

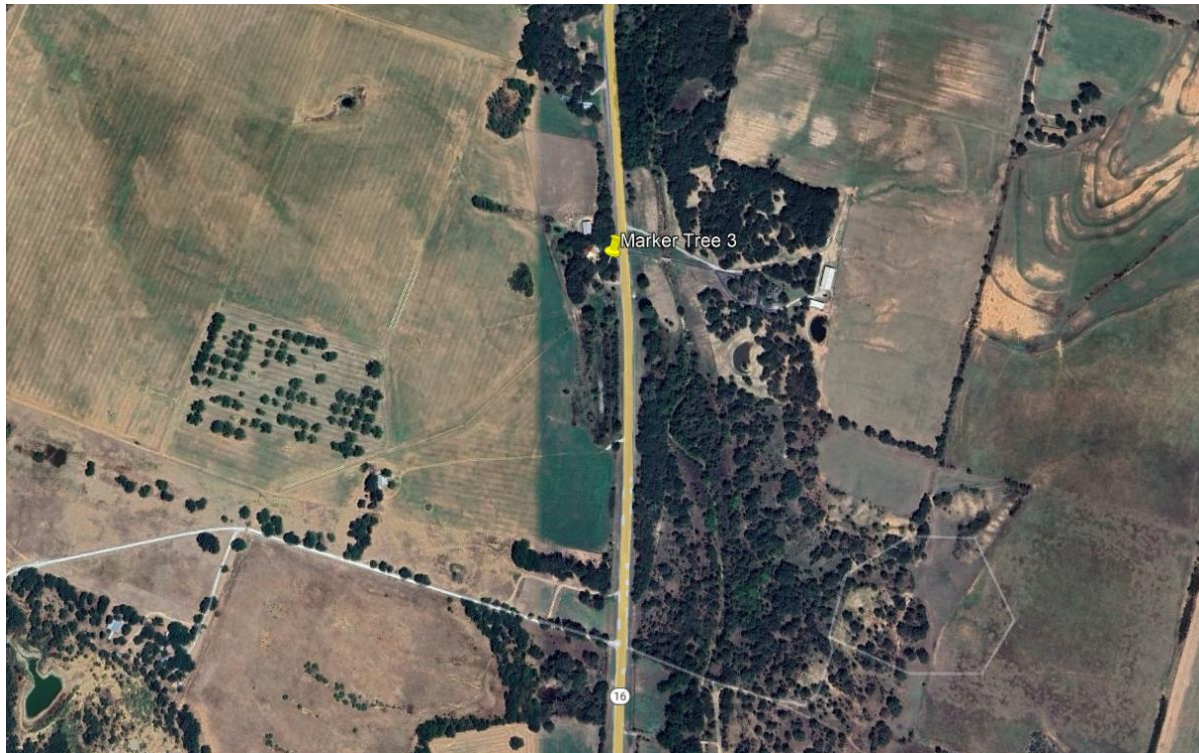
## De Leon Sites

### Marker Tree 3

This tree points south toward the Sabanna River.



This tree is located 1.6 miles south of DeLeon off Hwy 16. It is on the west side of the highway in the yard of a private residence (32°04'01" N 98°32'28.7" W)

