of the original historic material remains intact. The facility continues to serve as a social gathering place for the community. The Williams Creek 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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Williams Creek School
Stonewall vicinity, Gillespie County, Texas

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Williams Creek School
Stonewall vicinity, Gillespie County, Texas

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Williams Creek School
Stonewall vicinity, Gillespie County, Texas

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Stonewall vicinity, Gillespie County, Texas

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Williams Creek School
Stonewall vicinity, Gillespie County, Texas

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10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF PROPERTY: 5.46 acres

UTM REFERENCES	<u>Zone</u>	<u>Easting</u>	<u>Northing</u>
	14	538470	3340360

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: Legal parcel number Property ID R83749, A0243, M. J. Guerrero #4, 5.46 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-19 through MAP-20 and topographic map)

PHOTOGRAPHS (see continuation sheet PHOTO-21)

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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Section FIGURE Page 19

Williams Creek School
Stonewall vicinity, Gillespie County, Texas

Figure 1. Williams Creek School, circa 1891.



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Section FIGURE Page 20

Williams Creek School
Stonewall vicinity, Gillespie County, Texas

Figure 2. Williams Creek School, circa 1905.



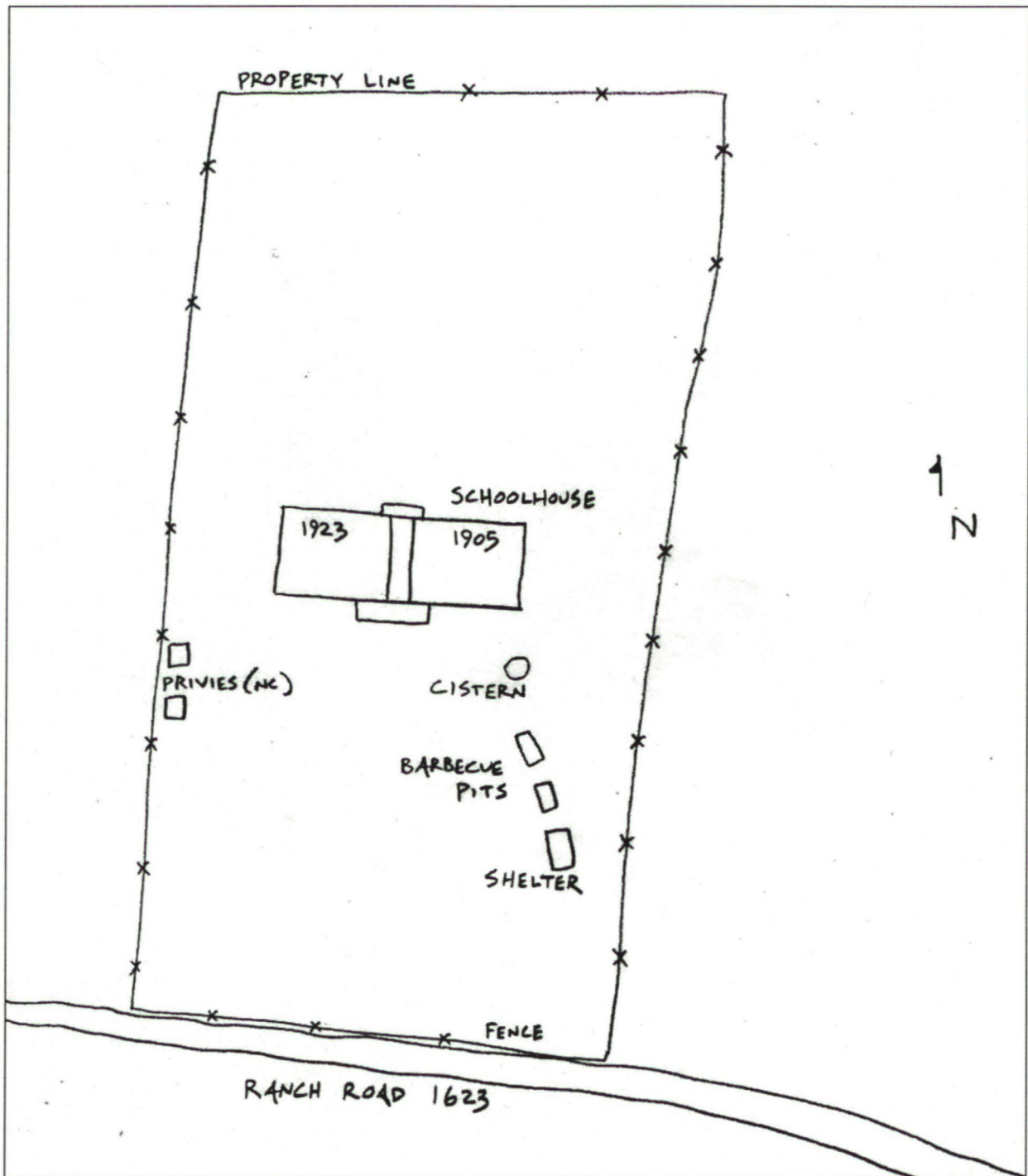
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Section MAP Page 21

