

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places Registration Form**

1. Name of Property

Historic Name: Ball, Joseph, Jr. and Salome, Homestead
Other name/site number: Ball-Scoggin Farm, Ball-O'Banion Farm, [REDACTED]
Name of related multiple property listing: Historic Farms and Ranches of Bexar County, Texas

2. Location

Street & number: [REDACTED] Old Frio City Road
City or town: Lytle State: Texas County: Bexar
Not for publication: Vicinity:

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this
 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 meets does not meet the National Register criteria.

I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following levels of significance:
 national statewide local

Applicable National Register Criteria: A B C D

Mark Wolfe State Historic Preservation Officer 6/1/18
Signature of certifying official / Title Date
Texas Historical Commission
State or Federal agency / bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency / bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:
____ entered in the National Register
____ determined eligible for the National Register
____ determined not eligible for the National Register.
____ removed from the National Register
____ other, explain: _____

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

Joseph Jr. and Salome Ball Homestead, Lytle, Bexar County, Texas

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Private
<input type="checkbox"/>	Public - Local
<input type="checkbox"/>	Public - State
<input type="checkbox"/>	Public - Federal

Category of Property

<input type="checkbox"/>	building(s)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	district
<input type="checkbox"/>	site
<input type="checkbox"/>	structure
<input type="checkbox"/>	object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
2	3	buildings
1	0	sites
0	1	structures
0	0	objects
3	4	total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions: DOMESTIC/single dwelling; AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTANCE/agricultural outbuilding, agricultural field, storage

Current Functions: DOMESTIC/single dwelling; AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTANCE/agricultural outbuilding, agricultural field, storage

7. Description

Architectural Classification: Other: T-Plan House

Principal Exterior Materials: Brick, Wood, Stucco

Narrative Description (see pages 7 through 12)

Joseph Jr. and Salome Ball Homestead, Lytle, Bexar County, Texas

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria: A, C

Criteria Considerations: N/A

Areas of Significance: Ethnic Heritage: European; Architecture

Period of Significance: 1898-1943

Significant Dates: 1898

Significant Person (only if criterion b is marked): N/A

Cultural Affiliation (only if criterion d is marked): N/A

Architect/Builder: Ball, Joseph, Jr.

Narrative Statement of Significance (see pages 13 through 18)

9. Major Bibliographic References

Bibliography (see pages 19 through 20)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- 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:

- State historic preservation office (*Texas Historical Commission, Austin*)
- Other state agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other -- *Texas Archeological Research Laboratory, Austin; San Antonio Conservation Society, San Antonio*

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): N/A

Joseph Jr. and Salome Ball Homestead, Lytle, Bexar County, Texas

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: 48.0 acres

Coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates (See page 21)

Datum if other than WGS84: NAD83

Verbal Boundary Description: (See page 21)

Boundary Justification: (See page 21)

11. Form Prepared By

Name/title: Nesta Anderson, Ph.D., Katie Hill, M.A.
Organization: Pape-Dawson Engineers, Inc.
Street & number: 7800 Shoal Creek Blvd. Suite 220W
City or Town: Austin State: TX Zip Code: 78757
Email: nanderson@pape-dawson.com
Telephone: (512) 454-8711
Date:5/31/17

Additional Documentation

Maps (see pages 22 through 28)

Additional items (see pages 29 through 43)

Photographs (see pages 5-6, 44 through 64)

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

Joseph Jr. and Salome Ball Homestead, Lytle, Bexar County, Texas

Photograph Log

Joseph and Salome Ball Homestead
Lytle, Bexar County, Texas

Photographed by Nesta Anderson and Katie Hill, February and June 2016.

