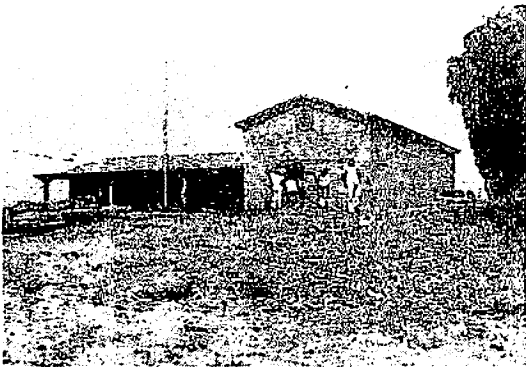


# AGUA MANSA

(Continued from Page 43)



New Agua Mansa Chapel - 1979.

building. County Supervisors appropriated \$24,000 and federal funds, in the amount of \$19,000 helped meet the total cost of \$68,000 to reconstruct the chapel and caretakers quarters, according to an original sketch done over 75 years ago.

All that remains today to remind a passerby that the Jurupa Valley was once the most populated area between San Gabriel and Santa Fe is the Agua Mansa Cemetery; a forlorn, desecrated and windswept field under which lie the remains of some of California's unsung pioneers. Unfortunately, no accurate record of burial plots exist, but in the older part of the cemetery are the last resting places of the Trujillos, Velardes, Salazars Jaramillos, Mollas, Alvarados, along with mountain men Louis Rubidoux and Isaac Slover. The nearby settlements are gone, but as one stands in this lonesome area and looks down on the sparsely settled Jurupa Valley, one can visualize the fertile fields lying there over a century ago, which would still be there but for an act of God — the flood of 1862.

Supervisors agreed to take title to Agua Mansa and preserve it as a historical site, albeit under the jurisdiction of the San Bernardino County Museum Association. The Saunders family was installed in a house-trailer on the grounds as caretakers and vandalism finally stopped.

In October 1971, Mrs. Marie Woods was named head of a commission to plan the restoration of the old Church of San Salvador in the pre-Riverside community of Agua Mansa, which was built in the 1850's to serve both that and La Placita communities. Although both of these towns were more related to Riverside than to San Bernardino, they remained under San Bernardino's jurisdiction.

The Agua Mansa Cemetery is designated as a California State Historical Landmark No. 121.

July 28, 1977 marked groundbreaking ceremonies for the new Agua Mansa Church on the hill in the cemetery. This project started over five years before and fund raising projects had collected \$8,000 toward its re-

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