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TEXAS UTILITIES SERVICES INC.

2001 BRYAN TOWER DALLAS TEXAS 75201-3050

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February 22, 1983

Mr. B. J. Youngblood, Chief
Licensing Branch No. 1
Division of Licensing
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

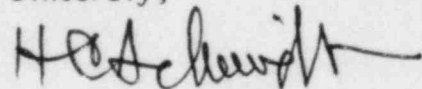
SUBJECT: COMANCHE PEAK STEAM ELECTRIC STATION
ELIGIBILITY OF THE MAY HOUSE FOR THE
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

Dear Mr. Youngblood:

Enclosed is a copy of the subject information requested by your
May 25, 1982 letter to Mr. R. J. Gary. Please note that this
information was sent to Texas State Historic Preservation
Officer on January 21, 1983.

If you have any questions about this matter, please call Mr. Richard
Werner at (214) 653-4869.

Sincerely,



H. C. Schmidt

RAW:tls
Enclosure

COO2



environment consultants, inc.

January 21, 1983

Dr. LaVerne Herrington, Director
Resource Conservation
Texas Historical Commission
P.O. Box 12276
Capital Station
Austin, TX 78711

Dear Dr. Herrington:

The enclosed National Register of Historic Places Inventory Nomination is being sent to you for review at the request of Texas Utilities Services, Inc.

In 1981, we conducted an initial investigation of the May House and recommended that, due to recent major modification, the present structure is not eligible for inclusion on the National Register. I have included copies of the correspondence regarding the house. Further review of the records, and additional inspection have confirmed our original evaluation but we have prepared further documentation in the form of the enclosed Nomination to further explain why we believe the structure is ineligible.

Thank you for your consideration, if you have any questions, please call me at (214) 233-8261.

Sincerely,

ENVIRONMENT CONSULTANTS, INC.

S. Alan Skinner, Ph.D.
Vice President and General Manager

SAS:amm

enclosure

cc: R. Werner, TUSI
K. Singleton, Waxahachie Main Street Project

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

The May House or the May Place

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Nearest road is Texas 144 (2 miles east)

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Glen Rose

☒ VICINITY OF

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Texas

Somervell

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☐ OCCUPIED☒ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☒ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☐ COMMERCIAL☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ GOVERNMENT☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ MILITARY☐ MUSEUM☐ PARK☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ RELIGIOUS☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ TRANSPORTATION☒ OTHER: Unused**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Texas Utilities Services Inc.

STREET & NUMBER

Bryan Tower

CITY, TOWN

Dallas

VICINITY OF

STATE

Texas 75201

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Somervell County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Glen Rose

STATE

Texas

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

The Historic and Prehistoric Archaeological Resources of the Squaw Creek Reservoir

DATE

1973

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Dept. of Anthropology, Southern Methodist University

CITY, TOWN

Dallas

STATE

Texas 75275

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT
☒ GOOD
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED
☒ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE 1-11-83

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

When built in 1882 on the banks of Squaw (Figure 1), the May house was a folk house typical to the area. The house was a two story stone structure with a floor plan of a southern "I" house: two symmetrical rooms with fire places and a central hall with stairs leading to the second floor. The second floor was a large single room used for sleeping quarters. The floorplan is illustrated in Figure 2 and a view of the facade in 1890 is shown as Figure 7 in Skinner and Humphreys (1973:16). Stone mason Bill Trawick built the house with the help of the May family. The limestone was quarried from a nearby hill. The roof was gabled and there were chimneys on the east and west ends respectively. Across the south facade there are four arched 4 over four double hung windows (Figures 3 and 4). The stone relieving arches above the windows and door offer the only detailing on the house (Figure 5). The door was in the middle of the south facade flanked on both sides by four windows on the east facade (Figure 6), and four on the west facade of the house (Figure 7). These were placed symmetrically around the chimney with two downstairs and two upstairs. The rear or north facade was probably the same as the south facade. There was also a partial basement. The house stayed in the May family until 1937. During this time, the only addition made to the house was a wooden front porch on the south facade done in 1900.

In 1937, Dallas Parnell purchased the house from the May descendents. It was subsequent to this time that Parnell enlarged the house to its present size. (See Figure 2 for first floor plan showing new parts and Figure 8 in Skinner and Humphreys (1973:17) for the modern southern facade). The most drastic change was the alteration of the roof line (Figure 8 & others) to accomodate the "Southern Colonial" two story front porch added on the south facade. Four windows were also added across the front (Figures 3, 4, and 6) as well as Doric columns. There is a noticable difference across the south facade where the stone was reworked when the windows were added. To the west, a garage, washroom and well room were added and on the east facade a screened-in porch and full basement were added. On the north facade of the house a two-story addition with bedrooms upstairs and dining room, kitchen, bathroom, and playroom downstairs have helped to triple the size of the house. The original north facade exterior wall became the interior living room wall. What was once an excellent example of a folk house type had been effectively changed into a Southern Colonial Revival house typical in Texas during the post-Depression period.