Photo 1

Masonry Dwelling (A)
Primary (Northwest) Elevation
Camera facing southeast

Photo 2

Masonry Dwelling (A)
West oblique view
Camera facing east

Photo 3

Masonry Dwelling (A)
Southwest Elevation
Camera facing northeast

Photo 4

Masonry Dwelling (A)
Rear (Southeast) Elevation
Camera facing northwest

Photo 5

Masonry Dwelling (A)
East oblique view
Camera facing west

Photo 6

Masonry Dwelling (A)
Northeast Elevation
Camera facing southwest

Photo 7

Masonry Dwelling (A)
Interior First Floor
Camera facing northwest

Photo 8

Masonry Dwelling (A)
Interior First Floor
Camera facing south

Photo 9

Masonry Dwelling (A)
Interior Second Floor
Camera facing northwest

Photo 10

Shed (B)
Northwest oblique view
Camera facing southeast

Photo 11

Frame Barn (C)
North Elevation
Camera facing south

Photo 12

Frame Barn (C)
East Elevation
Camera facing west

Photo 13

Frame Barn (C)
Southeast oblique view
Camera facing northwest

Photo 14

Frame Barn (C)
Southwest oblique view
Camera facing northeast

Photo 15

Frame Barn (C)
West Elevation
Camera facing east

Photo 16

Shed (D)
Northwest oblique view
Camera facing southeast

Joseph Jr. and Salome Ball Homestead, Lytle, Bexar County, Texas

Photo 17

Water Tank (E)
South oblique view
Camera facing north

Photo 18

Trailer House (F)
Northwest oblique view
Camera facing southeast

Photo 19



Photo 20



Photo 21

Site Overview
Masonry Dwelling
Camera facing South

Joseph Jr. and Salome Ball Homestead, Lytle, Bexar County, Texas

Narrative Description

The Joseph and Salome Ball Homestead is a 48-acre agricultural property located at [REDACTED] Old Frio City Road, near Lytle, Bexar County roughly 40 miles outside San Antonio, Texas. The homestead is composed of six resources built between 1898 and 2005 including a house and barn, two sheds, a water tank, and a non-historic trailer home. An archaeological site [REDACTED] is also present and may yield further information about the outhouse and the root cellar/smokehouse, both of which are no longer extant. Although only three of these seven resources are contributing, there has been little alteration to the buildings, structures, and the agricultural setting. Thus, the district exemplifies the associated property types listed in the multiple property submission *Historic Farms and Ranches of Bexar County, Texas* (Dase et al 2010: 43-44, 51-52, 54). The two-story brick house, which serves as the focal point of the district was constructed in 1898 and restored in 2012. Its overall design, plan, and materials are rooted in German immigrant folk architecture, rather than reflecting popular late nineteenth century American architectural styles. The deliberate use of local handmade brick and relatively modest design display the continuation of German construction techniques and selective retention of cultural traditions at a time when transportation connectivity and other technological advances encouraged the adoption of modern American building practices and styles. A few alterations include roof, window, and porch replacement, and the reconstruction of the outdoor staircase for the front entry. Despite the loss of some domestic and agricultural resources, the property remains largely unchanged and retains a high level of historic integrity of location, design, materials, workmanship, setting, feeling, and association allowing it to convey the history of German settlement and cultural traditions in Bexar County.

Setting and Location

The Joseph and Salome Ball Homestead is located near Lytle, in southwestern Bexar County roughly 40 miles outside San Antonio, Texas [REDACTED]

The area surrounding the Ball farm is relatively rural, with farmsteads and agricultural properties to the north, west, and south of the property (Map 5). East of the property, there has been slightly more residential development, but the area remains largely rural, and no development can be seen from the Ball property. A gated driveway off Old Frio City Road provides access to the property. The 48-acre property is enclosed by a barbed-wire fence, which divides the extant structures from pastures surrounding the east, south, and west sides of the property (Maps 3-6).

The house sits near the eastern edge of the property, and with the exception of the trailer, the other structures are situated within a few hundred feet of the house, primarily to the south and west (Map 6-8). The trailer is located west of the house near Old Frio City Road and cannot be seen from the house or other outbuildings. [REDACTED]

Historic aerial photographs show that several structures, including two small structures were located southwest of the house in the areas where oral history has indicated the privy and root cellar/smokehouse were located. At least three other structures were near the barn. These structures appear clearly on both the 1955 and 1963 aerial photographs, suggesting they may be high probability areas for archaeological deposits associated with the farm to be present.

