

## Stringtown School

Stringtown, located in Wintu ancestral territory, was south of Coffee Creek and north of Trinity Center. A dredge operation was started in about 1916 at the mouth of Coffee Creek. The dredge moved to Trinity Center, where it continued operating until 1925. The dredge camp established there later became known as "Stringtown" because of how the camp was "strung out."<sup>1</sup>

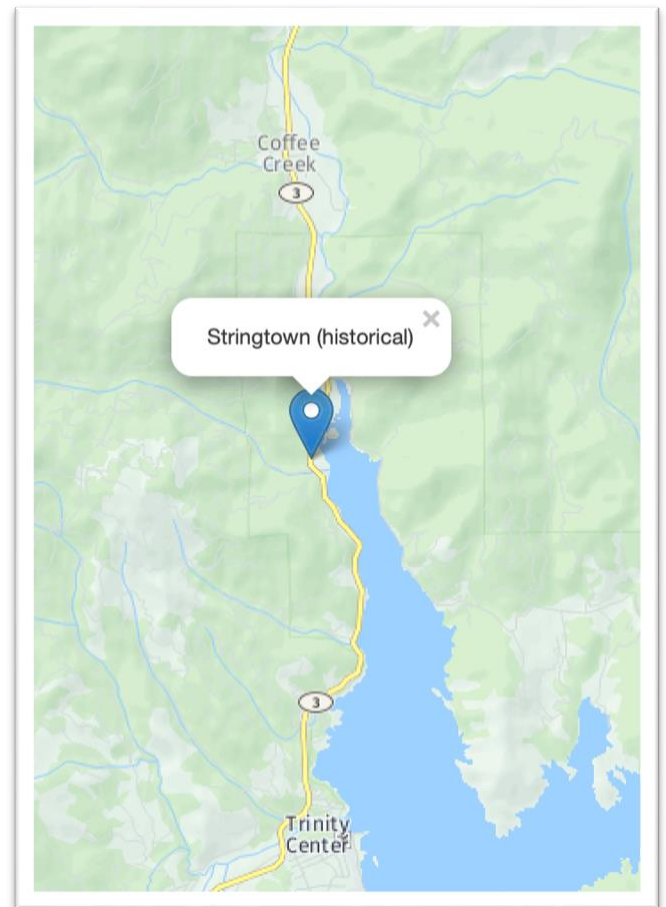
Following the closing of the dredging company in 1924, the deserted camp known as Stringtown, "located between Trinity Center and Carrville," took on "a new lease of life" because "Families from both Trinity Center and Carrville are now living there."<sup>2</sup> Indeed, there are several short mentions in the local paper of different families moving to Stringtown, and where there are families, there usually are schools. However, given that no records within the historical documents at the Trinity County Office of Education indicate that Stringtown was ever a public school, it must be assumed to have always been a private school, paid for by the families of the children who attended.

It is difficult to say where the first private Stringtown School was located as it moved several times. In addition, there is just very little known about the school in general. Here are some mentions:

In late August of 1930, Mrs. Helen Bassham was said to have returned from a two-week camping trip and was preparing to open her school "at Stringtown".<sup>3</sup>

In 1933, three schools, Trinity Center, "Upper Coffee Creek," and Stringtown, presented a school program together; Stringtown's teacher was Mrs. Addie Travis.<sup>4</sup>

By 1956, the school location was said to have changed from the mouth of Coffee Creek to within the actual town of Stringtown.<sup>5</sup>



In preparation for the dam being built and before Trinity Lake was filled in 1962, many Stringtown homes were moved to the "new" Trinity Center. One of the old Stringtown schools was also moved from Stringtown to Trinity Center and is now a private residence there on Vista Road.<sup>6</sup>

The maps below are the only evidence to confirm two of this private school's locations in Trinity County.

<sup>1</sup> "North Lake History", *North Trinity Lake online*,

<http://northtrinitylake.com/communities/history.shtml#:~:text=The%20dredge%20later%20moved%20to,is%20now%20under%20Lake%20Trinity>, accessed March 31, 2024.