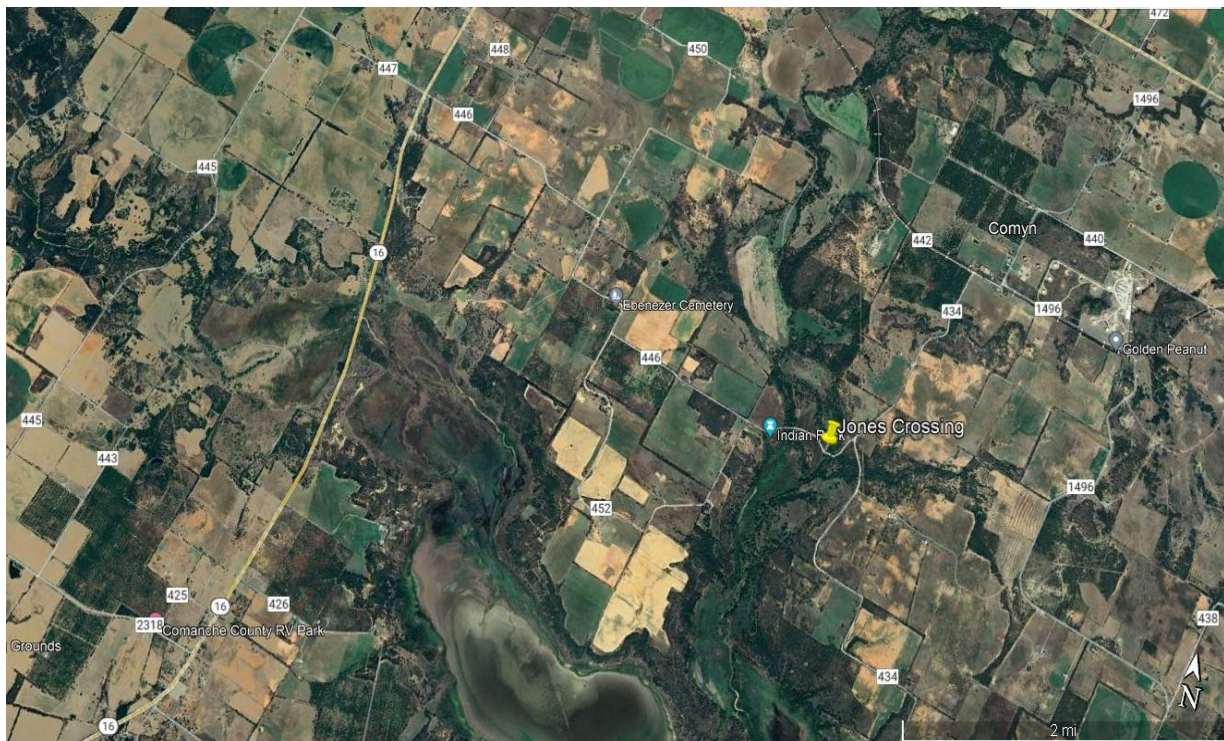




## The Leon River Low Water Crossing or Jones Crossing

For centuries, this low water crossing on the Leon River has been used by animals, Indians, Spanish explorers, and settlers when the river was not flooding. The discovery of gold in California led to the development of a route of travel across the southern United States. The trail became known as the Lower Emigrant Trail. The travelers crossed the Leon River at this particular crossing and continued westward. The Lower Emigrant trail crossed the present-day counties of Erath, Comanche, Brown, Coleman, Runnels and Tom Green. In Tom Green County, it combined with another westward road to continue on to El Paso.

The Leon River Low Water Crossing or Jones Crossing is in Eastern Comanche County. From Hwy 16 just south of DeLeon, County Road 446 extends east with a road sign for Ebenezer Cemetery. Approximately 5.7 miles on this road is a county bridge across the Leon River. (32°03'10.75" N 98°29'17.84" W)





## Marker Tree 1



This tree is located on private property close to Armstrong Creek. It points toward the creek.

The tree is located east of DeLeon 2.5 miles on Hwy 6 to County Road 470 to the north. Approximately 1.2 miles on the east side of the county road toward Armstrong Creek, the pecan tree is in the middle of a pasture on private property but very visible.

(32°06'40" N 98°28'48" W)





## Marker Tree 2

This pecan tree is located on private property close to the Leon River. It points east-southeast

The tree is located 2.6 miles east of DeLeon from Hwy 6 in the city limits on County Road 456 just before the Leon River. It is on the east side of the road right next to the fence. (32°09'16" N 99°31'0" W)





## Marker Tree 4



This tree is not visible from the road and it is on private property along the Leon River. It points east.