As the current owners are not actively cultivating the land, most of the property surrounding the house and associated structures exhibit secondary vegetative regrowth, and is currently being used to pasture horses (Figure 1). Grasses predominate with some scattered mesquite trees dotting the landscape (Figure 2). A line of trees runs along the easternmost edge of the property and the eastern fenceline, separating the Ball Homestead from the adjacent land tract (Map 6). According to the current property owner, who grew up in the house, both current and former structures on the property were located within the parcels proposed as part of the current property boundary, while agricultural lands once extended all the way south to the railroad.

Joseph Jr. and Salome Ball Homestead, Lytle, Bexar County, Texas

Inventory of Historic Buildings, Structures, and Objects

A. [Masonry Dwelling] (circa 1898; contributing) (Photos 1-9)

The house was constructed c.1898 when the Ball family acquired the property (Bexar County Deed Records 1971:480). It does not conform to a singular architectural style of the era, but rather reflects the humble efforts of a German immigrant family with close ties early Alsatian and German communities in the Texas Hill Country to create a home for themselves at the end of the late nineteenth century. The house's modified T-plan, materials, fenestration are relatively simple and modest, which is not surprising considering the home was built by Joseph Ball Jr. and his family. The unusual floor plan which features a partially raised basement used for food storage and preparation and was open to livestock, suggests a conservative design approach and limited resources. Overall, the house serves as a very late example of a nineteenth century German folk dwelling.

Exterior

Differing somewhat from 1850s vernacular limestone and timber dwellings once common in ethnic communities across the Texas Hill Country, this home illustrates a later application of German building practices and heritage in Bexar County. The two-story house is a modified T-plan with a front-gable-and-wing appearance on the northwest elevation and rear (southeast) elevation with wooden porches in the "T" made by the wings (Figures 3 and 4). The house also features a two-room wide and one-room deep floor plan present in both wings of the "T" (McAlester 2014: 134-147; Dase et al 2010:44). Indicative of its later build date, this masonry building has a layer of whitewashed plaster over three courses of handmade brick rather than stone, a common feature in earlier German construction (Figure 5). Archival research indicates the Ball family, who were stonemasons by trade prior to their acquisition of this property (Bexar County Census Records 1870, 1880), constructed this house immediately upon acquiring the land (Bexar County Deed Records 1971:480). Oral history suggests they obtained the brick from a nearby pottery that was abandoning their brick making to focus on pottery production. Nearby potteries included the Meyer Pottery and the Saenger Pottery in Elmendorf.

In 2012, the structure was restored, resulting in changes to the wood windows, the porches, and the roof. It currently features multi-pane windows on the first floor and 4/4 double hung sash windows on the second floor. An interior restoration photo reveals original segmental arch window openings (Figure 6). While it is likely some of the windows are replacements, the openings are original and the changes occurred within the period of significance or during the restoration and do not undermine the integrity.

Primary (Northwest) Elevation

The primary (northwest) elevation features a front-gable-and-wing and a prominent second story wood porch leading to two multi-light wood frame doors that serve as the primary entrances to the home. The porch is characterized by a central wooden staircase and wooden balustrade supported by large brick piers covered in whitewashed plaster. The metal roof and exposed wood rafters are visible from this elevation. Two windows and a louvered vent are positioned beneath the gable end. The first floor has a single multi-pane window and the second floor has a 4/4 double hung sash window (Photo 1).

Northeast Elevation

Two windows and a louvered vent are centered beneath the gable on this side elevation. The first floor has a single multi-pane window and the second floor has a 4/4 double hung sash window. The absence of fenestration characterizes the western recessed portion of this elevation. The recessed portion of "T" on the eastern half of this elevation features a multi-light wood door and the first floor features a single multi-pane window identical to the one beneath the central

Joseph Jr. and Salome Ball Homestead, Lytle, Bexar County, Texas

gable. Both wood porches are featured prominently to the east and west of the central gable and the plastered brick piers are visible as well (Photo 6).

