

PHOTOGRAPH  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

NATIONAL INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY--NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN ADDITION TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES--COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

NAME

HISTORIC

Mill Creek Zanja

AND/OR COMMON

The Sankey, or Zanja

LOCATION

From the east weir box north of a residence at 3057 Mill Creek  
STREET & NUMBER Road, Moutone, to just west of Division Street at Sylvan Blvd. in Redlands.

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Redlands and Mentone

VICINITY OF

37

STATE

California

CODE

06

COUNTY

San Bernardino

CODE

071

CLASSIFICATION

| CATEGORY                                     | OWNERSHIP                                      | STATUS  | PRESENT USE  |
|--|--|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT | <input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC                | <input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED                   | <input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)         | <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE               | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED      | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE           | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BOTH       | <input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS           | <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SITE                | <input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION    | <input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE                 | <input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT              | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED | <input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC                    |
|  | <input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED      | <input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED          | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION                |
|  |  | <input type="checkbox"/> NO                         | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER drainage ditch |

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Multiple Ownership. See List

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

VICINITY OF

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC

San Bernardino County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

351 N. Arrowhead Ave.

CITY, TOWN

STATE

San Bernardino

California

REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

California Inventory of Historic Resources (p.165)

DATE

March, 1976

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR Office of Historic Preservation, California Dept. of Parks and Recreation, 1416 9th St. P. O. Box 2390

CITY, TOWN

Sacramento

STATE California 95311

| CONDITION |              | CHECK ONE   | CHECK ONE        |
|-----------|--------------|-------------|------------------|
|           |              | X UNALTERED | X ORIGINAL SITE  |
| EXCELLENT | DETERIORATED |             |                  |
| X GOOD    | FAIR         |             |                  |
|           |              |             | MOVED DATE _____ |

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL IF KNOWN PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Originally the Zanja carried water from the intake near the mouth of Mill Creek all the way through Redlands to its end near the Asistencia de Mission San Gabriel on Barton Road west of Redlands. Years ago it was put under ground through the business district of Redlands, and most of there since 1936 its drainage has been diverted into the Mission Storm Drain, which empties into the Santa Ana river. For this reason this request includes only the six miles east of the business district of Redlands, where it is nearly all in its original location. The portion west of the business area to the Asistencia can be traced, but it has been altered, and is no longer a flowing stream. With the exception of 0.3 miles easterly from Lincoln Street, where the County Flood Control District has recently bulldozed a new channel, the six miles of Zanja in this request is still in its original location. Many of the trees long ago planted to line its banks are still there and thriving.

In its easterly two miles, through Mentone, the Zanja still runs full with water diverted from Mill Creek, but most of this is now destined for the Crafton reservoir; only part of it is occasionally turned down the Zanja channel. There is almost always water, however, all the way, for waste water from irrigated orange groves is directed into it, and when it rains there is storm water, as always since it was built. During a storm no water is jet into it from Mill Creek.

In Mentone most of the stream is in a "U" shaped channel, varying in width from about 4 to 12 feet; Depth of channel is 3 ft. or less. West of Mentone it flows through the Crafton orange orchards, and widens out into a channel somewhat "V" shaped, maybe 15 ft. wide at the top and 3 ft. at the bottom. Through parts of the city of Redlands it is deeper and wider, and varies as to being "U" or somewhat "V" shaped. At one of the foot bridges in Sylvan Park it is 14 feet wide and 4 ft. in depth, with a little water lapping at the bottom. Between Grove and Lincoln Streets in Redlands there are some small bridges 7 feet across the stream where the channel is 4 ft. deep, but the channel is wider between bridges.

In Mentone residents along the Zanja take pride in keeping it beautiful. It is well cared for through Sylvan Park by the Redlands park department. It is kept clear of litter through the University of Redlands campus, and easterly to Lincoln St where there are homes beside it. Farther east in some places wild berry vines have grown too thick, and in a place or two some old concrete or an old plow has been dumped in the stream bed. An occasional fallen tree crosses the stream.

The Zanja still has a high potential for recreational and educational uses. Last year botany students from the University of California at Riverside identified a hundred different varieties of plants growing in a half mile from University to Judson Street, in a two hour period. Had time permitted them to go farther east the list would have been longer. Some of the trees they found were eucalyptus, pine, black walnut, sycamore, elm, willow, cottonwood, redwood, deodar cedar.

