

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Oklahoma	
COUNTY: Caddo	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 70.6.35.0003	DATE 6/22/70

1. NAME

COMMON:
Rock Mary

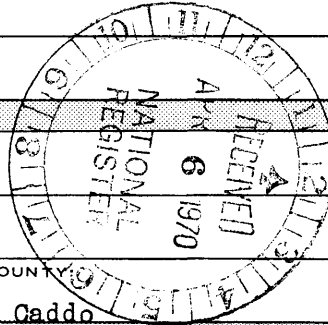
AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
NW/4 Sec.1, T 11 N, R 12 W

CITY OR TOWN:
c. 4 m. W of Hinton

STATE Oklahoma	CODE 35	COUNTY Caddo	CODE 015
-------------------	------------	-----------------	-------------



3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____ _____
Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No			

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Ballow

STREET AND NUMBER:
R. R. # 1, Box 149

CITY OR TOWN: Hinton	STATE: Oklahoma	CODE 35
-------------------------	--------------------	------------

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Office of the County Clerk

STREET AND NUMBER:
Caddo County Courthouse

CITY OR TOWN: Anadarko	STATE: Oklahoma	CODE 35
---------------------------	--------------------	------------

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Special Oklahoma Historical Society Field Trip

DATE OF SURVEY: 1960 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Oklahoma Historical Society

STREET AND NUMBER:
Historical Building

CITY OR TOWN: Oklahoma City	STATE: Oklahoma	CODE 35
--------------------------------	--------------------	------------

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Oklahoma
COUNTY: Caddo
ENTRY NUMBER
DATE

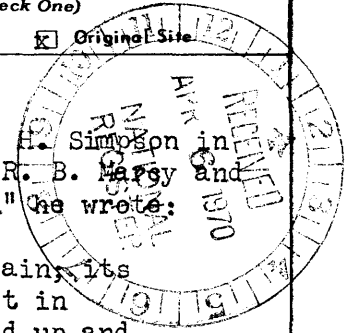
FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Rock Mary was first described in print by Lt. James H. Simpson in his official report on the trip west he made with Capt. R. B. Marcy and an emigrant party in 1849. Of "This fantastic formation" he wrote:



This rock is situated solitarily in a prairie plain, its height some sixty feet; its base some two hundred feet in diameter. In form it is like a pound-cake well puffed up and partially broken at its centre. Two turret-like projections are seen protruding from its top. In substance it is an unstratified sandstone, of a red color. In surface it is spirally corrugated, and, in places, somewhat gnarled, owing to the degradation caused by atmospheric and aqueous agents.

In 1853, Lt. A. W. Whipple led a party westward across Oklahoma surveying a possible railroad route to the Pacific. He mentions "passing 'Rock Mary' and other mounds accurately described by Simpson and others." They found themselves, he wrote, "in the midst of a desert of sand. The mounds looked like the evil genii of an evil place, and we became impatient to reach the end of this dreary waste." In a "topographical features" section of the Whipple report, Geologist William P. Blake notes: "This is a well-known land mark, and is a striking and interesting object to the traveller on the monotonous plains." Also included in this portion of the Railroad Reports is the translation of notes by another geologist, the Frenchman Jules Marcou, who accompanied Lt. Whipple.

We followed the same very fine, red, argillaceous sandstone. The strata are horizontal, and beautiful exhibitions of denudations by water are seen. . . .at Rock Mary, we saw eight or ten great cones truncated at the summit, and being from sixty to one hundred feet in elevation. The strata are horizontal, and thick strata of red sandstone predominate with alterations of red shales, more argillaceous and separating thin leaves. Two or three beds of siliceous limestone occur at the upper part, of a white grey color, very hard, and which have preserved the lower strata from denudation; forming natural mounds.

Lt. David S. Stanley was Quartermaster of the Whipple party. In his personal diary he noted passing "the natural mounds of Marcy and the Rock Mary." He considered them "very curious in their appearance, some of them presenting the shapes of sugar loaves and others pyramidal shapes as you approach them." Botanist and artist with the expedition was Baldwin Möllhausen, whose sketch of Rock Mary is the most familiar. Of the mounds he wrote: ". . . it is not easy at first to be convinced that these - not perhaps imposing, but certainly surprising structures, have been formed solely by the hand of nature, or left thus after a comparatively recent convulsion."

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

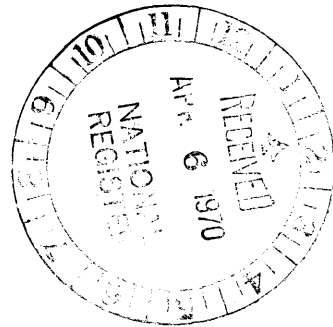
STATE	
Oklahoma	
COUNTY	
Caddo	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
70-6-35-0003	6/22/70

(Number all entries)

ROCK MARY

7. Physical Description

In the fall of 1858, Lt. Edward F. Beale, surveying a route through this area, passed Rock Mary, " a singular sandstone butte with forked summit . . ." As will be noticed from the accompanying photograph, Rock Mary remains today pretty much as it has since it first began to attract the attention of the traveler.