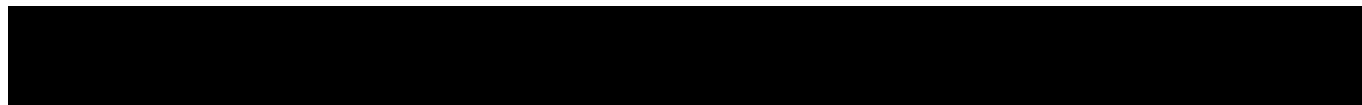
Southwest Elevation

The southwest elevation is symmetrical. It features three evenly spaced single multi-pane windows and the second floor has 4/4 double hung sash windows. The metal roof and overhanging eave is visible from this elevation (Photo 3).

Rear (Southeast) Elevation

This elevation features a front gable and wing. The entrance to the lower level is through a recessed rear double door accessed via steps leading to a stacked porch (Figure 9; Photo 4). The bottom level of the porch consists of a concrete slab with brick pier porch supports that have been plastered and whitewashed. A single window is visible on the first floor of the eastern portion of the wing. The wood frame porch is supported by brick piers. Much like the porch on the primary elevation, two multi-light doors provide access to the porch. However, this elevation does not have an exterior staircase for second story access. The metal roof and exposed wood rafters are also visible from this elevation. Two windows and a louvered vent are positioned beneath the gable end. Identical to the other elevations, the first floor has a single multi-pane window and the second floor has a 4/4 double hung sash window (Photo 4).

Interior



This configuration was likely chosen out of necessity and limited economic means at the time of construction. At the time of restoration, the rooms in the stem of the "T" at the west end of the house included a kitchen (southernmost room), a bathroom (middle room), and a bedroom (northernmost room) (Figure 8). The restoration did not change the overall room layout with the exception of adding an interior staircase into the living area, but the current floor plan modified room function slightly. The former kitchen has become a bedroom and the former bathroom has been moved slightly south so that the kitchen is now located in the middle of the "T" (Figure 9). The northernmost room of the bottom floor remains a bedroom, and the living space remains in the same location, although the dirt floor was replaced and the room is now finished (Figure 9).

The second story floor plan has also remained unchanged in form, although the function of the rooms has changed. Originally dedicated primarily to bedrooms, the second floor now has a kitchen, storage area, bathroom, and master bedroom in the stem of the "T". The adjacent space is being used as a living area, which may be accessed from outside by an external staircase (Figures 11-12).

Alterations

Changes to the exterior of the building during restoration include a change to the primary entrance and porches as well as a roof replacement. During the Ball occupation, the front entry was on the second floor of the northwest elevation and was accessible via exterior stairs. In addition, during the twentieth century, the owners added a rear portico and entry west of the porch on the rear (southeast) elevation. At the time of restoration, both upper porches were enclosed (Figures 13-14). The current occupant chose to rebuild and restore the porches to their open form. During the restoration, the second-floor entry on the primary (northeast) elevation was retained, although it was shifted east of the original entry, and a new exterior staircase was added. The small entry within the gable end on the rear (southeast) elevation was removed, and the lower level entry was relocated (Figures 13-14, Photos 1 & 4). As part of the southern

Joseph Jr. and Salome Ball Homestead, Lytle, Bexar County, Texas

entry relocation, the lower porch was added. The rebuilt porches on both the northwest and southeast elevations have a concrete slab porch on bottom and wood frame porch on top that spans the length of the façade, except for the gable end. The original upper porch included spindle work on the porch supports, but the rebuilt porch does not include this detailing.

The home features a cross-gabled roof. While the original materials are unknown but likely metal, the replacement roof is metal with exposed rafter ends. Roof replacement did not include chimney or fireplace reconstruction. Two cisterns were also located next to two of the gable ends. According to a descendant, one of these cisterns was used to provide water for drinking and bathing, while the other was used to provide water for laundry.

The Ball family resided in the house through the early twentieth century. After Joseph and Salome Ball's deaths, their sons Severin and Albert occupied the house. In 1943, the Ball children sold the house to Laworia and Elsie Scoggin, who lived in the house for the remainder of the twentieth century. One of the Scoggin grandchildren, Sandra Scoggin O'Banion, who grew up living with her grandparents in this house, restored it and continues to reside in the house today. The masonry dwelling represents a late example of German folk architecture in rural Bexar County constructed at the turn of the twentieth century and occupied continuously by two families who preserved the rural character of the homestead.