CLASSIFICATION

| PERIOD       | AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE - CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW |
|--------------|---|
| —PREHISTORIC | —ARCHAEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC                        |
| —1400-1450   | —COMMUNITY PLANNING                             |
| —1500-1550   | —CONSERVATION                                   |
| —1600-1650   | —ECONOMICS                                      |
| —1700-1750   | —EDUCATION                                      |
| X 1800-1850  | —ENGINEERING                                    |
| —1900-       | —EXPLOITATION/SETTLEMENT                        |
|              | —INDUSTRY                                       |
|              | —COMMUNICATIONS                                 |
|              | —INVENTION                                      |

SPECIFIC DATES 1819-1920

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Pedro Alvarez, a

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Zanja (Spanish for "ditch") is State Historical Landmark No. 43; the oldest irrigation ditch in the county, and the oldest still in use American Society of Engineers, called "Historic Civil Engineering Landmark" mentioned in this booklet. Its history began in 1819 when local Indians, the Indians from Mission San Gabriel began plans for agriculture to the Indians of Cauchina village, which was west of Redlands. The Zanja was completed in 1821 for laying planting in 1820, purpose well, and the Indians of Cauchina, some 100 in number, Israel the way of food because of it.

The engineering skill of the Indians was shown in the efficient re-ditch to take advantage of the natural draw and depressions. This occurred excavation was minimally. Pedro Alvarez was ordered to lay out and digging was done by Guadalupe Indians under their chief, Salinas.

The Zanja is also the oldest lasting irrigation to the Mexican era, or P. This area. After secularization of Mission holdings in 1834, a colony launched in 1839 by the Lugo brothers. They and others used Zanja water.

Early Americans also used Zanja water, from Crafton to Old San Bernardino just west of Asistencia. In the last half of the nineteenth century it significantly affected settlement patterns and development in the area. Redlands only water supply; its water was hauled in barrels to Prospect first hotel, situated on a hill in what is now Prospect Park.

Mrs. Hinckley in her book, "On the Banks of the Zanja", on page 26 states had the unenviable distinction of having had the most lawsuits and of bitter wrangling of any stream in California. Twelve major lawsuits by injunctions governed its water before it was bought by the city of Redlands. The most famous lawsuit was Caves v. Crafts, which went to the Supreme Court, and in 1875 established once for all time, that the Zanja was a

It used to be decided that each rancher was entitled to a specified number of Zanja water. The 1859 list totaled 192 hours, or 8 days, so each user had 8 days. One of these early users was Anson Van Isen, who in 1857 planted orange trees in the area; he had 21.95 hours. Ben Barton, who had a ranch yard west of Redlands had 30.22 hours. The Carpenter ranch in Crafton had

## CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE  
 MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

CIVICAL APPEARANCE  
At the mouth of Mill Creek all  
the water from Mission San Gabriel on  
the ground through the business  
district has been diverted into  
the river. For this reason this  
district of Redlands, where it  
was at the business area to the  
west is no longer a flowing stream.  
Street, where the County Flood  
is, the six miles of Zanja in  
of the trees long ago planted

still runs full with water di-  
vided for the Crafton reservoir;  
a channel. There is almost always  
irrigated orange groves is directed  
always since it was built. During

channel, varying in width from about  
of Montone it flows through  
somewhat "V" shaped, rayed  
parts of the city of Redlands  
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channel is 4 ft. deep, but the

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the stream.

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found were eucalyptus, pine,  
wood, deodar cedar.

| PERIOD       | AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW |   |   |  |  |
|--------------|--|---|---|--|--|
| -PREHISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHAEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING     | <input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION            |  |
| -1400-1499   | <input type="checkbox"/> ANTHROPOLOGY-HISTORIC   | <input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION           | <input type="checkbox"/> LAW                    | <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE             |  |
| -1500-1599   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CULTURE      | <input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS              | <input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE             | <input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE           |  |
| -1600-1699   | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE            | <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION              | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY               | <input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL HUMANITARIAN |  |
| -1700-1799   | <input type="checkbox"/> ART                     | <input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING            | <input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC                  | <input type="checkbox"/> THEATER             |  |
| X1800-1899   | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE                | <input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION-SETTLEMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY             | <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION      |  |
| -1900-       | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS          | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY               | <input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS GOVERNMENT    | <input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/IDEAS      |  |
|              |  | <input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION              |   |  |  |