Williams Creek School
Stonewall vicinity, Gillespie County, Texas

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



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Section PHOTO Page 22

Williams Creek School
Stonewall vicinity, Gillespie County, Texas

PHOTOGRAPHIC INVENTORY

**Williams Creek School
5501 S. Ranch Road 1623
Stonewall vicinity, Gillespie County, Texas
Photographs by Greg Smith, October 2004.
Negatives on file at Texas Historical Commission.**

Photograph 1 of 2
Williams Creek School, south elevation
Camera facing north

Photograph 2 of 2
Williams Creek School barbecue pits and shelter, southwest oblique
Camera facing northeast

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Williams Creek 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: 05000384

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.



WILLIAMS CREEK (ALBERT) SCHOOL

5501 SOUTH RM 1623

STONEWALL VICINITY, GILLESPIE COUNTY, TEXAS

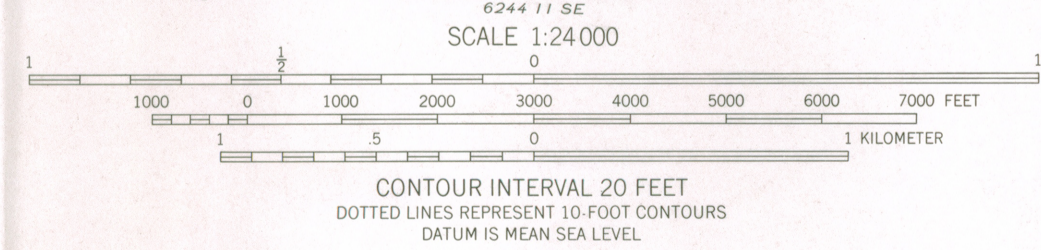
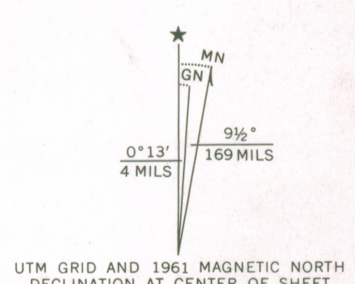


WILLIAMS CREEK (ALBERT) SCHOOL
5501 SOUTH RM 1623
STONEWALL VICINITY, GILLESPIE COUNTY, TEXAS



WILLIAMS CREEK (ALBERT) SCHOOL
5501 S. RM 1623
STONEWALL VICINITY, GILLESPIE COUNTY, TEXAS
ZONE 14 530470E 3340360N

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS and USC & GS
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial
photographs taken 1958. Field checked 1961
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 and field lines
where generally visible on aerial photographs
This information is unchecked



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Heavy-duty	Light-duty
Medium-duty	Unimproved dirt
U.S. Route	State Route

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER 25, COLORADO OR WASHINGTON 25, D.C.
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

HYE, TEX.
N3007.5 - W9830.7/5
1961
MINOR CORRECTIONS MADE 1964
AMS 6244 11 NE-SERIES W982

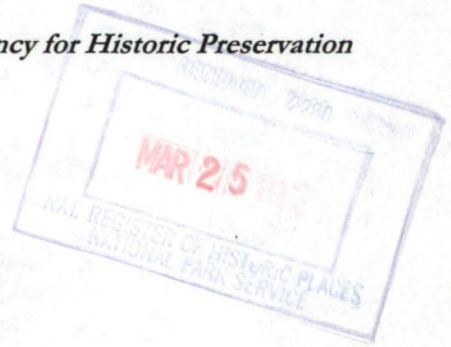
3098 - 214



**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: Williams Creek School, Stonewall vicinity, Gillespie County, Texas

DATE: March 25, 2005

The following materials are submitted regarding: Williams Creek School, Stonewall 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
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other:

COMMENTS:

SHPO requests substantive review

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

Other _____