B. [Shed] (circa 2005; noncontributing) (Photo 10)

This wood-frame storage building with corrugated metal gable-roof is a twenty-first century addition to the property. The building has a single entry with a half-moon cutout so that the structure resembles an outhouse. It is considered non-contributing since it was constructed outside the period of significance.

C. [Frame Barn] (circa 1898; contributing) (Photos 11-15)

This one-story, wood-frame, gable-roof barn has a corrugated metal roof and siding and represents a typical agricultural outbuilding seen on other German homesteads in the Texas Hill Country. Wood posts support a shed-roof porch, and the entry has been replaced with a wood door. The interior of the barn reveals cut nails were used in construction, suggesting the barn is contemporaneous with or predates the house. The fenestration on the west elevation is intact. Although the structure has been reclad in corrugated metal, evidence of the underlying wood structure is present in the wood piers and exposed rafters. The property owner confirmed the structure has been present on the property throughout the twentieth century.

While the structure has experienced alterations, the original frame is present reflecting late nineteenth century barn design dating to when Joseph and Salome Ball acquired the property and constructed the house. Archival research indicates the Ball family farmed the land well into the twentieth century, when Severin Ball worked as a ginner. The barn is the only remaining outbuilding associated with their occupation of the site and was likely used for cattle. Together with the house, the barn represents the remaining structural elements associated with the Ball family farm (Dase et al 2010: 51).

D. [Shed] (circa 1950; noncontributing) (Photo 16)

This partially collapsing wood-frame building has corrugated metal siding and a metal roof. It appears on the 1955 and 1963 aerial photographs, and is non-contributing since it was constructed outside the period of significance.

Joseph Jr. and Salome Ball Homestead, Lytle, Bexar County, Texas

E. [Water Tank] (circa 1965; noncontributing) (Photo 17)

This resource features a steel frame supporting an oval steel water tank and is noncontributing due to age.

F. [Trailer Dwelling] (circa 1990; noncontributing) (Photo 18)

This resource is a one-story, gabled-roof, metal-frame trailer home with a rear wood-frame addition and is noncontributing due to age. The primary (north) elevation features the main entrance, three double hung windows and one single hung window. A wood-frame addition extends off the southwest corner of the building.

Integrity

While the homestead has experienced some alteration, including changes to the house, the intrusion of some noncontributing resources, and the loss of a few historic resources, the property still retains integrity of location, setting, design, materials, and feeling. The reconstructed porches, and roof and window changes undermine the integrity of the house somewhat, but the original design, floor plan, and materials help to mitigate those alterations allowing it to serve as a late example of German folk architecture in rural Bexar County. The intact frame barn, archaeological site, and historic agricultural land also help to convey the significance of this property as a late nineteenth and early twentieth century German homestead.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE RESTRICTED

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Joseph Jr. and Salome Ball Homestead, Lytle, Bexar County, Texas



Inventory of Resources (see Maps 6-8)

Map Reference	Resource	Type	Status	Date/Date of Alteration
A	Masonry Dwelling	Building	Contributing	Circa 1898
B	Frame Shed	Building	Noncontributing	Circa 2005
C	Frame Barn	Building	Contributing	Circa 1898
D	Frame Shed	Building	Noncontributing	Circa 1950
E	Steel Water Tank	Structure	Noncontributing	Circa 1965
F	Metal Frame Trailer Dwelling	Building	Noncontributing	Circa 1990
G	Archaeological Site	Site	Contributing	Late 19 th and early 20 th Centuries