SPECIFICATES 1819-1920

BUILDERS/ARCHITECT Pedro Alvarez, and Gauchan Indians

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Zanja (Spanish for "ditch") is State Historical Landmark No. 43; its location is in Sylvan Park. It is the oldest civil engineering project in Inland Southern California; it is the oldest irrigation ditch in the county, and the oldest still in use in Southern California. It is recognized in a recent publication of the International Society of American Society of Landscapers, called "Historic Civil Landmarks of the Americas", as the oldest mentioned in this book. Its history began in 1819 when the Franciscans, under the direction of Fr. Junipero Serra, turned over their lands to the Indians, the Indians from Mission San Juan Capistrano, who converted them to agriculture to the Indians of Cuernavaca, which was then called Redlands. The Zanja was dug and in first region irrigating fields, and a purpose wall, and the Indians at Cuernavaca, built and financed, first, which became the way of food because of it.

The engineering skill of the Franciscans was shown in the efficient manner in which they dug to take advantage of the natural draw and depressions. When the water level occurred excavation was necessary. Pedro Alvarez was assigned to lay out the ditch, and digging was done by Gauchan Indians under their killer, Soloma.

The Zanja is also the oldest listing material to the Indians etc, of Redlands, and this area. After secularization of Mission holdings in 1834, a cattle ran, the company, launched in 1839 by the Lugo brothers. They and others used Zanja water.

Early Americans also used Zanja water, from Crafton to Old San Bernardino, which is just west of Asistencia. In the last half of the nineteenth century this water significantly affected settlement patterns and development in the area. It was a city Redlands only water supply; its water was hauled in barrels to Prospect house, and the first hotel, situated on a hill in what is now Prospect Park.

Mrs. Hinckley in her book, "On the Banks of the Zanja", on page 26 states that, "It can had the unenviable distinction of having had the most lawsuits and court cases in the most bitter wrangling of any stream in California. Twelve major lawsuits in the early injunctions governed its water before it was bought by the city of Redlands in 1918. The most famous lawsuit was Caves vs. Crafts, which went to the Supreme Court of the State, and in 1876 established once for all time, that the Zanja was a public fixture."

It used to be decided that each rancher was entitled to a specified number of hours or days. One of these early users was Ammon Van Lewen, who in 1857 planted 1,000 orange trees in the area; he had 21.95 hours. Ben Barton, who had an extensive vineyard west of Redlands had 30.22 hours. The Carpenter ranch in Crafton had 34.33 hours.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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DATE ENVELOPE

MAY 12 1971

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12 1977

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

CONTINU

Current alterations to nominated property: 12/11/76

The County Flood Control has bulldozed a large channel easterly from their 1971 channel which stretches from the railroad at Lincoln St. to the Dearborn Reservoir, and intend to continue east to Wabash. They recently acquired an 80 foot right of way and are using it to remove growing things and make a large channel. This 80 foot strip crosses the Zanja west of Wabash, and more than 80 feet have been levelled and all that was there cleared. In this block the Zanja makes an "S" curve, with loops both north and south of the Flood Control strip, and parts of these loops are untouched especially the wide north loop with the big trees.

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The big  
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cleared  
landown

Map :

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

FOR APPROVAL

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DATE FILED NO.

MAY 12 1971

Form No. 10-5006  
Rev. 10-74  
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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 3

CONT'D.

Map showing current flood control work in Zanja area

Original course of Zanja - blue  
Channel (formerly Sylvan Blvd., the main road from Redlands to  
Crafton - washed out in a flood about a decade ago and water  
has run in it after every storm since) - yellow

80 foot right of way obtained by County Flood Control - red

Approximate location of recently bulldozed channel within right  
of way mostly - purple

The big trees on the south of "Eight Fools Ranch" are still there  
but the water is being diverted into the new bulldozed channel.  
This may affect their future growth.