The tree is located north of De Leon. It is 3.8 miles on Hwy 16 from Hwy 6/16 intersection to the Leon River. It is ¼ mile from Hwy 16. It is along the river bank. (32°10'19"N 98°31'53"W)



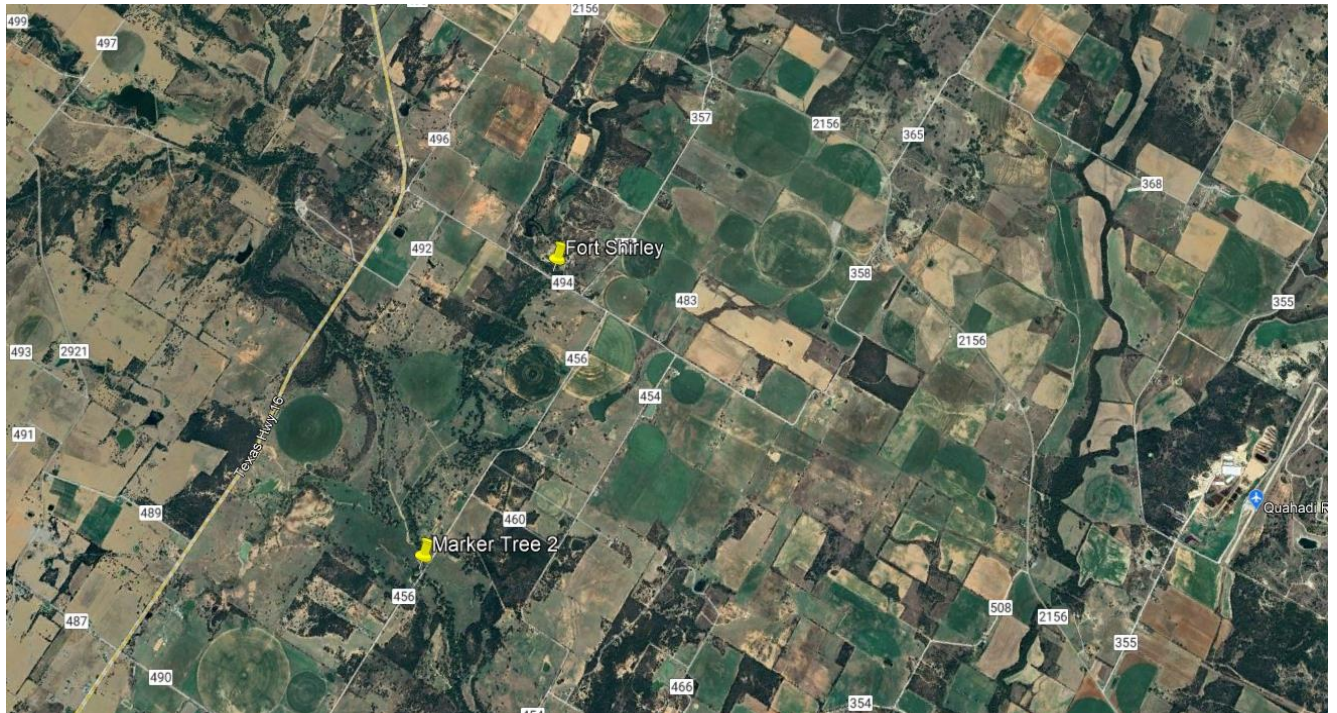


## Fort Shirley

Fort Shirley was a stockade built by Silas P. Shirley to protect his family in the 1850's. It contained a log cabin home where other families would come when there was danger in the area. During the War Between the States, the Shirley family relocated to Erath County where it was safer; however, the Texas Rangers used their stockade. The foundation of the fort was west of the rock smoke stack built for Wood's mill in 1873.

Fort Shirley was north of DeLeon on Hwy 16 to County Road 496. East on 496 a short distance then east on County Road 494 one mile is the Flat Creek bridge. The smoke stack is visible on the north side of the road on private property.