SIGNIFICANCE

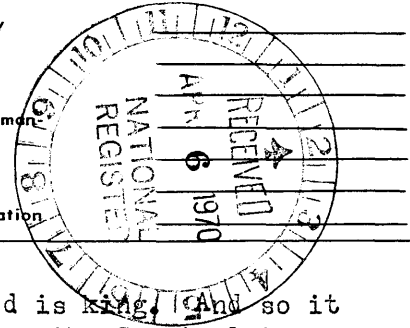
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian | 16th Century | 18th Century | 20th Century
 15th Century | 17th Century | 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Among the blind, it is said, the one-eyed is king. And so it seems to have been among early-day travelers on the Great Plains. Plodding along slowly day after day on flatlands generally void of prominent landmarks, the occasional mound or butte or conspicuous rock was often made "king." Rock Mary was such an attention getter.

An unusual butte or mound of red sandstone, it first caught the eye of a California-bound party crossing present Western Oklahoma in 1849. It was noted and commented upon by many subsequent travelers. Over the years it acquired something of a romantic, half-legendary aura, partly because of its name, partly because of a "ghost" mound near by, and partly too perhaps because until 1960 there was widespread uncertainty as to just which mound of many in the area was indeed Rock Mary.

The origin of the name and its first appearance in print is found in the report of Lt. James H. Simpson of the Corps of Topographical Engineers. He was on the staff of Capt. R. B. Marcy at the time he was escorting an emigrant party westward from Fort Smith. In his report he includes the following extract from his personal journal:

"Camp No. 34, Wednesday, May 23. - Proceeding on about a mile, some hills of singular shape make their appearance, for the first time, bearing north 70° west; several have very much the appearance of immense Indian lodges. Nearing the first of these singularly formed hills, and it appearing more oddly shaped than any of the others, I started off alone to ascend it - reaching it just in time to scare up a wild turkey; and tying my horse to a black-jack tree at its base, I scrambled up to its summit. The novel character of the hill; its contorted appearance; its sudden emergence from the plain around it; my having reached its pinnacle; it being an object of interest to beholders in the distance; - all this had its complex influence upon me, and I felt correspondingly elated. Captain Marcy seeing me near the apex, suggested to me to unfurl (what I was about to do) a flag, and give it to the breeze. This I did, and soon I could see one person after another, Lieutenant Harrison and Dr. Rogers among them, leaving the train to get a look from its summit. A person

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Rock Mary and The California Road, (Oklahoma City; Oklahoma Historical Society, 1960.) A Special Report reprinted from The Chronicles of Oklahoma, Vol. XXXVIII, No. 2.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	° ' "	° ' "		35	27	35
NE	° ' "	° ' "		98	25	32
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

NO JTM
HL

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **c. 5 acres**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Kent Ruth

ORGANIZATION: **Oklahoma Historical Society** DATE: **August, 1969**

STREET AND NUMBER:
Oklahoma Historical Building

CITY OR TOWN: **Oklahoma City** STATE: **Oklahoma** CODE: **35**

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name *[Signature]*

Title *Liaison officer for speaker*

Date *25 - III - 70*

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

[Signature]
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date **JUN 22 1970**

ATTEST:
[Signature]
Keeper of The National Register

Date **MAY 22 1970**

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Oklahoma	
COUNTY	
Caddo	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
70-6135-0003	6/22/70

(Number all entries)

ROCK MARY

8. Historical Significance

present suggested that it be named after an Arkansas young lady, (as much esteemed by the emigrants with whom she is in company, as she is by the officers.) I immediately fell in with the suggestion, and thereupon, with waving flag, proclaimed it to all concerned, that henceforth, in honor the said lady, the rock should be known as Rock Mary. . . ." [The Arkansas belle was Mary Conway.]

Earliest sketch or drawing of "the Natural Mounds" (as they were usually referred to) - although it did not include Rock Mary, the easternmost of them - was made on October 1, 1845, by Lt. J. W. Abert of the Corps of Topographical Engineers from the north side of the Canadian River some eight miles away. Most familiar sketch of Rock Mary itself was that made by Baldwin Möllhausen, the botanist and artist who accompanied Lt. A. W. Whipple and his party westward in 1855 surveying a railroad route to the Pacific. As noted in the previous section, Rock Mary was noticed and described by many travelers in the second half of the 19th century. Judging by the initials carved into the redstone of its turreted top -- J. F. Johnson 1855 is the oldest still decipherable -- many of them have shared Lt. Simpson's urge to climb it.

Over the years, however, confusion had arisen as to which of the dozen or so buttes in the area was the real Rock Mary. Finally, hoping to resolve the matter once and for all, the Oklahoma Historical Society authorized a committee to examine the published evidence and undertake whatever field research was necessary to make a final determination. This was done in 1960. "All of the tests or requirements laid out previously by the Committee," notes the official report, "had been met, and the feature fits in every detail." The location of Rock Mary, it concluded, "is not subject to serious challenge when the facts are analyzed in detail and with care."