It appears that an area wider than 80 feet has been levelled and  
cleared of vegetation, especially in the central portion. The  
landowner evidently requested this filling and levelling.

Map traced from Assessor's Map

Proprietary

Mill Cr.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

|                |             |
|----------------|-------------|
| FORM 70-103-Ga | NOV 23 1978 |
| RECEIVED       |             |
| DATE ENTERED   | MAY 12 1977 |

| CONTINUATION SHEET | ITEM NUMBER | PAGE |
|--------------------|-------------|------|
| SIGNIFICANCE       | 8           | 1    |

The practical, historical and sentimental value of the Zanja has been enormous. It conditioned all the early settlements; it made possible a stable food supply for the Indians; it helped determine the location of the Asistencia; when the Americans moved in they necessarily settled along its banks, for it was the only water supply. It had all the charm and appeal of a beautiful stream, for it was bordered by trees and wild grape vines, and the trees gave a welcome shade in a dry and dusty land. The picturesque charm of the Zanja's flowing water has been a unique asset to the beauty and distinctive atmosphere of Redlands, Crafton and Mentone. It is the desire of many citizens that the beauty of the Zanja be preserved and enhanced.

446 Chestnut Ave.  
Redlands, Cal. 92373  
Dec. 17, 1976

REFERENCES: Bulletin No. 4; San Bernardino Valley Water Conservation District. November, 1951. "On the Banks of the Zanja" by Edith Parker Hinckley. Saunders Press, Claremont, Cal. 1951 Heritage of the Valley, by George and Helen Fruitt Beattie; San Pasquale Press Pasadena California 1939 Historic Civil Engineering Landmarks, Los Angeles Section, American Society of Civil Engineers, 1974 History of Mill Creek Zanja, 1819 to 1937; WPA Project No. 3428, San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors

### GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 15.491

#### UTM REFERENCES

| A | Sheep Mountain Ranch | B | Zone | EASTING | NORTHING | C | D | Zone | EASTING | NORTHING |
|---|----------------------|---|------|---------|----------|---|---|------|---------|----------|
|   |                      |   |      |         |          |   |   |      |         |          |
|   |                      |   |      |         |          |   |   |      |         |          |

#### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

A long, narrow strip of land, six miles in length, and varying in width from 20 to 40 feet, to include the Zanja stream, and trees along its banks. The east end is at a weir box in East Montone, where water from Mill Creek is diverted into the Zanja. The stream flows in a south-westerly direction through Montone, Crafton and Redlands, and six miles down stream from the intake, just west of Sylvan Park in Redlands, it goes into the business area of Redlands, and this is the end of the proposed district.

#### LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY & 50 MILES

| STATE | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |
|-------|------|--------|------|
| STATE | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |

### FORM PREPARED BY

#### NAME / TITLE

Alice Van Boven President

DATE

ORGANIZATION

Redlands Area Historical Society, Inc.

June 11, 1976

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

446 Chestnut Ave.

714-782-3975

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Redlands 92373

California

### 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 (Pub. L. L. W. 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 DIRECTOR

DATE NOV 15 1976

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS LOCATED IN THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

DATE

DATE

the map, and indicated below I show a channel bedlands to Crafton, and water has run in it obtained by the County line of the bulldozed with a steel tape, but wider than 30 feet in the central main leveling so much realized that the

here, but the water is now they will fare in the other way, to the north, as some years ago, and

beautiful stream, if the they crossed the flow "no trespassing" sign.

rich in favor of providing water. My inspection of the would have been only a few dead limbs etc. in the

ad to the orange grove.

ssessor, is what you need.

Ola, Boven,  
Boven, President  
Area Historical Society

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY--NOMINATION FORM

|                  |               |
|------------------|---------------|
| FORM NO. 10-300a | JULY 26, 1975 |
| RECEIVED         |               |
| DATE ENTERED     | JULY 12, 1977 |

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF  
INVENTORY--NOM. 1

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE

UTM Reference:

10

1

- A 11/493275/3770275
- B 11/493303/3770250
- C 11/491877/3770275
- D 11/493175/3770270
- E 11/493175/3770270
- F 11/493175/3770270
- G 11/493175/3770270
- H 11/493175/3770270
- I 11/493175/3770270
- J 11/493175/3770270
- K 11/493175/3770270
- L 11/493175/3770270
- M 11/493175/3770275
- N 11/491675/3769125
- O 11/491675/376950

CONTINUATION SHEET

Twenty feet was chosen as in some places the stream is nearby. Five feet on each side. There are big old trees in the stream bed. For the Register, the stream bed is 19 feet. There are a few places.