(32°10'54"N 98°30'41"W)

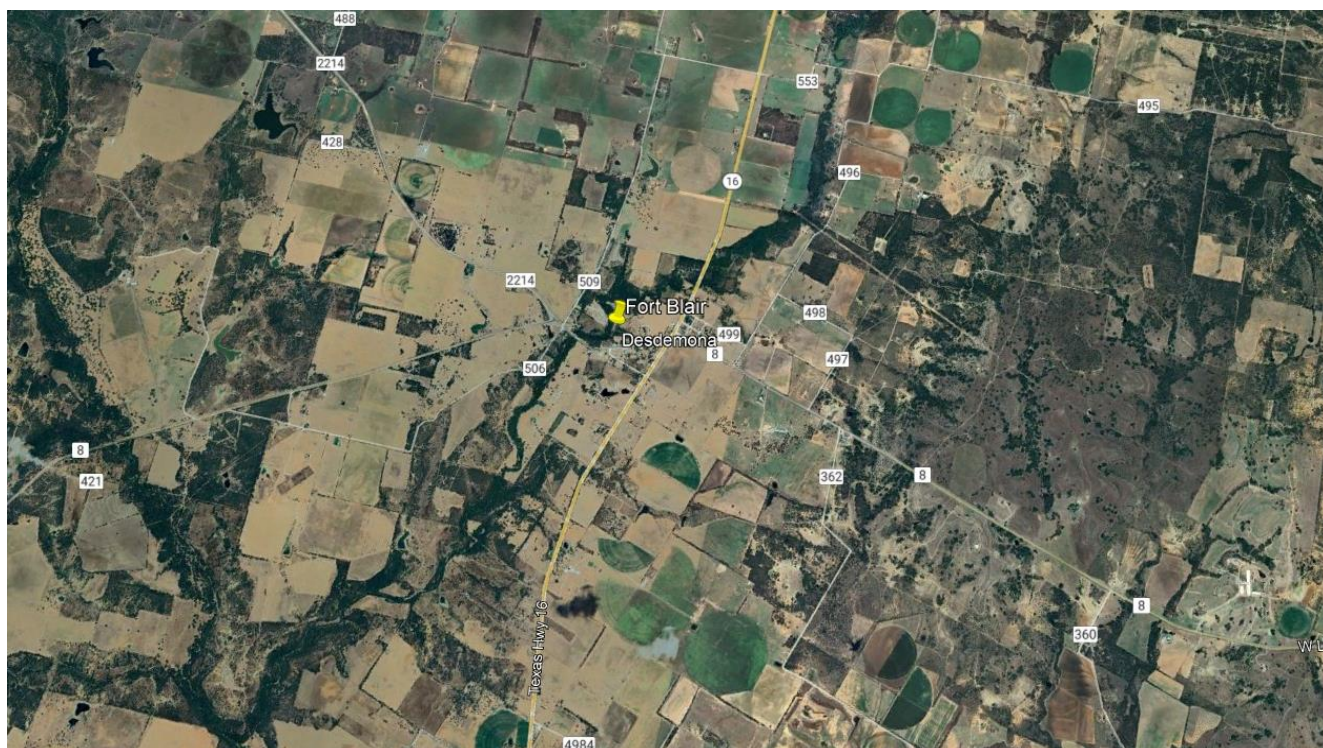




## Fort Blair

Fort Blair was a family stockade established by C. C. Blair and his wife, Meeky. It consisted of 12 log cabins, each 14 square feet and 14 feet apart in two parallel rows with pickets around the outside. It housed 12 families in the 1850's and 1860's.

