NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

1. NAME OF PROPERTY

HISTORIC NAME: Isham Jones Good Homestead OTHER NAME/SITE NUMBER: N/A

#### 2. LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER: 13401 Evergreen WayCITY OR TOWN: AustinSTATE: TexasCODE: TXCOUNTY: Hays

NOT FOR PUBLICATION: N/A VICINITY: N/A ZIP CODE: 78737

#### 3. STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this ( $\underline{x}$  nomination) (\_\_\_\_\_\_ request for determination of eligibility) meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ( $\underline{x}$  meets) (\_\_\_\_\_\_ does not meet) the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant (\_\_\_\_\_\_ nationally) (\_\_\_\_\_\_ statewide) ( $\underline{x}$  locally). (\_\_\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

**CODE: 209** 

Signature of certifying official

State Historic Preservation Officer, Texas Historical Commission State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property \_\_\_\_\_\_ meets \_\_\_\_\_ does not meet the National Register criteria. ( \_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official

State or Federal agency and bureau

#### 4. NATIONAL PARK SERVICE CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ entered in the National Register \_\_\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet. \_\_\_\_\_\_ determined eligible for the National Register \_\_\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet \_\_\_\_\_\_ determined not eligible for the National Register removed from the National Register

other (explain):

Signature of the Kee

Date of Action

896

630 04

Date

### 5. CLASSIFICATION

### **OWNERSHIP OF PROPERTY:** Private

**CATEGORY OF PROPERTY:** District

NUMBER OF RESOURCES WITHIN PROPERTY:	CONTRIBUTING	NONCONTRIBUTING
	2	2 BUILDINGS
	1	0 sites
	2	0 structures
	0	0 objects
	5	2 Total

### Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: $\boldsymbol{0}$

NAME OF RELATED MULTIPLE PROPERTY LISTING: Rural Properties of Hays County, Texas

#### **6. FUNCTION OR USE**

**HISTORIC FUNCTIONS:** DOMESTIC=single dwelling, secondary structure AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTANCE=storage, barn, FUNERARY=grave, TRANSPORTATION=road

CURRENT FUNCTIONS: VACANT/NOT IN USE, AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTANCE= barn, FUNERARY=grave, TRANSPORTATION=road

### 7. DESCRIPTION

**ARCHITECTURAL CLASSIFICATION:** Other

MATERIALS: FOUNDATION STONE=limestone WALLS STONE=limestone ROOF METAL OTHER WOOD

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION (see continuation sheets 7-5 through 7-8).

### National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 5

Isham Jones Good Homestead Hays County, Texas

#### Summary

The Isham Jones Good Homestead lies on an eight and a half acre parcel of land that was once part of the 356-acre Isham Jones Good homestead settled in the early 1850s. Historic features associated with Good include a creamery, cistern, all-weather spring and Good's rock-walled gravesite. In addition, ghost lines of an old road are still visible through the homestead parcel. The tract once contained a larger family home which has long since been demolished. A modern home constructed in 1998 has replaced it on site. A ca. 1930 horse barn, a new barn built in 1999 and some corrals lie at the base of the parcel near Bear Creek. The Isham Jones Good Homestead district and two which do not. The property retains a high degree of historic integrity and is nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for Exploration and Settlement and under Criterion C for Architecture.

#### **Property Description**

The tract lies off Nutty Brown Road, a rural road that connects Highway 290 to Ranch Road 1826 in the far northern corner of Hays County near the Travis County line. Passage through the northern section of Hays County is primarily through Highway 290 which bisects the area's major town of Dripping Springs. Just before reaching Dripping Springs, Nutty Brown Road leads south to RR 1826 from a T-intersection with Highway 290. The Isham Jones Good homestead district is about three miles from the highway on Nutty Brown Road, where it intersects with Evergreen Way. Both county roads are dirt-packed at this juncture and the surrounding landscape is gently rolling pasture land punctuated by limestone outcroppings and occasional bluffs. Stands of Live Oaks, Pecans and other trees mark creekbeds and springs throughout the region. The terrain is rocky and more suitable to stock raising than farming. Traditionally, it is a land of ranches and ranch culture rather than farming heritage. Although many of the large parcels are now being subdivided for Austin's ever-expanding suburban appetite, smaller ranches or ranchettes with horses and open spaces remain popular in Hays County. The Isham Jones Good Homestead lies in a subdivision of the type that is restricted to a minimum of 5-acre lots. The parcel itself occupies the slope of a hill where the original Good homestead, including the creamery and cistern looks out onto a sweeping valley that extends to the southwest. Few buildings interrupt the vista and the district retains a sense of solitude and wide-open spaces that seems particularly appropriate in the interpretation of Texas pioneer history.

At its highest point, the property fronts along Nutty Brown Road east of its intersection with Evergreen Way. Nutty Brown Road forms the eastern boundary of the property. The parcel slopes steeply downward, at first, then levels out for a house site before it drops off again to the Beau Creek flood plain. Access is gained via a driveway off Evergreen Way, a county road that intersects with Nutty Brown Road and forms the northern boundary of the current owner's parcel. Bear Creek forms the western boundary of the property. Another property abuts the land on the south but Camp Ben McCulloch Road– Highway 1826 – lies to the south of it. The upper slopes of the parcel are dotted with native grasses and prickly pear cactus while the area immediately surrounding the main house, creamery and cistern have more domesticated plants including pampas grasses and

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 6

Isham Jones Good Homestead Hays County, Texas

yucca. Below the housesite, where the horse barns and dog pens lie, there are only sparse native plants but overhead there is a canopy of live oak, pecan and other trees that thrive along the creeks and creek beds of western Hays County.