END OF RESTRICTED INFORMATION FOR SECTION 7

Joseph Jr. and Salome Ball Homestead, Lytle, Bexar County, Texas

Statement of Significance

The Joseph Jr. and Salome Ball Homestead in Lytle, Bexar County, Texas is the core of a late 19th century farm established by immigrants who arrived from the Alsace region as children before the Civil War, and built their home later in life in a simple folk style rather than a contemporary popular style. Joseph Ball Jr. (c.1837-1918) and his wife Salome (c.1844-1929) came to Texas from Europe with their respective families in the mid-nineteenth century. Salome arrived in 1848 at age 4, settling with her family near Castroville, Medina County. Joseph arrived in 1852 at age 15 and lived near D'Hanis, another Alsatian community in Medina County, where he and his father, Joseph Ball Sr., began farming. When their family's initial agricultural pursuits were unsuccessful, both Joseph and Salome moved to San Antonio. Likely a result of their shared connection to Alsatian and German communities in the area, Joseph and Salome eventually met and married in 1867. Residing in the King William neighborhood of San Antonio, Joseph found work as a stonemason and they started a family. After several years in San Antonio, Joseph and Salome acquired the subject homestead outside of Lytle in 1898, which originally consisted of 219 acres. Improvements including a house, barn, and other outbuildings were added to the homestead and the family engaged in crop farming and ranching. Joseph and Salome lived on the farmstead for the remainder of their lives before it was passed onto their children. In 1943, the property was sold to Laworia and Elsie Scoggin.

The district is nominated to the National Register under the multiple property submission *Historic Farms and Ranches of Bexar County, Texas*. It meets the registration requirements and is nominated under Criterion A in the area of Ethnic Heritage/European and Criterion C in the area of Architecture at the local level for its association with late nineteenth century German agricultural and building practices in Bexar County (Dase et al. 2010: 58-63). Built several decades after the family's immigration to Texas, the modest Ball House reflects the retention of specific design elements associated with traditional German construction techniques including the design, plan, and materials. The use of local handmade brick and whitewashed plaster, conservative design, and unusual floor plan represent the transmission and selective preservation of German cultural traditions at a time when transportation connectivity and other technological advances incentivized the adoption of modern American building practices and styles. Diverging somewhat from 1850s German vernacular housing, this home illustrates the evolution of German building practices and thus serves as a unique and late example of a nineteenth century German folk dwelling in rural Bexar County. Although several structures were removed from the farm including the root cellar/smokehouse and outhouse, the property may be eligible under Criterion D as there is a high potential for intact deposits that may provide insight into German agricultural practices and cultural heritage, and may yield historic archaeological information. The period of significance begins in 1898 with the construction of the main house and ends in 1943 when the Scoggin family acquired the property.

Ball Family Settlement in Texas

Germans were one of the many ethnic groups to arrive in Bexar County during the latter half of the nineteenth century. Like their European counterparts, they brought with them cultural traditions as well as building and agricultural practices that they passed on to their descendants, established social and economic networks, and contributed to the diverse culture of central and south Texas (Dase et al. 2010:20-23). Archival research indicates the Ball family was part of the group of Alsatian immigrants from the border of Germany and France who initially settled near D'Hanis about 25 miles west of Castroville, a predominately Alsatian settlement in Medina County. Both D'Hanis and Castroville were communities founded in the 1840s by empresario Henri de Castro from the Alsace region of France. The Ball family appear to have been intermarried with some of the other Alsatian families who immigrated around the same time, and Joseph Ball Jr. seems to have continued this practice. However, the Ball family did not remain in Medina County, but rapidly spread into nearby San Antonio to work as tradesmen before Joseph Ball Jr. eventually returned to his agricultural roots outside of Lytle, Texas, near the Atascosa, Bexar, and Medina County lines about 20 miles south of Castroville (Map 2).

Joseph Jr. and Salome Ball Homestead, Lytle, Bexar County, Texas

Census records indicate that Joseph Ball Jr. emigrated from Alsace in 1852 (1900 Bexar County Census). Since the region was part of both France and Germany at different times throughout history, the census records through the years alternately document the family as having come from both France and Germany. However, the 1900 Bexar County Census specifically notes Joseph Ball Jr. and his brother John were Alsatian with “Ger” noted in the entry as well, indicating they or others identified them as being affiliated with German culture rather than French.