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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This example of a folk type house was originally constructed in 1882 for Benjamin F. May, a farmer at Squaw Creek, near Glen Rose, Texas, to replace the family's log house. Benjamin May purchased the land on Squaw Creek in 1877. He and his family lived in a one room log structure which had a side room kitchen. Local stone mason Bill Trawick constructed the May house with the help of the May family who quarried the limestone from a nearby hill, dug the basement, and prepared the foundation. When completed the house was an excellent example of a Southern "I" house (Glassie 1968) with two large downstairs rooms, a central hall with stairs leading to the second floor and one large room upstairs for sleeping quarters. The old log house was used for a kitchen and dining room. In 1900, a wooden porch was added to the south facade and a front kitchen was added to the north facade.

As Ben May's children married, they constructed several small houses on the 600 acres that he owned. When Ben May died, his two youngest daughters, Amanda and Low, stayed with their mother in the stone house. In 1928, after the death of both Mrs. May and Amanda, Low married Lee Caldwell and moved out of the house. In January of 1929, the Ranson Swaim family moved into the house. Mrs. Swaim was the daughter of Newton May, one of Ben May's sons, and an heir to the property. In 1937, the Swaims sold the house to Dallas Parnell. After 1937, Dallas Parnell transformed this traditional folk house into a "Gone with the Wind" Southern Colonial Revival style house. A Southern Colonial Revival front facade was added as well as nine rooms which tripled the size of the house. This type of "Gone with the Wind" Southern Colonial Revival transformation was typical in Texas during this time period (Alexander 1977). The house change hands again and was finally purchased as part of the land acquisition of the Comanche Peak Nuclear Power Plant.

The significance of the May house rests with its original construction as an example of an I-house made of stone. Subsequently, it was modified when rooms were added and the roof line was raised. At this time part of the original facade was torn apart and then remortared after creating four out-of-style windows. The original fabric of the house has been significantly altered and we anticipate that recreation of the original condition is not feasible.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Glassie, Henry: Pattern in the Material Folk Culture of the Eastern United States (University of Pennsylvania 1968), p. 67.

Skinner, S. Alan and Gerald K. Humphreys: The Historic and Prehistoric Archaeological Resources of the Squaw Creek Reservoir (Southern Methodist University, Contribution in Anthropology 10, 1973), pp. 14-17

Alexander, Drury Blake: Texas Homes of the Nineteenth Century (University of Texas Press 1977), p. 90.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

UTM REFERENCES

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ZONE EASTING

NORTHING

C

B

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ZONE

EASTING

NORTHING

D

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Kate Singleton, Historian and S. Alan Skinner, Archaeologist

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Environment Consultants, Inc.

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

4951 Airport Parkway, Suite 500

(214) 233-8261

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Dallas

Texas

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 National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Figure 1: Location of the May House near Glen Rose, Texas. From the Hill City, Texas 7½ USGS map.