The driveway passes through a set of gates before entering the homestead complex which is set on a fairly level shelf of limestone above the Bear Creek flood plain. The building site is comprised of a large modern limestone ranch house, the limestone creamery – a building that has doubtless served numerous purposes over the past 100 years – and the limestone cistern. The driveway stretches past the creamery and cistern and terminates at the rear of the main house. Access to the main house is presumably though the rear entry, more often than not. The front door fronts across the sloping face of the hill and looks out onto the two historic features which essentially lie in the front yard. About 50 feet below the road, down the steep incline of the slope, the springs bubble to the surface and return again to their underground channel. The water travels another 60' downhill to the cistern where it is captured in a large bell-shaped underground cavern. The cistern stands close by the side of the creamery, close enough to have been used as a cistern when the springs ran low or if more water was needed.

#### Individual Resources

#### Creamery ca. 1860, Contributing

The creamery is so-called because in recorded memory it was used as such and had two built-in floor troughs through which spring water was channeled to keep the cream and butter chilled. Because the one-room building traditionally known as the creamery is so substantial, it may have been the original or early pioneer house on the site before a larger family home was built. The stones appear to have been chiseled at a different time or by a different hand than those of the cistern but there is no documentation to further shed light on its origins. Used in the dairy operations of the early ranch, the building dates at least to the late 19th century. The building is a one-story, one-room building of cut rectangular limestone blocks. The hand-chiseled ashlar blocks are laid in regular courses of a running bond type. It has a side-gabled roof and a single, centered door. It has only one 4/4 light window at room level. It is directly behind the front door on the east side. Both the door and window feature seven vertical blocks with a central keystone above their lintels. There are small single pane windows in the side gables. The roof has recently been replaced with a standing seam metal cover and a cedar post porch on a concrete floor has been fabricated. There was probably a shed-roofed porch of some type on the building but no photographs have been found. The building has been repointed but the stones have not been replaced or moved. The door and window and their hardware are either original or very early.

#### Cistern ca. 1853, Contributing.

The cistern is a handmade limestone block structure designed to capture both spring water running downhill from the sloping sides of the hill and rooftop water collected from the steep pitch of the adjacent building. The above-ground shaft of the cistern stands approximately 4' tall and flanges outward at the base as it begins its underground expansion. The 4' 9" diameter stone cap is pieced together from two semi-circular

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

	Thay's County, Texas
Section 7 Page 7	Hays County, Texas
	Isham Jones Good Homestead

stones which form a lip around the top of the well shaft. A square is cut from the center of the two joined capstones to form an opening to the bell-shaped cavern below. The cistern opens up to a large sphere about 10' in diameter with the sides formed of square-cut limestone blocks to about half-way down the sides of the bell. The remainder of the cavern is earthen/limestone and the well drops to a depth of about 50'. Enormous cedar beams are fixed inside the bell of the cistern, probably from the date of its construction. The craftsmanship used in the carving of the limestone blocks and capstones is remarkable for this time and place – western Hays County in the 1850s. The cistern has been repointed but the blocks have never been removed or reconstructed.

#### Gravesite 1866, Contributing.

The single grave of Isham Jones Good lies on the property surrounded by a small stone wall. It is marked by a Texas War for Independence Veteran's Marker and is a Contributing feature of the district.

#### Roadbed ca. 1860, Contributing.

Remnants of an old road pass over the hill across the Good property and then follows Bear Creek to the west. The ghost lines of the old road, considered a structure, are highly visible. Because the stage line for passenger travel and mail transport was so important to rural existence and because there is a transportation component of the Rural Properties of Hays County Multiple Properties Context, it is included as a Contributing Property.

#### Horse Barn ca. 1930, Contributing

A ca. 1930 horse barn lies at the base of the 5-acre homestead parcel. The side-gabled, metal building has a metal roof and is about 20' long. Now used for storage, it retains its original early 20th century appearance. Because the homestead was consistently used for ranching from the time it was first settled by Isham Jones Good throughout the 20th century, the horse barn is considered part of the context. It retains its original appearance to a moderate degree and is a Contributing feature on the district.

#### Williams House ca. 1998 Noncontributing

The Lynn Osler and Marvin Williams House is a white limestone ranch style house built in 1998 on the approximate site of the Isham Jones Good House. The original house on the site had been demolished and the Williams family used some of the cornerstones in the construction of their new limestone house. Although the dwelling is a new house, the use of limestone is in keeping with the historic traditions of western Hays County. The resource is Noncontributing to the district.

### Horse Barn and Corrals ca. 1999, Noncontributing.

When Lynn and Marvin Williams built their new house they also constructed a barn and corrals for their horses. The barn and attached corrals are down the hill and to the west of the housesite, where the cistern and creamery lie in the front yard. The attached barn and corral use is in keeping with the ranching traditions of the

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 8

Isham Jones Good Homestead Hays County, Texas

area but its new construction renders it a Noncontributing element of the historic district.