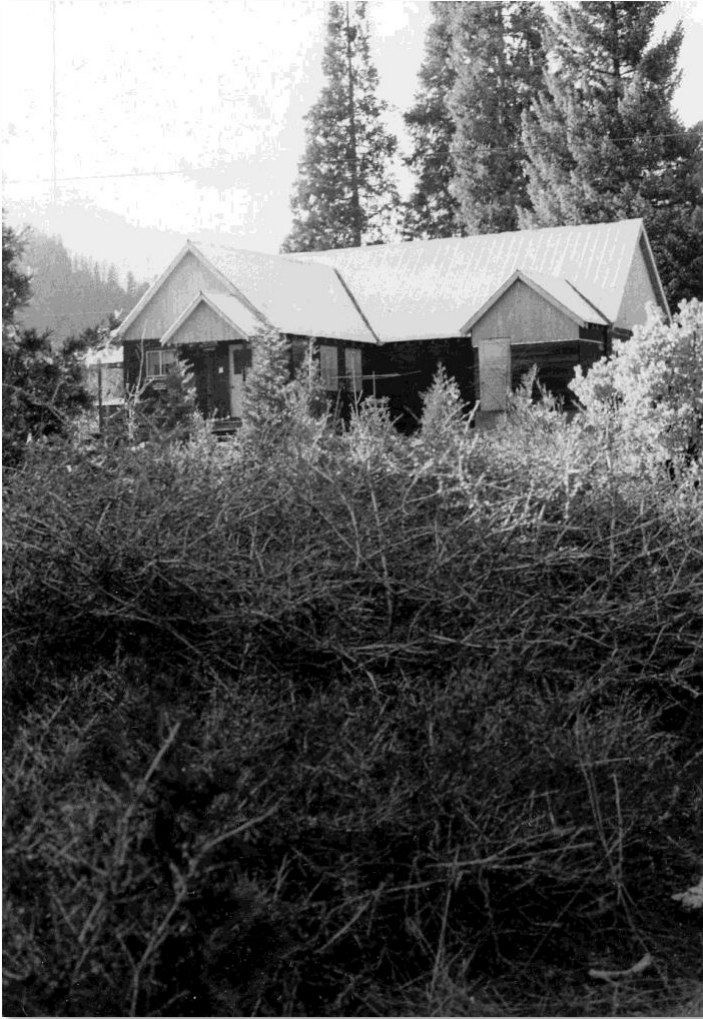
<sup>2</sup> "Brief Notes from Northern Trinity Section", *The Trinity Journal*, January 1, 1926.

<sup>3</sup> "Trinity Center Items", *The Trinity Journal*, August 23, 1930.

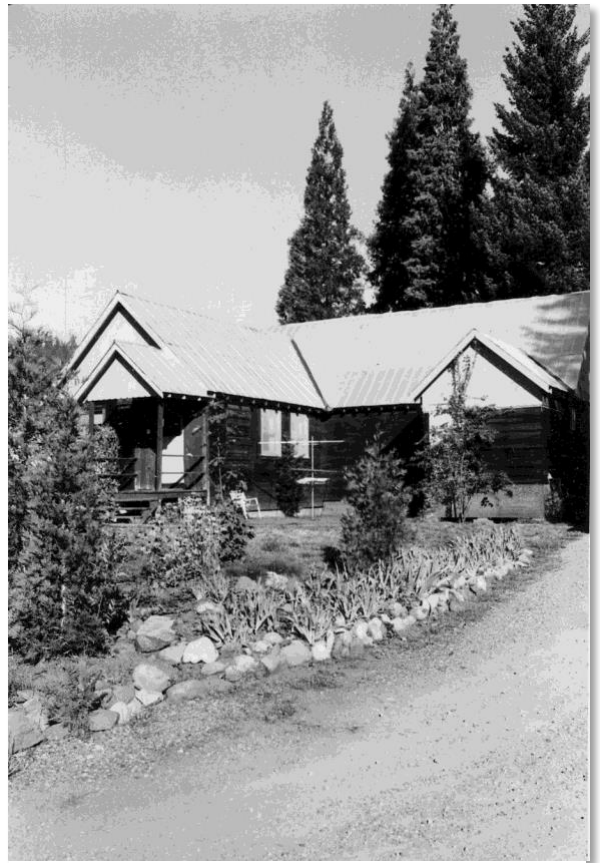
<sup>4</sup> "Trinity Center Observes Public School Week", *The Trinity Journal*, May 6, 1933.

<sup>5</sup> "Trinity County Schools Growing With California", *The Trinity Journal*, January 28, 1956, Centennial Edition

<sup>6</sup> Information obtained from Coffee Creek School files and from Pierce, Clifford, *Beneath Trinity Lake*, Prodigy Press, Palo Alto, 1995, xix.