Here is a summary:

From the water box at 5057 W. Amethyst Ave. All owners on Sliger Road both East and West View Drive, Garnet, Zanja D.

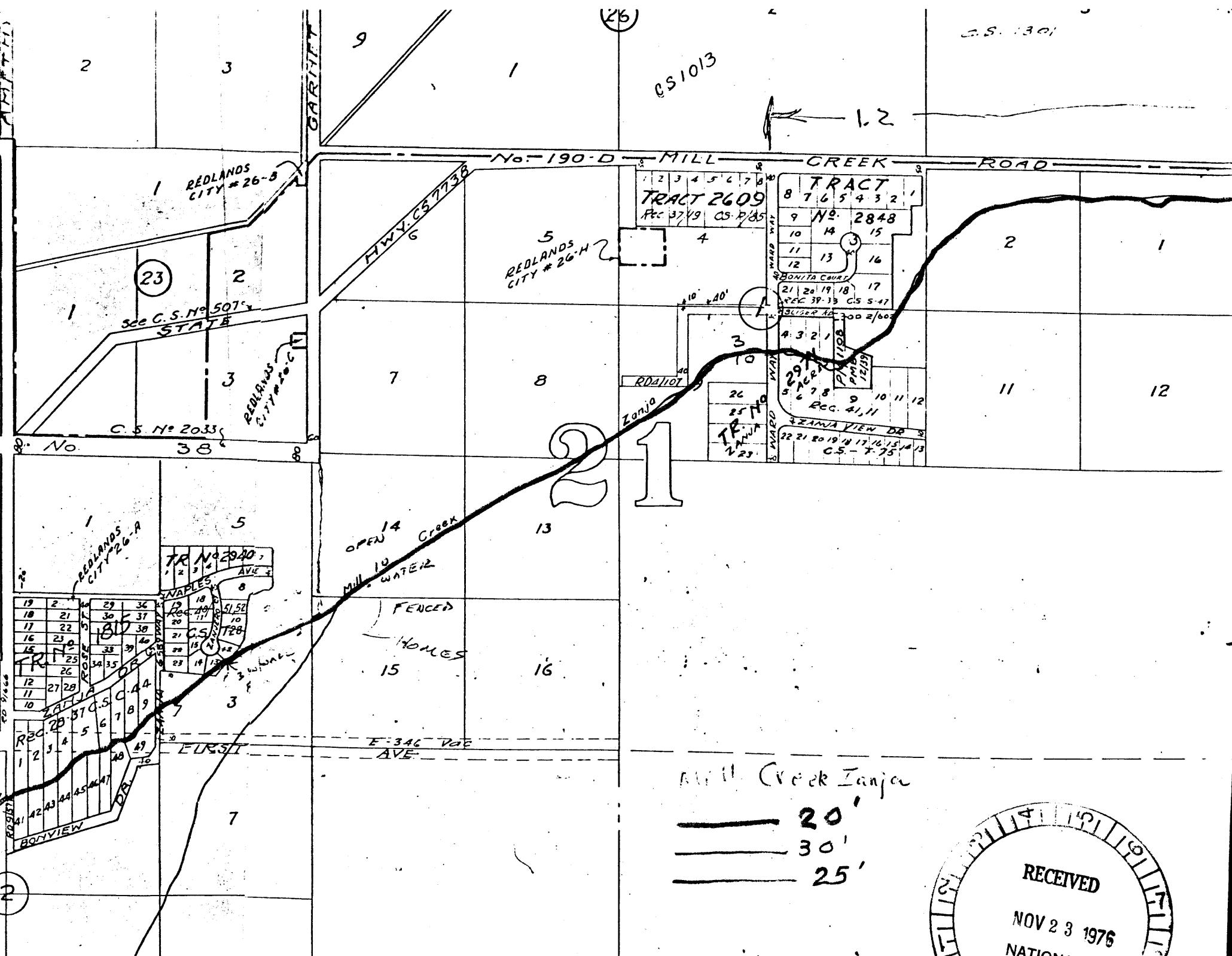
From Amethyst to Reservoir Road C.L. Griffin, and E.D. Patterson