#### Summary

The Isham Jones Good Homestead contains some of the earliest historic period resources in western Hays County. Lying on eight and a half acres of what was once a 356-acre parcel, the spring, cistern, creamery, and rock-walled gravesite are associated with the original 1850s homestead of Isham Jones Good. In addition, remnants of an old road that are still discernable across the landscape may date to the earliest period of settlement as Good and his family were part of a scattered colony that settled along Bear Creek in northern Hays County. Although the original family home was lost and replaced with a modern house, the property retains important early settlement resources whose architectural and historic significance transcends the effect of later construction. The Isham Jones Good Homestead district and two of which do not. The homestead possesses integrity of location, setting, design, materials, extraordinary workmanship, and association. Some historic feeling is compromised by the construction of a modern house in 1998. However, the new house is built of limestone as was the original – and in fact, incorporates some of the stones from the earlier house in its foundation – and it rests on the site of the earlier house, thus maintaining the district's historic building configuration.

### 8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

### APPLICABLE NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA

- X A PROPERTY IS ASSOCIATED WITH EVENTS THAT HAVE MADE A SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION TO THE BROAD PATTERNS OF OUR HISTORY.
  - **B** PROPERTY IS ASSOCIATED WITH THE LIVES OF PERSONS SIGNIFICANT IN OUR PAST.
- X C PROPERTY EMBODIES THE DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERISTICS OF A TYPE, PERIOD, OR METHOD OF CONSTRUCTION OR REPRESENTS THE WORK OF A MASTER, OR POSSESSES HIGH ARTISTIC VALUE, OR REPRESENTS A SIGNIFICANT AND DISTINGUISHABLE ENTITY WHOSE COMPONENTS LACK INDIVIDUAL DISTINCTION.
- **D** PROPERTY HAS YIELDED, OR IS LIKELY TO YIELD, INFORMATION IMPORTANT IN PREHISTORY OR HISTORY.

**CRITERIA CONSIDERATIONS: N/A** 

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: Early Exploration and Settlement, Architecture

PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE: 1852-1954

SIGNIFICANT DATES: 1852

SIGNIFICANT PERSON:

**CULTURAL AFFILIATION: N/A** 

ARCHITECT/BUILDER: unknown

NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (see continuation sheets 8-9 through 8-13).

#### 9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES

**BIBLIOGRAPHY** (see continuation sheet 9-18).

PREVIOUS DOCUMENTATION ON FILE (NPS): N/A

- \_ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- \_ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

#### PRIMARY LOCATION OF ADDITIONAL DATA:

- x State historic preservation office (Texas Historical Commission)
- Other state agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- \_University
- \_ Other -- Specify Repository:

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 9

Isham Jones Good Homestead Hays County, Texas

#### Statement of Significance

The Isham Jones Good Homestead contains several historic features, the most significant of which are a creamery and cistern. They are outstanding examples of early limestone buildings and structures built by a pioneer settler in Hays County, Texas in the mid-19th century. Isham Jones Good was one of the first Anglo settlers to venture into the western part of Hays County in the early 1850s and he was the first to settle on this parcel of land. Jones was a veteran of the Texas War for Independence and his grave, on the property, is marked with a state marker. Jones went on to be an intrepid Indian fighter and helped form Caldwell County out of Gonzales County. Leaving civilization behind, he ventured into yet a virtual wilderness when he came to western Hays County in 1853. Every structure was built by hand and in the years before the invention of dynamite, Jones chiseled the limestone blocks for all of his structures. The building that has been known for decades as the creamery may have served as an early one-room house. Later, Good built a larger house nearby, but it was demolished and only the cornerstones survive. The creamery is a small, rectangular high-pitched side-gabled one-room house constructed entirely of stone with a single, central door leading from a full-façade porch supported by cedar posts. It has a new standing seam metal roof and a concrete porch floor. The original (or very early) door and hardware remain intact. Spring water was diverted in the past to flow into the building and through the basins. The cistern, a four foot tall shaft above a cavernous fifty-foot deep underground bowl, collects spring water that seeps from an uphill source. Constructed entirely of nearly-square limestone blocks, the cistern's lip is fabricated from two large semi-circles of stone 4'9" in diameter pieced together with a central square cut out for a bucket-hole. The building and structure stand in testament to the ingenuity of pioneer settlers. An old country road, a ca. 1930 horse barn and the Isham Jones Good's stone-walled gravesite survive in the district and are counted as Contributing elements. The property is related to the Rural Properties of Hays County Multiple Property Historic Context and is nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for Exploration and Settlement and under Criterion C for Architecture.

#### **Historic Narrative**

Located in Central Texas between the Texas state capital of Austin on the north and the old Spanish city of San Antonio on the south, Hays County remained largely rural from its settlement years in the mid-1840s until the 1980s when developers began subdividing ranch and farmland to house the overflow populations of its neighbors. As the "high tech" boom demanded more suburban growth, formerly separate communities in northern Hays County are quickly melding into one large "bedroom" suburb of Austin. New roads are being built and old ones being paved, improved and enlarged in response to the exponential growth. This is in stark contrast with the area's characteristically tempered growth throughout its history.

Neither Native Americans, who established seasonal campsites at springs and along creeks in Central Texas for more than 10,000 years, nor the first Spanish explorers who passed through the region, built permanent settlements in present Hays County. The Spanish attempted the first European colony in present Hays County in the early 19th century, but San Marcos de Neve survived only a few, disastrous years plagued

### National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

	Isham Jones Good Homestead
Section <u>8</u> Page <u>10</u>	Hays County, Texas

by floods and repeated Indian attacks. It wasn't until after the Mexican War (1846-1848) that Americans began making any noteworthy inroads into what is now Hays County.