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE Oklahoma	
COUNTY Caddo	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 70.6.35.0003	DATE 6/22/70

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: Rock Mary
AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
NW/4 Sec. 1, T 11 N, R 12 W
CITY OR TOWN:
c. 4 m. West of Hinton

STATE: <u>Oklahoma</u>	CODE <u>35</u>	COUNTY: <u>Caddo</u>	CODE <u>015</u>
---------------------------	-------------------	-------------------------	--------------------

3. MAP REFERENCE

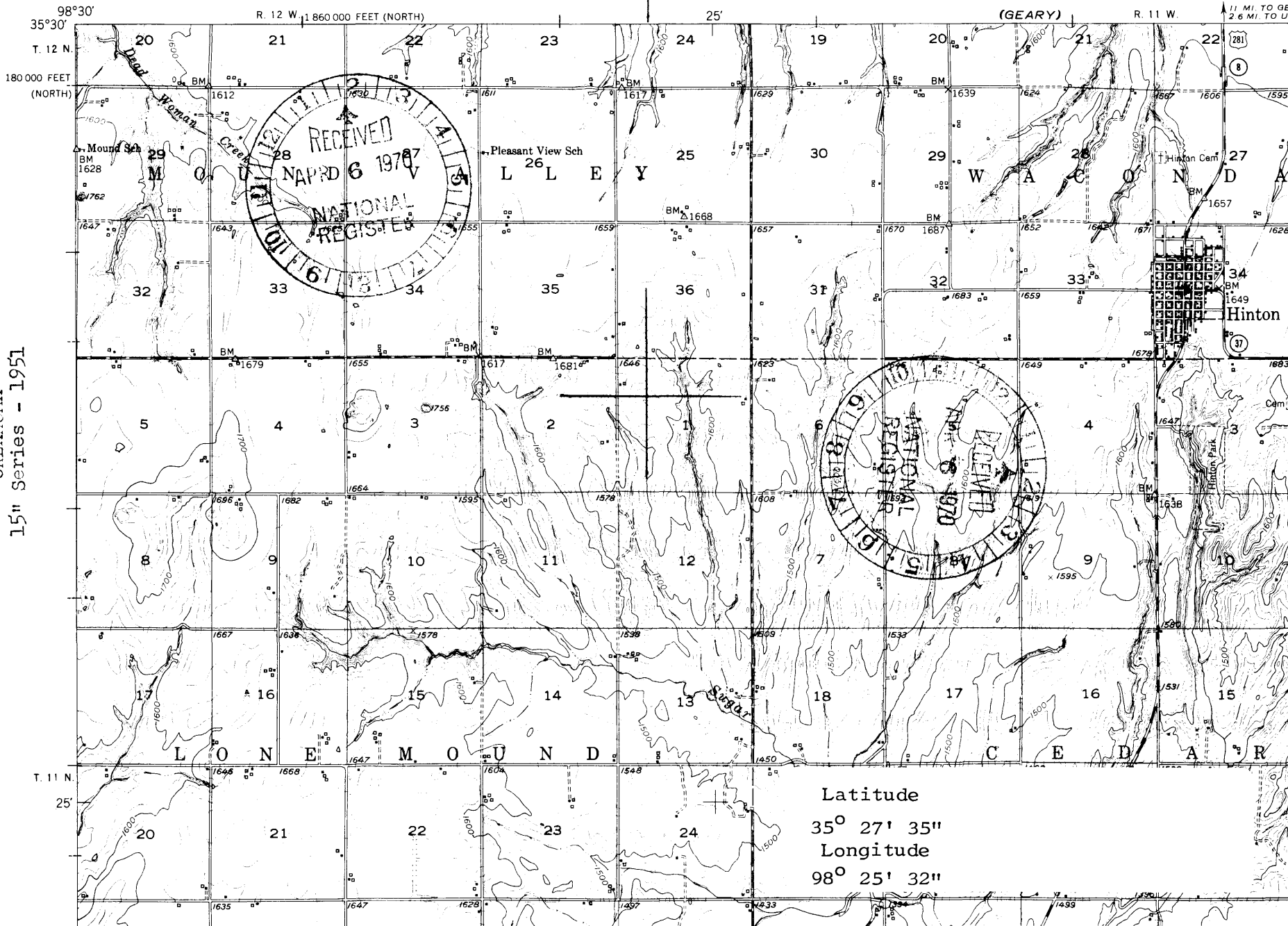
SOURCE:
U. S. G. S. - Binger Quadrangle
SCALE: 1:62500
DATE: 1951

4. REQUIREMENTS

- TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS
1. Property boundaries where required.
 2. North arrow.
 3. Latitude and longitude reference.

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

BINGER QUADRANGLE
OKLAHOMA
15" Series - 1951



Latitude
35° 27' 35"
Longitude
98° 25' 32"