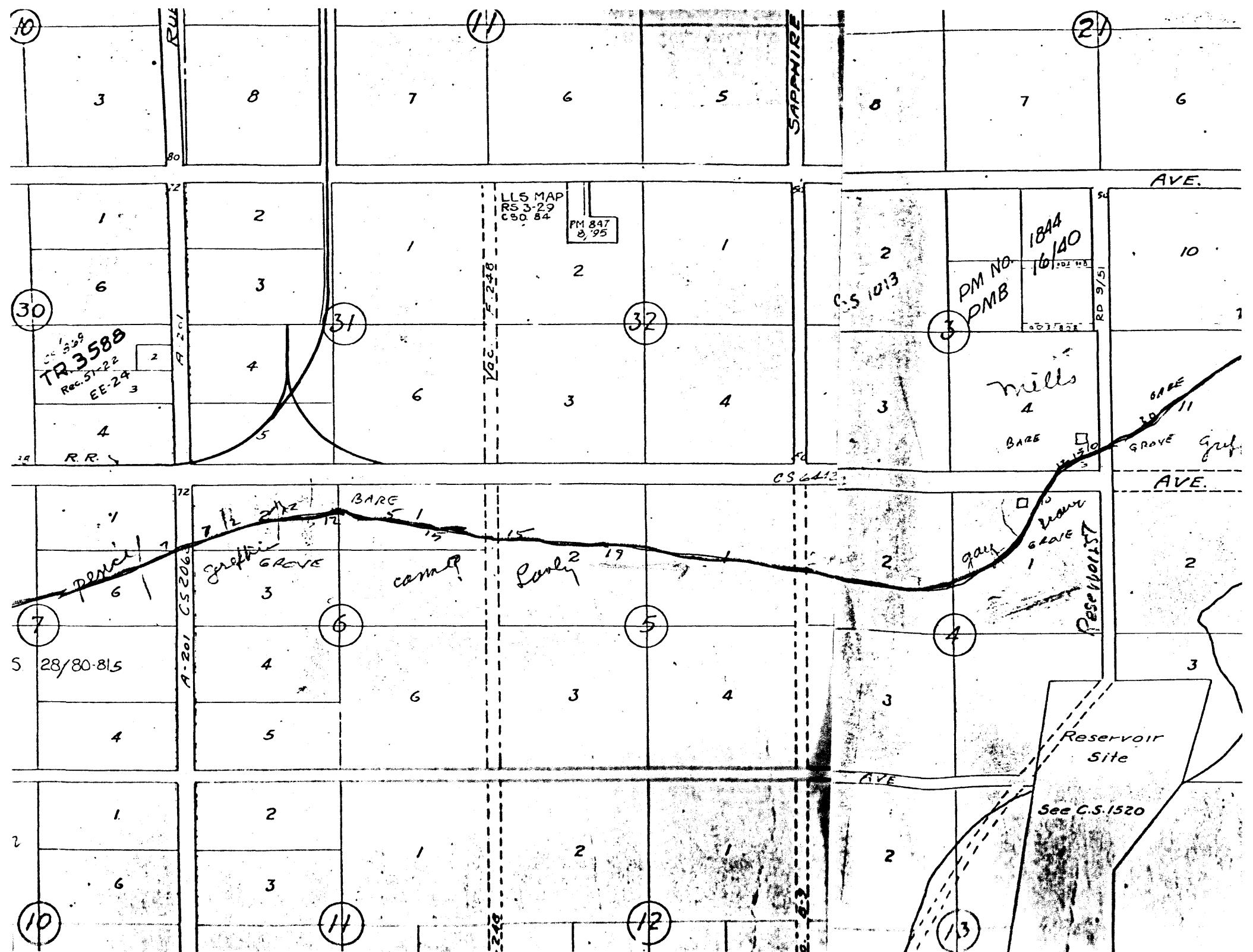
From Reservoir Road to Wabash City Limit) All owners on the land from Amethyst to Wabash. C.L. Clegg former Crafton Retreat ground on Crafton Ave. No buildings remaining.