While the army afforded settlers greater protection from Indians after the war, settlement in the western section of the county was sparse, largely because the rocky land did not lend itself well to farming. Settlements tended to grow along permanent waterways such as Onion Creek or the San Marcos and Blanco rivers. When those places were taken, however, other permanent sources of water were prized as settlements. Bear Creek was one such spot and in the early 1850s, a few pioneer settlers ventured into northern Hays County to claim land along its banks. Among them was Isham Jones Good.

Isham Jones Good was the first Anglo settler to live on the land now known as his homestead. Good was born in Upson or Stewart County, Georgia on March 14, 1814 and came to Texas in 1835 with a group of volunteers to join in the Texas War for Independence. On November 17, 1835, twenty-one year old Isham Good joined a group of 35 men under the command of Captain William A.O. Wadsworth and set out for Texas. Part of the Georgia Battalion, they followed Colonel James W. Fannin into battle but escaped death or capture in the Goliad Massacre in March 1836. Good was honorably discharged by Mirabeau B. Lamar, Secretary of War, on May 17, 1836 in consideration of "fidelity and valor" and for "the extreme sufferings which he has had to encounter in the service of Texas..." (Brice 1984: 5).

After Texas Independence, Good married Melissa Trantham in Alabama and the two returned to Texas to what was then Gonzales County in 1838. Good applied for a headright certificate for one league and one labor of land in accordance with his service in the war (Brice 1984: 5). Although he first settled near the town of Gonzales, he soon moved his family to a spot on the road to Austin, the new capital of the Republic, to set up an inn or "Halfway House" (Brice 1984: 5). Good occupied himself in a variety of ways to make a living for his growing family; he and Melissa had four children between 1839 and 1844. Good served as the first postmaster when the Plum Creek postal station was established and he became a civic and business leader, and land speculator. He was instrumental in the formation of Caldwell County, to the east of Hays County, and served as its first sheriff (Texas Historical Commission Subject Marker). In 1840, he and W. W. T. Smith were elected land commissioners from Gonzales County to detect fraudulent land claims for the Republic of Texas (Brice 1984: 5).

In August of 1840, a large war party of as many as 600 Comanche and Kiowa Indians raided the town of Victoria and port of Linnville on the Texas coast. As they retreated to safety in the Hill Country, their route took them past Isham Good's house near Plum Creek. Several hundred volunteers from Gonzales, Austin, Bastrop and other settlements gathered at Good's house to stop the Indians. Their defeat at Plum Creek marked an end to the constant threat of attack in the region. As a result, more settlers began to move into the northern portion of what was then Gonzales County (Brice 1984: 6).

As settlement steadily increased in northern Gonzales County, Good and others petitioned for a new county to be created around the area of Lockhart Springs. One reason the men argued for a new county was the great distance from the Lockhart Springs/Plum Creak area to the county seat at Gonzales. Another likely reason was land speculation. In 1847, Isham Good was the first of 106 names on a petition to carve Plum Creek

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section <u>8</u> Page <u>11</u>	Hays County, Texas
	Isham Jones Good Homestead

County out of Gonzales County with Lockhart Springs as the county seat (Brice 1984: 6). The State Legislature agreed with the concept but changed the names to Caldwell County for Indian fighter Mathew Caldwell and reduced Lockhart Springs simply to Lockhart (Brice 1984: 7).

Land speculation commenced as soon as the county was established. Surveyors descended on the newly declared Caldwell County and the area around Lockhart Springs was divided into tracts and blocks of land for sale. As county seat, the land would be prime real estate. Isham Good was among the earliest of the land speculators. Between 1846 and 1848, he had acquired 27 town lots and by 1849 he owned 37 lots and as assignee for a number of other persons (Brice 1984: 7). Anticipating the creation of the county, Good had sold his home and part of his land and moved to the future county seat (Brice 1984: 7).

In Lockhart, Good owned a hotel and was the acting agent for the Austin and Gonzales weekly mail stage. Good was active not only in business but in social and civic activities; he hosted public barbecues on the Fourth of July, was a school trustee for the Lockhart Academy, and served the county as its first sheriff (Brice 1984: 7). With his many business, political and social activities in Lockhart, Good had achieved substantial success relative to the experience of most Texas pioneer settlers. It remains a mystery, then, why Good suddenly decided to leave his comfortable situation in Lockhart and build a new life in a virtual wilderness still inhabited by Indians. In 1850, he began to sell a number of his Lockhart town lots and property and by 1853 he had disposed of most of his land holdings in Caldwell County (Brice 1984: 7).

In 1852, Good, a Mr. Long and Professor Thomas Jefferson Johnson joined John W. Wuthrich who had settled at what became known as Bear Creek the year before. They were the original founders of the little settlement at Bear Creek, now an extinct community. Luis Capt had established a grist mill some distance from the settlement in 1851. The community was strung out along Bear Creek, which rises in northern Hays County and flows southeast for about 16 miles to its mouth on Onion Creek, a mile south of Manchaca in Travis County (Handbook of Texas Online: Bear Creek, Hays County).

