

Plat of the Town of New California

Range A.

Range B.

Range C.

Range D.

No 13

Lead down from a
scale of 2 chains to
an inch

S 45° E. 16.7% Chains

3	2	1
4		
5	6	7 8

1	2
3	
4	13 14 15 16

7	6	5
8		
9	10 11 12	

1	2
3	
4	13 14 15 16

1	2	3	4

Main Street 60 feet
Broad St. 60 "
Walnut St. 42 "
First " 30 "
Third " 40 "
Fourth " 40 "
Fifth " 40 "
Enclosure - 10 "

S 45° W 10.7% Chains

9	10	11	12
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Square

17	18	27	28
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22	21	20	19
23		25	26
24			

20	19	18	17
29	30	31	32

23	22	21
24		
25	26	27

5	6	7	8
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S 45° E. 12.5% Chains

13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20

Public

32	31	30	29
41	42	43	44

35	34	33
36		
37	38	39

33	34	35	36
47	48	49	50

39	40	41	42
38	37	36	35
43	44	45	46

9	10	11	12
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23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30

45	46	47	48
57	58	59	60

51	50	49
52		
53	54	55

49	50	51	52
63	64	65	66

55	56	57	58
59	60	61	62

13	14	15
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Chains 16.6
South 70.2 m

Ch 4

Range #3E

11 12 13 14 15

#13
Benge

Echo 4

The Bollinger County courthouse erected in 1885 was designed by Morris Frederick Bell and built by James P. Gillick, a contractor from St. Louis. Superintendent of the project was Jacob J. Conrad. The building was enlarged in 1912, and repaired extensively in the 1960s and 1970s. Two courthouses preceded this one. There are no known photographs of these two earlier buildings. The original courthouse, built in 1852, was probably at this same location. Old Bollinger, Vol. 13, p. 37 states: "Nathan M. Zimmerman and George Rufus, in 1852, built the first courthouse. In doing this they burned the brick, dressed and matched all the lumber and made all the window sashes and doors. They also built the first jail in Dallas." (The first jail in all likelihood was two blocks south in the old public square of New California which is given on early land records of houses located there as the "Jail Square". Vest C. Myers has quoted from Goodspeed's History of Southeast Missouri in Old Bollinger, Vol. 5, p. 29: "Shortly after Bollinger County was organized a brick courthouse about 30 feet square and two stories high was built." Goodspeed's History of Southeast Missouri, p. 378, says, "The records of the courts (Bollinger County) were burned on March 2, 1866." This presumably then is the date that the first courthouse building burned. Vest C. Myers, in a continuation of his above quote, writes that another building similar to the first was built the same year the first courthouse burned in 1866. Another source states that the courthouse was a frame building completed in 1867. Louis Houck is quoted in some of his memoirs in Bits of History, p. 58, concerning the second building: "Marble Hill, in 1869, had only a few inhabitants. A frame courthouse was in an unfenced public square, without a tree about it. The town was located on the back-bone of a hill, rocky at that." Olga Fischer Murdoch in that same book, page 153, writes that . . . (it) was a large frame building, much the same style as the brick building now in use. By 1884, the frame building had been condemned and the county offices removed except for the circuit clerk's office, and Mrs. Murdoch states, "By some means it was set on fire and burned . . ."

An interesting note on the construction of the first courthouse was discovered in a November 25, 1915, Marble Hill newspaper. In the obituary of Andrew Jackson Masters, titled, "Pioneer Passes Away at 83", is written, "Andrew Jackson Masters departed this life November 23, 1915; aged 83 years and 18 days. 'Uncle Andy' was a remarkably healthy and industrious man. He carried the mail between Marble Hill and Lutesville about seventeen years until a few weeks ago, except at times when it was exceptionally heavy.

"'Uncle Andy' assisted in clearing the ground on which the first Bollinger County courthouse was erected. At that time this county was practically a wilderness, and he performed his part of the labor in its development. He was a good citizen, kind husband and father and clever neighbor. His funeral was conducted at the family residence by Rev. George W. Graham and . . . interred in the Deck Cemetery." It is interesting to note that ground had to be cleared in order to build a courthouse in the new county (1851).

Courthouse

139
Benge

Echo 4

THE BUCKET THAT WENT TO THE SPRING

By Clyde Willis

Many years ago, the main artery of travel between the southern part of the county and the county seat, Marble Hill, was the old southern trail. Springdale Acres, pioneer homestead of "Uncle" Jake Englehart, is located on the west side of this old road near where the trail crosses O'Possum Creek. "Uncle" Jake (1847-1939) moved to this place in the early 1870s following his marriage to Sarah Hahn, daughter of John and Sarah Baker Hahn. John Hahn had received this land as a grant from the United States in 1856. After John Hahn's death in 1872, his widow gave deed to her daughter, Sarah, and husband, Jacob Englehart, in 1889.

One of the ever-flowing springs at Springdale Acres is on the east side of the original trail located at the foot of a limestone bluff. The house is west of this bluff. "Uncle" Jake always kept the area around this spring free of underbrush, and on a nearby tree a dipper fashioned from a gourd was suspended by a leather thong. Travelers on the old road would often pause to refresh themselves with a drink of cold, sweet spring water.

However, it was not the spring at Springdale Acres that most wanted to see especially the children riding to town with their parents in buckboard wagons, but it was the bucket that would go to the spring by itself for water. Continued Below



Photo By Alma Collins

The large wheel or drum with a hand crank wound and unwound cable attached to a pulley that a bucket hung on which also ran on cables bringing water from the spring up a steep incline to the porch. The metal bucket used when the photo was made can be seen between the porch posts as well as some of the mechanism which helped make it work.

Jacob Englehart had rigged an ingenious device, made of cables, pulleys and a large wooden drum or wheel with a hand crank on it that allowed him to stand on his front porch and send a wooden bucket some 100 yards down the steep hill to one of the springs for water. The bucket was rigged in