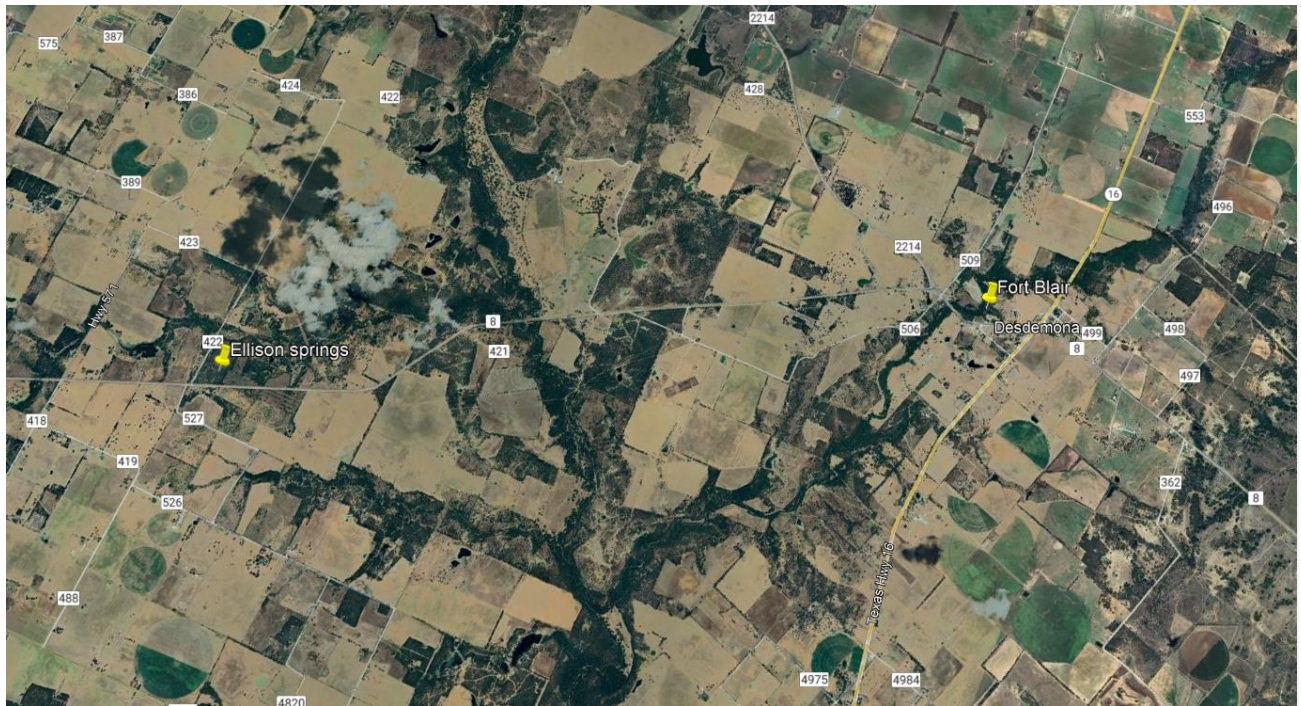
The historical marker for Fort Blair is at the southern edge of Desdemona on the east side of Hwy 16. The actual fort was west on Hwy 8 on the western side of Hog Creek. Approximately (32°16'14"N 98°33'23"W)



## Battle of Ellison Springs

Ellison Springs was named for James Madison Ellison, a native of Alabama, who was the first settler in this section of Eastland County. He built a cabin near the springs. This area was the sight of a conflict between the Comanches and a company of Confederate Rangers assisted by a number of men from Comanche County on August 9, 1864. The Rangers, led by Capt, Singleton Gilbert, were stationed at Nash Springs, 3 miles northwest of Gorman.

The location is some three miles southwest of Desdemona off Hwy 8. It is on private property; however, there is a historical marker on the west side of the roadway.  
(32°14'07"N 98°37'46"W)





## The Narrows

The Narrows is a seven mile geographical region along the Copperas Creek. It consists of canyons, caves, and overhangs where Native Americans sought shelter from the elements. The area is on private property and heavily grown up with vegetation.

It is located west of De Leon 8 miles on Hwy 587, south on FM 2247 and west on County Road 156 for several miles. It is not visible from the roadway nor is it accessible.

## Old Owl's Camp

Old Owl, the peace chief of the Penatuhkah Comanches, had his camp close to De Leon. It was supposed to be one of the larger encampments. The site of the campground has not been located through the years. It was said by R.I.P. Ford to be on the head waters of the Leon River. Another description states that it was where a creek meets the Leon; therefore, some believe it was where Leon River and Armstrong Creek merge a little south of Hwy 6 a few miles east of De Leon. Others think it is on Armstrong Creek just east of Round Grove Cemetery on the edge of Erath County north of Hwy 6.