It is not known why Good and the others chose Bear Creek in western Hays County (Irma G. Doffing, Texas War for Independence Veterans' Grave Marker Program files). The land was rocky and not particularly conducive to farming but the isolation and natural beauty may have been compelling. One reason for the settlement at Bear Creek may simply have been the beauty of the place. Professor Johnson extolled the virtues of nature and scenic environments and descried the pollution and degradation of cities. He believed that children should work and learn in rural settings and urged parents to send their children to the country to go to school. That is possibly why he, Good and the others left Lockhart as it was beginning to turn into a city and built a new school in an unspoiled environment.

Good and Johnson had come from Lockhart where Good was a school trustee for the Lockhart Academy (Brice 1984: 7) and Johnson was a teacher (Handbook of Texas Online: Johnson, Thomas Jefferson). The two men probably collaborated on the move to Bear Creek which may have centered on Johnson's new school. Johnson is well-known in Hays County history for establishing the Johnson Institute, originally a private boys' school, later made co-educational, on the Friday Mountain above Bear Creek. Four of Johnson's children taught at the school and it enjoyed a sound reputation both for day and boarding students. In fact, the school drew

### National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

	Isham Jones Good Homestead
Section 8 Page 12	Hays County, Texas

hundreds of students to the Bear Creek community in its early years; when Johnson died unexpectedly in 1868, two hundred students were enrolled at the school (Handbook of Texas Cnline: John, Thomas Jefferson).

In 1853, three more families – those of Calvin and Ben Rowell and Peter Wuthrich – made their homes on Bear Creek, and in 1856 Frederick Wille joined the group. Two years later, John Wahrenburg and Overton Oldham settled on the creek (Storm 1986: 469). Within a few years, Bear Creek was a thriving – if scattered – community of close-knit families and a very successful country school. Luis Capt acted as the post master through the 1850s (Storm 1986: 469).

Isham Good's stake on Bear Creek was a 358-acre parcel of land where he built a house and began raising cattle (Brice 1984: 7). It is not known what type of shelter Jones first built but it was probably a rudimentary shelter of some sort. He may have built the one-room stone building that later was used as a creamery as a first or early home for his family. Ironically this early house survives while a larger, later one has been demolished. The early stone building has been used as a creamery throughout recorded memory. It is a small, rectangular, one-room building that once had two floor troughs to hold spring water and dairy products. Spring water was channeled into the building and the basins to chill cream and butter.

Water was of paramount importance. Bear Creek ran through his property only a short distance down the hill from his homesite and, while it was a good source of water for his cattle, the trees along its banks provided good cover for Indians who still camped along its banks. Jones probably chose his homesite on the high side of the hill to have a clear view of the surrounding area and to be above the Bear Creek flood plain. Unlike other settlers who were forced to build closer to running water, Jones had the advantage of a reliable spring that emerged just above his homesite. About 60 feet below the spring he built a large, bell-shaped cistern to capture the spring water as it flowed downhill.

The Good family is listed in the 1860 census of Hays County: I.G. Good age 44 born GA, Melissa Good age 48, born SC, William Good age 18 born Texas, Isham J. Good age 16, born Texas, Jhn Allen Good, age 10, born Texas. Hays County marriage Book 1848-1870, page 150: Isham J. Good and Angie Carpenter Jan. 17, 1866, and page 157, William J. Good and Mary Reading, January 16, 1866. Besides their own four children, Melissa Good is recorded as having raised seven orphans whose parents were killed by Indians (Walter Fowler Good, Texas War for Independence Veterans' Grave Marker Program files). At least eight men, most the sons of the community founders, enlisted in the Confederate army or cavalry during the Civil War. Good's son William was among them (Storm 469).

Good died on December 18, 1866 (Brice 1984: 8) at the age of 53. He was buried on his ranch near Bear Creek. A low stone wall surrounds the grave which is marked by a Texas historical marker for his participation in the Texas War for Independence. Melissa Good died on November 4, 1870 and is buried in a family cemetery on land that she owned near Buda, Texas (Irma G. Doffing, Texas War for Independence Veterans' Grave Marker Program files).

Members of the family remained on the property and continued to ranch and raise dairy cattle for several generations. In the 1960s and 1970s the property was owned by L. M. Brizendine of Austin, Texas (Parmelee letter, Texas Historical Commission Marker files). The land was subdivided and Lynn Osler and Marvin

### National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8	Page <u>13</u>	Hays County, Texas
-		Isham Jones Good Homestead

Williams purchased the 8.5-acre parcel containing the house site with the cistern, creamery, gravesite, horse barn and vestiges of an old road. The cistern and creamery are exceptional historic properties in outstanding condition that well-represent the pioneer history of Hays County. The extant historic resources affiliated with the Isham Good farmstead retain integrity of location, design, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. The gravesite is nominated as an integral part of the farmstead, rather than for its association with good, therefore Criteria Consideration C does not need to be applied. The district is nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for its contributions to our understanding of the settlement and exploration of Hays County and under Criterion C for Architecture.

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 9 Page 14

Isham Jones Good Homestead Hays County, Texas

Bibliography

- Brice, Donaly. "Isham Jones Good: 1814-1866" in *Plum Creek Almanac, Vol. 2, No. 1. Spring, 1984.* Manuscript in possession of Marvin Williams, Hays County.
- Denton, Mark. Personal communication regarding Allert House cistern with Karen McGraw, 1999, in possession of Karen McGraw, Austin, Texas.
- Doffing, Irma G. Doffing. Isham Jones Good. Papers in possession of Marvin Williams, Hays County.

Handbook of Texas Online: Bear Creek (Hays County).