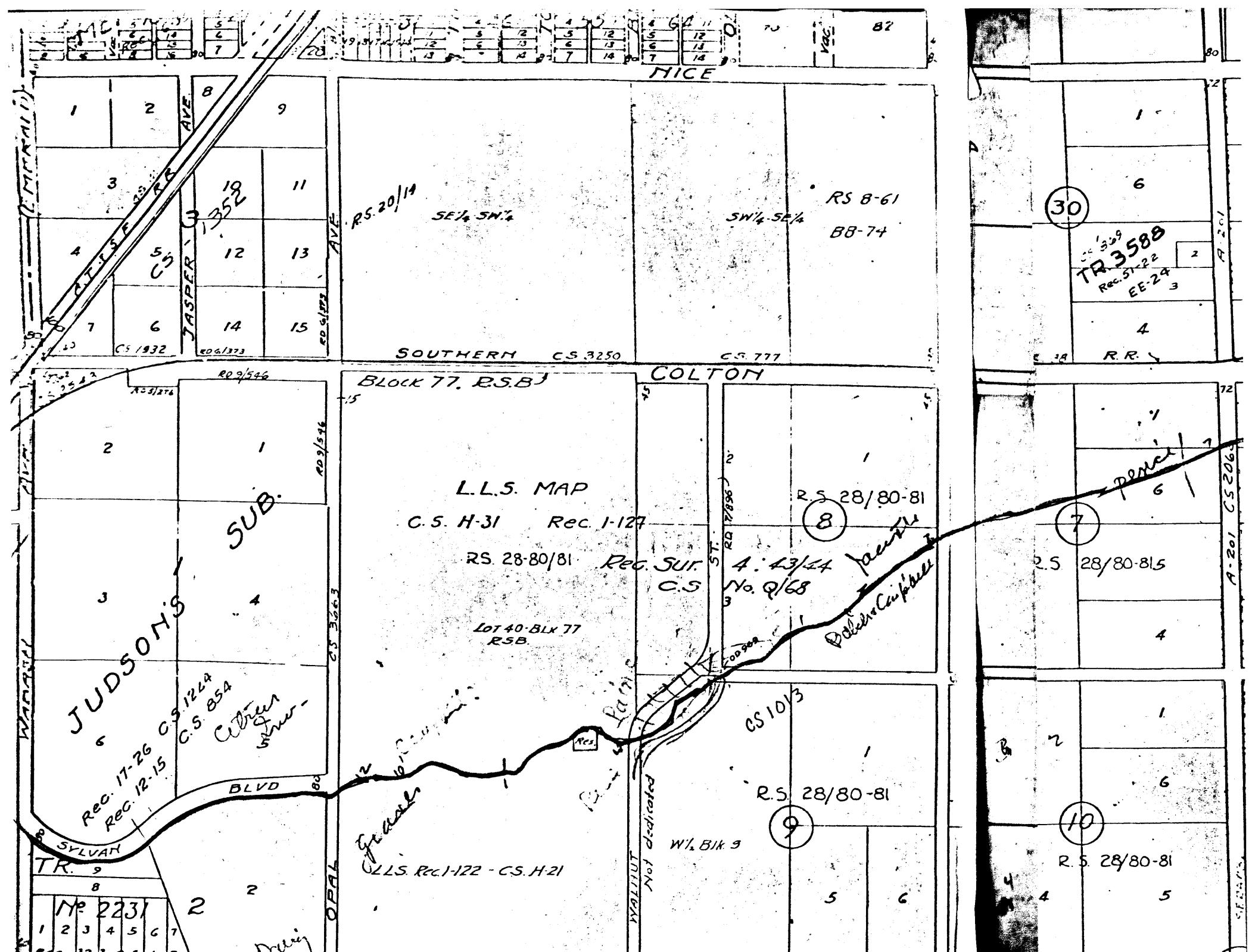
From Wabash to a bend in the river part of the Crafton School grounds owned by the city of Redlands. Unit