While Joseph Ball Jr. likely arrived in Texas in 1852, his father, Joseph Ball Sr., may have immigrated the year prior. The 1851 Bexar County tax records show that Joseph Ball paid the poll tax and state and county taxes that year, although he did not have any property taxes (Bexar County Tax Roll No.40, 1837-1873). No other Ball family members appeared in rolls for that year. Within the next few years, however, Joseph’s mother and siblings had arrived in Texas and begun to establish their lives. Interestingly, the family appears to have been split and living in two different places in 1860, when Joseph Sr., Joseph Jr., and Mary Wolf (nee Ball) were living in D’Hanis in Medina County while John and Peter were living with their sister Theresa and their mother Mary in Xavier Wolf’s household in San Antonio. Both households were living next to other French or German immigrants (possibly other Alsatian families), but in neighborhoods that were ethnically diverse. Joseph and his father had neighbors who were primarily Anglo-American while his mother, brothers, and sister lived in a neighborhood containing many people who were identified as Mexican. D’Hanis was primarily composed of colonists from Alsace (Castro 1871:6), and the King William neighborhood, where Mary Ball and her children resided, was known for being primarily a German neighborhood (Long 2016).

The 1860 census records also indicate Joseph Sr. and Joseph Jr. were farmers in D’Hanis, and lived next to the Joseph Wolf household—likely Mary’s brother-in-law. As the tax records indicate Joseph owned \$600 worth of real estate in San Antonio at that time, it is possible he owned the lot where his wife and children were living in town. The 1865 tax roll suggests the same, as it shows Mary Ball, a widow) as paying taxes on a lot in San Antonio worth \$400 (Bexar County Tax Roll No.40, 1837-1873). Joseph’s brothers were working as stonemasons in San Antonio in 1860.

In May, 1867, Joseph Ball Jr. married Salome Keller in Bexar County (Bexar County Marriage Records E:73). According to the 1900 Bexar County Census, Salome immigrated to Texas in 1848 and was also Alsatian. The 1850 Medina County census shows the Keller family lived on the Medina River above Castroville next to Joseph Bader, one of the founders of Castroville (Boehme 1963; Ochoa 2010). In this census, Salome was incorrectly listed as a 6-year-old boy named Solomon. She and her older sister Theresa were the only children who were born in Germany. Her younger siblings Joseph and Mary were born in Texas.

By 1860, Salome’s family moved to Castroville, and four additional siblings were born. While ages correspond to the 1850 census and names are the same overall, the census record shows several errors, including the ages of her parents and listing “Selme” as having been born in Texas. A more comprehensive census search indicates this is the correct listing for Salome and her family.

While it is unclear how Joseph and Salome met, they were both connected through the Alsatian communities in D’Hanis and Castroville, perhaps not surprising considering the tendency of German nationals to settle in groups that allowed them to continue their traditions (Dase et al. 2010:34-36). By 1870, Joseph and Salome (listed as Sarah in the census) and their children Frank (2) and Caroline (8 mos) were living in San Antonio next door to Joseph’s brother John Ball. John had also married and started a family. Their brother Peter lived a few blocks away with their sister Theresa and her husband, Mike Studer, their children, and Peter and Theresa’s mother Mary. All the Ball sons were working as stonemasons at this time, and the census shows that John had accumulated about \$800 in real estate and Joseph had about \$200 in real estate. Interestingly, tax rolls for that year note that the brothers paid jointly on one parcel of land in San Antonio worth \$1250. This parcel of land was in the King William neighborhood, as the tax roll

Joseph Jr. and Salome Ball Homestead, Lytle, Bexar County, Texas

indicates the original land grantee to be the “Pajalache a.”, or the Pajalache Acequia, which was part of the original Mission Concepcion lands and ran along the west side of the King William neighborhood (Bexar County Tax Roll Reel No.40, 1837-1873). At this time, the neighborhood’s residents included an increasing number of Germans (Long 2016).

The Ball brothers had jointly purchased the San Antonio property from Phoebe Groesbeck in 1868 for \$650 (Bexar County Deed Records U2:449). The deed does not specifically mention houses existing on the property, but houses seem to have been constructed at both 116 and 120 King William Street. The house at 116 King William Street has been associated with Joseph Ball and is within the King William Historic District (NRHP 1972). The HABS report notes that while the house is believed to have been constructed by John Ball circa 1868, stylistic attributes suggest a construction date of at least a decade earlier when John Ball lived elsewhere (Eickenroht 1964). An accompanying HABS card notes John Ball engaged John H. Camp to build the house in 1856 (National Park Service 1975). Mary seems to have owned the tract she, Peter, and Theresa’s family lived on, as the census valued her real estate at \$600 while Peter, Theresa, and her son-in-law Mike Studer show no real estate holdings. Peter married Louise Schorp in 1872 (Bexar County Marriage Records E:449).