Handbook of Texas Online: Johnson, Thomas Jefferson.

- Schwartz, Dorothy and Olivia Parker, editors. *The Driftwood Church: A History, 1884-1984.* Driftwood, Texas: The Centennial Committee, 1984.
- Storm, Maxine. "A History of Dripping Springs and North Hays County" in *Clear Springs and Limestone Ledges: A History of San Marcos and Hays County*. San Marcos, Texas: Nortex Press, 1986.

Stovall, Frances and Dorothy Wimberley Kerbow, Maxine Storm, Louise Simon, Dorothy Woodss Schwartz

and Gene Johnson. Clear Springs and Limestone Ledges: A History of San Marcos and Hays County. San Marcos, Texas: Nortex Press, 1986.

Texas Historical Commission. State Historical Marker Files: Isham Jones Good. Austin, Texas.

### **10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

### ACREAGE OF PROPERTY: 8.5 acres more or less

UTM REFERENCESZoneEastingNorthingZoneEastingNorthing11459928033370203146604003337440214660200333776033377603314

**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION** Lot 1 Whispering Oaks Subdivision, Phase 1, Volume 6, Pages 317-318 of the plot records of Hays Co., Texas

**BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION** This property contains all extant buildings, sites and structures associated with the original settler, Isham Jones Good

#### **11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME/TITLE: Ter	rri Myers, Historian	
<b>ORGANIZATION:</b> Pre	eservation Central, Inc.	<b>DATE:</b> July 15, 2003
STREET & NUMBER: 823	3 Harris Avenue	<b>Теlephone:</b> (512) 478-0898
CITY OR TOWN: Austin	n STATE: Texas	<b>ZIP CODE:</b> 78705

#### ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION

#### **CONTINUATION SHEETS**

MAPS (see continuation sheets Map-15 through Map-16)

**PHOTOGRAPHS** (see continuation sheets Photo-23)

ADDITIONAL ITEMS (see continuation sheets Figure 17 through Figure 22)

#### **PROPERTY OWNER**

NAME:Lynn Osler and Marvin WilliamsSTREET & NUMBER:13401 Evergreen WayTELEPHONE: (512) 748-3646

CITY OR TOWN: Austin STATE: Texas

**Zip code:** 78737

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section MAPS Page 15

Isham Jones Good Homestead Hays County, Texas

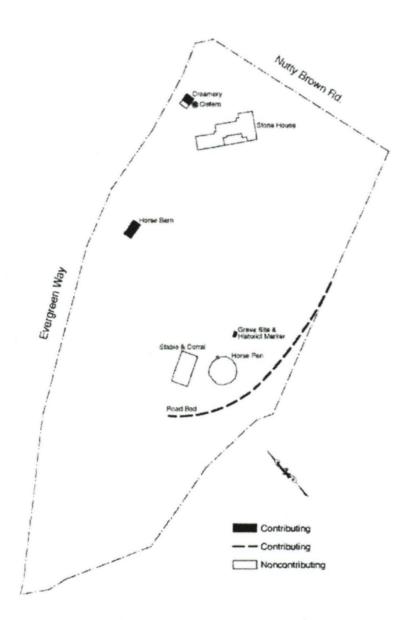


Map 1: Johnson Institute on Bear Creek

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section MAPS Page 16

Isham Jones Good Homestead Hays County, Texas



Map 2: Siteplan

NPS Form 10-900-a (8-86)

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Figure Page 17

Isham Jones Good Homestead Hays County, Texas

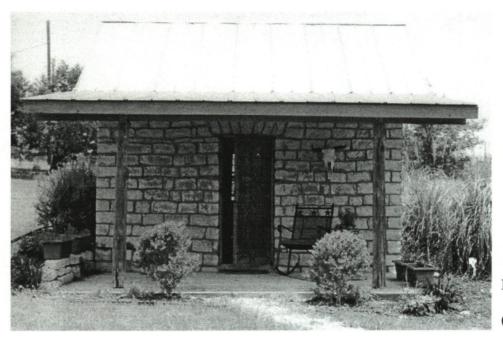


Figure 1: Creamery

(West elevation, camera facing east)

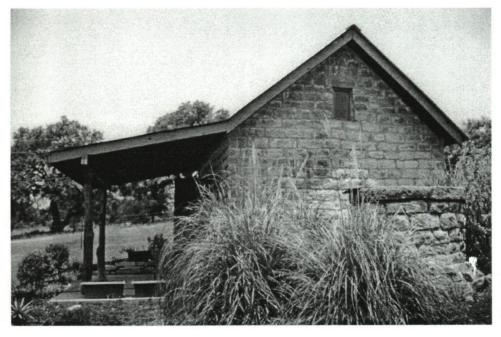


Figure 2: Cistern and Creamery (South elevation, camera facing north)

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Figure Page 18

Isham Jones Good Homestead Hays County, Texas



Figure 3: Cistern

(Camera facing SW)



Figure 4: Cistern Opening

NPS Form 10-900-a (8-86)

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Figure Page 19

Isham Jones Good Homestead Hays County, Texas



Figure 5: Creamery and Cistern (SW oblique, camera facing NE)