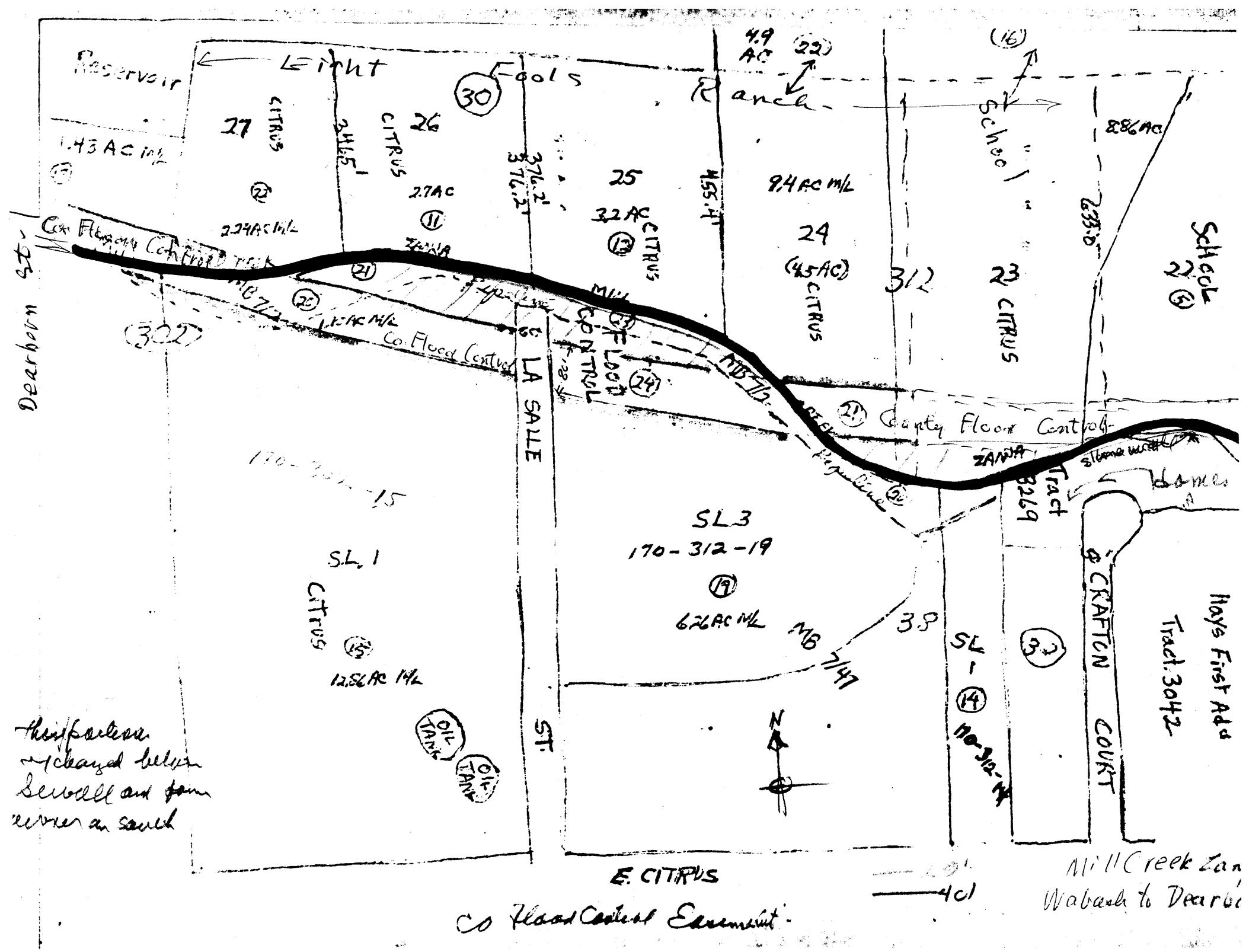
From the above bend to junction of Wabash and Stanley Samuels. On the south side of the river a strip owned by the city of Redlands. It was Sylvan Blvd., before it was renamed Wabash. About 10 years ago, "Crafton Ranch" Sam Sewall et al.

C.S. 1301









BOUNDARY

Mill Creek Zanja

Redlands and Mentone, California

Map showing proposed widths to be included in  
Register nomination.

Key: Green - 20 ft.

Red - 25 ft.

Brown - 30 ft.

Blue - 40 ft.

NOV 23 1976

MAY 12 1977