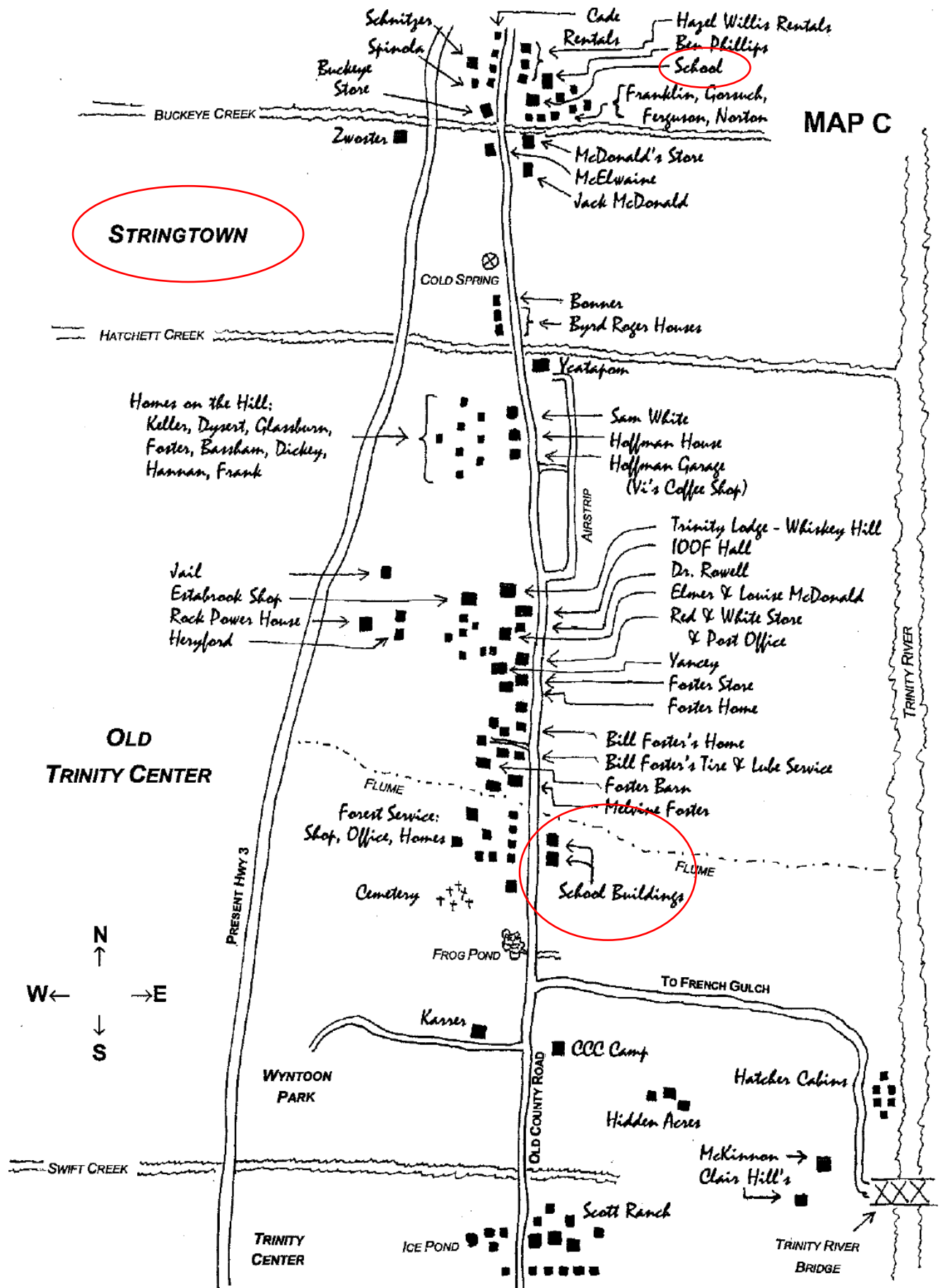


*Stringtown School date unknown*



*Stringtown School c. 1948*

Maps below are from "Beneath Trinity Lake" by Clifford Pierce, Prodigy Press, Palo Alto, 1995, pages xi and xix:



# MAP D

## TODAY'S TRINITY CENTER

MAP SHOWING HOMES AND BUILDINGS SAVED FROM LAKE'S WATERS. FAMILY NAMES AND OTHER IDENTITIES ARE AS THEY WERE FROM OLD LOCATIONS.

- FROM OLD TRINITY CENTER
- FROM STRINGTOWN
- △ FROM SCOTT RANCH