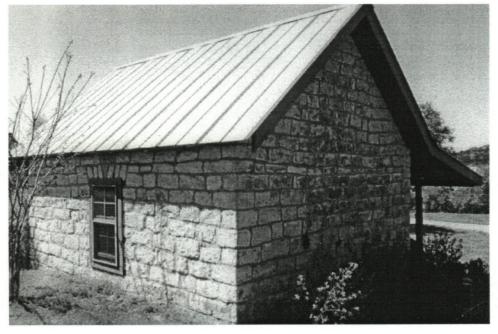


Figure 6: Creamery (NE oblique, camera facing SW)

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Figure Page 20

Isham Jones Good Homestead Hays County, Texas

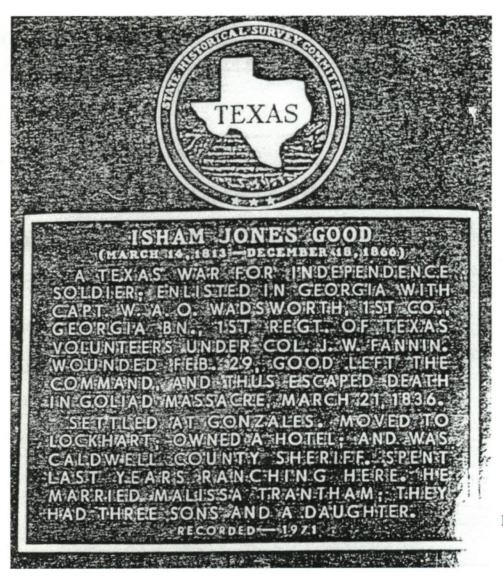


Figure 7: Isham Good Jones Texas War for Independence Veterans Grave Marker.

OMB Approval No. 1024-0018

NPS Form 10-900-a (8-86)

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section \_ Figure Page \_ 21

Isham Jones Good Homestead Hays County, Texas

### ISHAM JONES GOOD

EXAS

BORN IN GEORGIA, ISHAM JONES GOOD (1813-1866) CAME TO TEXAS IN 1835 WITH A GROUP OF VOLUNTEERS TO JOIN THE TEXIAN FORCES IN THEIR WAR FOR INDEPENDENCE FROM MEXICO, AS A MEMBER OF THE GEORGIA BATTALION, GOOD WENT TO THE AID OF COL. JAMES W. FANNIN, BUT ESCAPED DEATH OR CAPTURE IN THE GOLIAD MASSACRE IN MARCH 1836. AFTER AN HONORABLE DISCHARGE FROM MILITARY SERVICE IN MAY 1836, GOOD MARRIED MELISSA TRANTHAM (1811-1870) IN ALABAMA, BY FEBRUARY 1838, HE HAD RETURNED TO TEXAS AND SETTLED NEAR THIS SITE IN WHAT WAS THEN GONZALES COUNTY, AS A PARTICIPANT IN THE 1840 INDIAN BATTLE OF PLUM CREEK, ISHAM GOOD HELPED OPEN THE AREA TO FURTHER SETTLEMENT. HE SERVED AS FIRST POSTMASTER WHEN THE PLUM CREEK POSTAL STATION WAS ESTABLISHED. A CIVIC LEADER, ENTREPRENEUR, AND LAND SPECULATOR, GOOD WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN THE FORMATION OF CALDWELL COUNTY IN 1848 AND SERVED AS ITS FIRST SHERIFF.

DURING THE 1850S, GOOD SOLD MOST OF HIS LANDHOLDINGS AND MOVED HIS FAMILY TO BEAR CREEK IN HAYS COUNTY, WHERE HE RAISED CATTLE UNTIL HIS DEATH. AN IMPORTANT LOCAL LEADER DURING TEXAS' FORMATIVE YEARS, ISHAM JONES GOOD IS BURIED ON HIS RANCH IN HAYS COUNTY.

Figure 8: Isham Good Jones State Historical Marker, Lockhart, Texas. NPS Form 10-900-a (8-86)

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section \_ Figure Page \_ 22

Isham Jones Good Homestead Hays County, Texas



Figure 9: Woodcut of Isham Good Jones removing an arrow from an Indian attack victim.

### National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Photo Page 23

Isham Jones Good Homestead Hays County, Texas

Photo Log

Isham Jones Good Homestead 13401 Evergreen Way Austin, Hays County, Texas 78737

Terri Myers, Photographer May 2003 Negatives on file at Preservation Central, Inc., Austin, Texas

Photo 1/5 Creamery and cistern, West and South Elevations Camera facing northeast

Photo 2/5 Cistern, south elevation Camera facing north

Photo 3/5 Gravesite and Historical Marker with Stable and Corral in background Camera facing southwest

Photo 4/5 (Contributing) Horse Barn Camera facing north

Photo 5/5 Roadbed Camera facing southwest

#### UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Good, Isham Jones, Homestead NAME:

MULTIPLE Rural Properties of Hays County, Texas MPS NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: TEXAS, Hays

DATE RECEIVED: 7/08/04 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 7/27/04 DATE OF 16TH DAY: 8/11/04 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 8/21/04 DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 04000896

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL:NDATA PROBLEM:NLANDSCAPE:NLESS THAN 50 YEARS:NOTHER:NPDIL:NPERIOD:NPROGRAM UNAPPROVED:NREQUEST:NSAMPLE:NSLR DRAFT:NNATIONAL:N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT

RETURN REJECT DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in the National Register