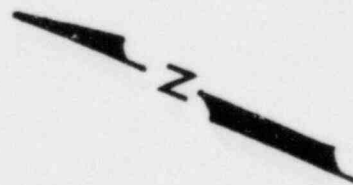
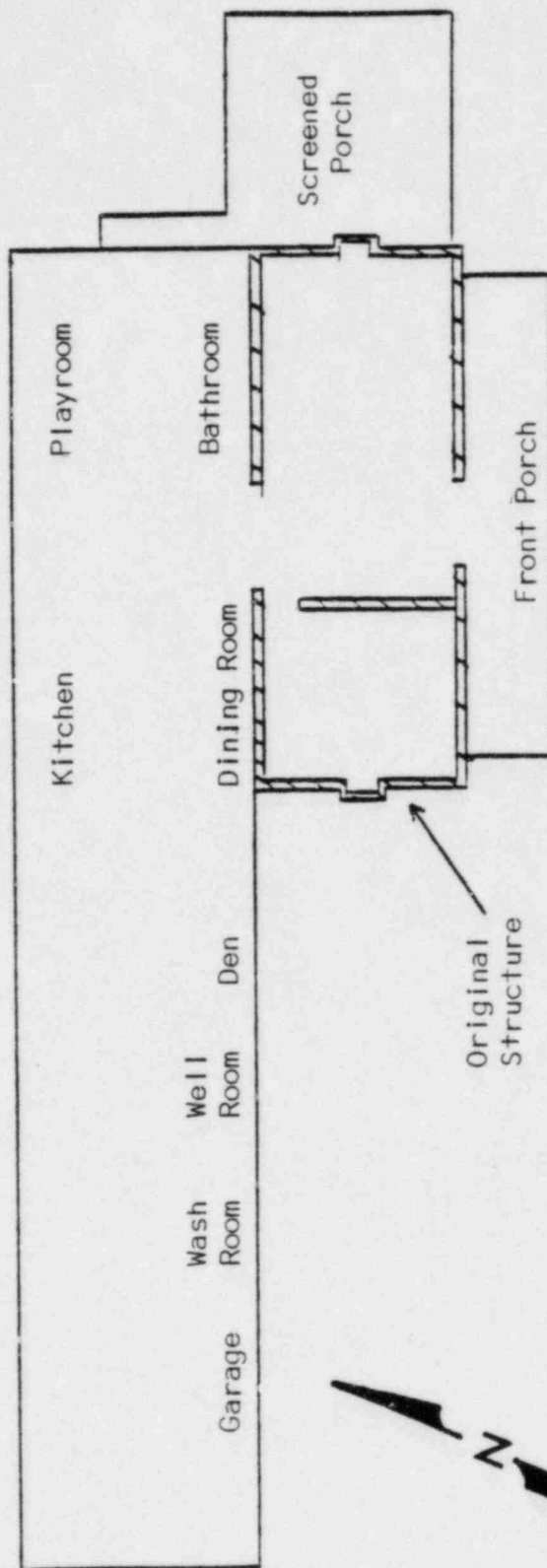
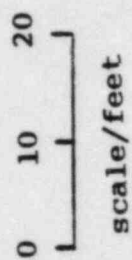


Figure 2. Detailed floor plan of the May House.



Figure 3: May House, Somervell Co., Texas. S. Alan Skinner, 1/83, ECI-Dallas. The east end of south facade showing original and reworked stonework. Note Doric columns and concrete slab front porch. View is to the north.



Figure 4: May House, Somervell Co., Texas. S. Alan Skinner, 8/81, ECI-Dallas. The south facade showing original and reworked stonework with Doric columns and porch roof. View is to the northeast.



Figure 5: May House, Somervell Co., Texas.
S. Alan Skinner, 8/81, ECI-Dallas. The front
door in the south facade showing the stone arch.
View is to the north.