RECOM./CRITERIA

REVIEWER\_\_\_\_\_ DISCIPLINE\_\_\_\_\_ TELEPHONE DATE\_\_\_\_\_

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



Isham Jones Good Homestead Austin, Hays Co., TX lof 5



Isham Jones Good Homestead Austin, Hays Co., TX 2 of 5



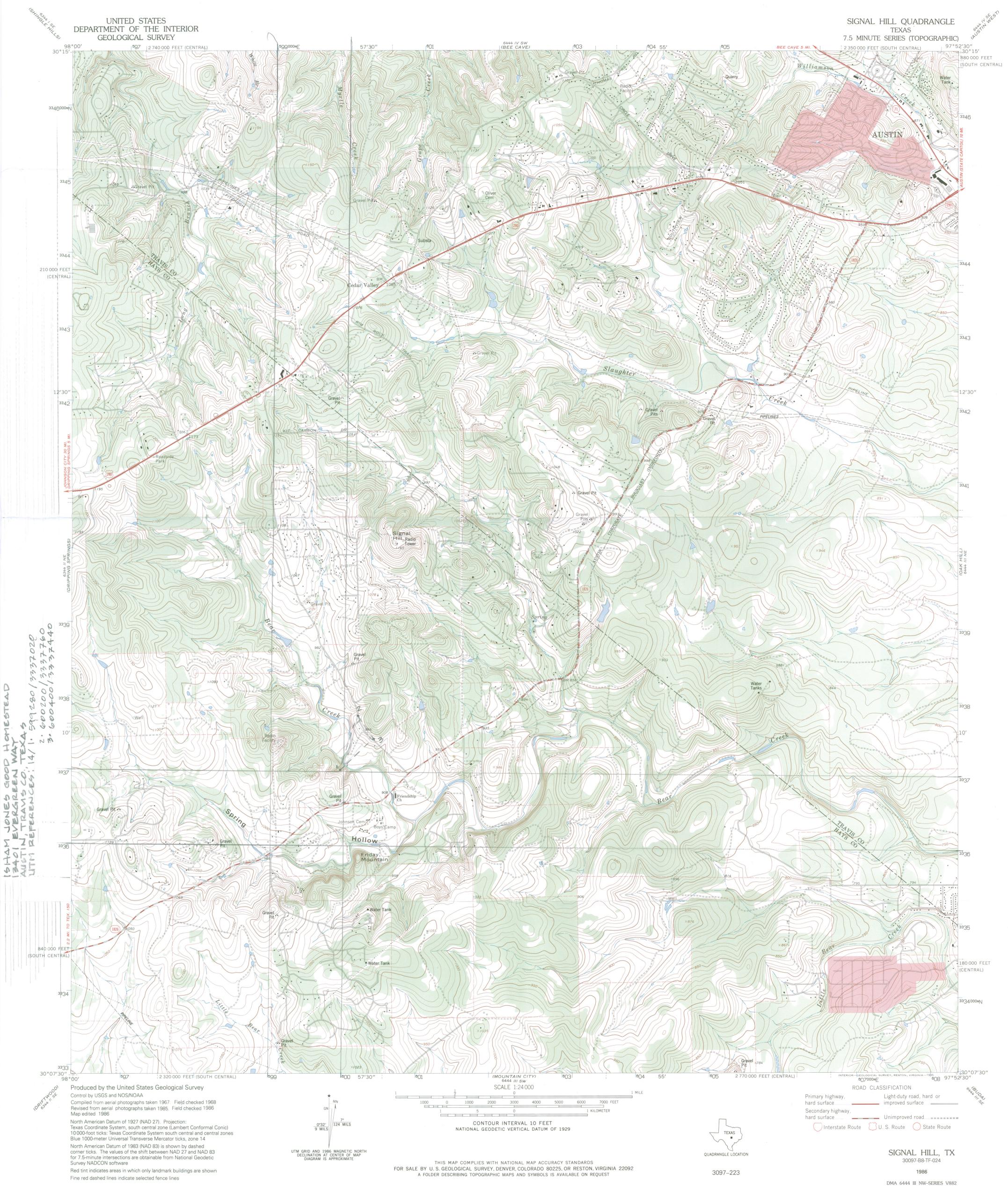
Isham Jones Good Homestead Austin, Hays Co., TX 3 of 5



Isham Jones Good Homestead Austin, Hays Co., TX 4 of 5



Isham Jones Good Homestead. Austin, Hays Co., TX 5 of 5





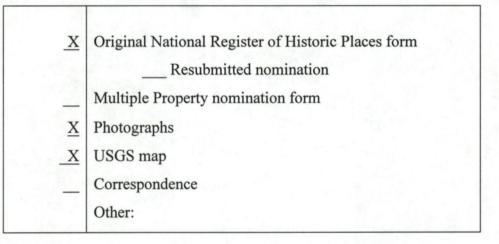
# TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Rick Perry • Governor John L. Nau, III • Chairman F. Lawerence Oaks • Executive Director

The State Agency for Historic Preservation

TO:	Carol Shull, Keeper National Register of Historic Places	RECEIVED 2280
FROM:	Hannah Vaughan, Historian Texas Historical Commission	<b>UUU - 8</b> 2004
RE:	Isham Jones Good Homestead, Austin, Hays County, T	NAT. REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
DATE:	June 30, 2004	

The following materials are submitted regarding: Isham Jones Good Homestead



### COMMENTS:

SHPO requests substantive review

\_\_\_\_\_ The enclosed owner objections (do\_\_) (do not\_\_) constitute a majority of property owners

Other