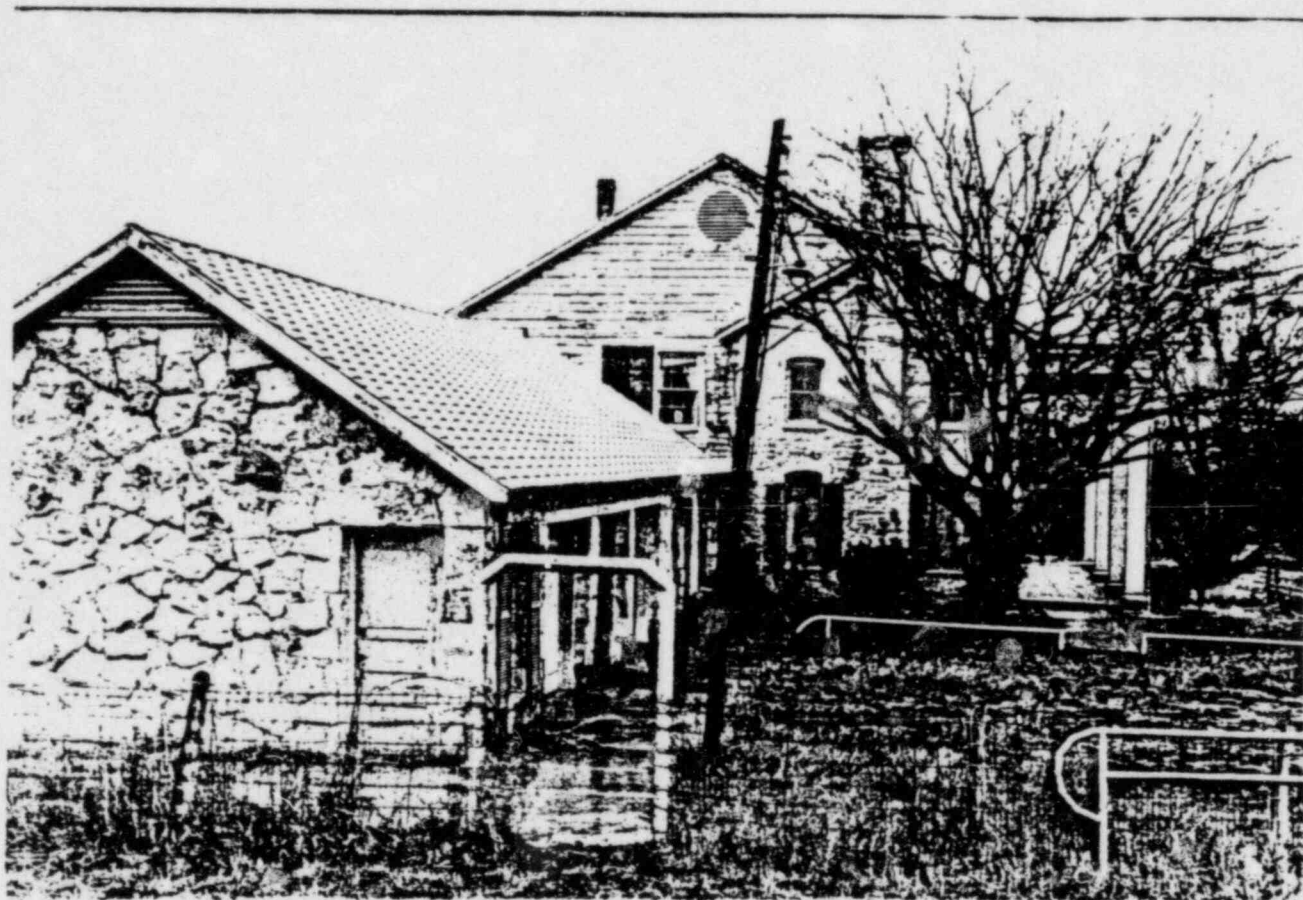


Figure 6: May House, Somervell Co., Texas.
S. Alan Skinner, 1/83, ECI-Dallas. The west
facade looking to the north showing original
windows and chimney as well as additions.



Figure 7: May House, Somervell Co., Texas. S. Alan Skinner, 1/83, ECI-Dallas. The east and north facades. The original structure is marked by the stone chimney while the remainder of the structure represents post-Depression additions. View is to the southeast.



Figure 8: May House, Somervell Co., Texas.
S. Alan Skinner, 1/83, ECI-Dallas. The west end
of the structure showing the original stone house
and the recent additions. View is to the east.

environment consultants, inc.

August 6, 1981

Mr. Truett Latimer
Executive Director
Texas Historical Commission
P.O. Box 12276
Austin, Texas 78711

Dear Mr. Latimer:

Texas Utilities Services, Inc. (TUSI) has requested that I respond to your letter of August 14, 1980 which is concerned with the cultural resources investigations at the Comanche Peak Power Plant near Glen Rose, Texas.

In 1972, 1974 and 1975 I directed studies at Comanche Peak for TUSI. Copies of those reports are being sent to you for your files by TUSI as the copies sent previously are apparently no longer available. These reports document the work that was done at Comanche Peak and serve to illustrate the concern that TUSI showed for recording, evaluating and preserving the paleontological, historical and prehistoric Native American resources included within the lake area and plant site.

These investigations provided a comprehensive survey of the area. As many of the prehistoric sites were surface deposits, their loss was mitigated by totally collecting the artifacts. This information is included in the 1973 report (Skinner and Humphreys 1973). Subsequently, we excavated the Hopewell School site and reported upon it (Gallagher and Bearden 1976). These site locations are now underwater but further work is not possible since they were thoroughly studied and the artifacts were removed.

The only historic site of local significance is the May House which we described in the 1973 report. At that time the house was in private ownership and, subsequently its' disposition was unclear. At present we are preparing a National Register application for the house which will include maps and photographs. This will be submitted to you by TUSI before the end of August as requested in your letter.

If you have any questions, please contact me.

Sincerely,

ENVIRONMENT CONSULTANTS, INC.

S. Alan Skinner, Ph.D.
Director of Anthropology

SAS/lh

References:

- Gallagher, Joseph G. and Susan E. Bearden
1976 The Hopewell School site, a Late Archaic campsite in the central Brazos River valley. Southern Methodist University, Contributions in Anthropology 19.
- Skinner, S. Alan, and G.K. Humphreys
1973 The historic and prehistoric archaeological resources of the Squaw Creek Reservoir. Southern Methodist University, Contributions in Anthropology 10.