The 1875 tax roll shows that the taxes had gone up for John and Joseph on their King William lots. John paid \$900 that year while Joseph paid \$700. This could indicate that at least one of the houses was constructed between 1870 and 1875. Mary’s taxes stayed constant at \$400 (Bexar County Tax Rolls Reel 41, 1873-1882). By 1880, John and Joseph’s taxes had fallen slightly at \$800 and \$600 respectively, while Mary’s taxes held steady at \$400 (Bexar County Tax Rolls Reel 41, 1873-1882). The census indicates Joseph and John were still living next to each other on King William Street, and were both still working as stonemasons. Joseph and Sallie had increased their family from two children to eight children (Frank, Caroline, Severin, Anna, Matilda, George, Albert, and Theresa). A search for Peter, Louisa, and Mary in the Bexar County census did not locate them. However, Mary conveyed the town tract she owned to Peter in 1884 (Bexar County Deed Records 33:346), suggesting they continued to reside with Mary in that location.

In 1885, Joseph and John were each paying \$800 in taxes for their lots, and Peter paid \$850 (Bexar County Tax Rolls Reel 42, 1882-1888). All their tax payments had risen by 1890, when Peter paid \$1000, Joseph paid \$1150, and John paid \$1250 (Bexar County Tax Rolls Reel 43, 1888-1892), suggesting that overall, property values in the King William neighborhood may have been rising with the construction of new houses for some of the City’s prominent German businessmen. John and Joseph’s taxes equaled out at \$1250 by 1895 (Bexar County Tax Rolls Reel 44, 1892-1896).

The Ball Homestead

By 1898, John Ball started to acquire additional property outside San Antonio within the town of Van Raub (Bexar County Tax Rolls Reel 45, 1896-1898). Joseph and Salome Ball, however, traded their San Antonio tract for approximately 219 acres of land in rural Bexar County with Maria Conlon (Bexar County Deed Records 175:142), who moved next door to John in the King William District (1900 Bexar County Census Record). [REDACTED]

Joseph and Sallie transitioned quickly to living on their new property. They immediately constructed a stone fence around the property, constructed a brick house, and relocated to live on the tract (Bexar County Deed Records 1971:480). Rock walls or fences in rural Texas represent a uniquely German feature of the landscape (Dase et al. 2010:36). Rather than constructing their house out of timber and limestone, however, oral history indicates the Balls

Joseph Jr. and Salome Ball Homestead, Lytle, Bexar County, Texas

embraced local handmade brick from a nearby pottery (O'Banion 2016). The family also began farming, a typical pursuit of most German settlers in Bexar County.

The 1898 tax roll only shows the Balls paying taxes on the town lot, but not on the property near Lytle. By the following year, the tax rolls show that Joseph only paid taxes on the Lytle tracts, which continued to be the case through the early twentieth century. The acreage from the [REDACTED] where the house is located, was valued at \$630 while the adjacent acreage from the [REDACTED] were worth \$285 and \$30 respectively (Bexar County Tax Rolls Reel 45, 1896-1898 and Reel 46, 1898-1901).

Subsequent tax records suggest the Balls did make improvements to the [REDACTED] and built their house immediately. There was no significant change in their taxes until 1903, when the amount due on the [REDACTED] increased from \$275 to \$425 (Bexar County Tax Rolls Reel 47, part 8, 1901 [Boaden, Ed] – 1903 [Burton, J.F.]). While this is a substantial increase, the house was not located on this tract, and it is likely the increase represents an improvement such as an outbuilding. Again, taxes stayed constant until 1908, when the taxes on the [REDACTED] jumped from \$630 to \$945 (Bexar County Tax Rolls Reel 50, part 11, [Stevenson, W.E.–1090 Bowman, David]). This increase suggests either substantial improvements were made to the house or that an outbuilding might have been constructed at this time.

In 1909, taxes were not broken out individually by tract, but were combined into a total of \$2,390, which exceeds the total number of taxes from the previous year substantially (Bexar County Tax Reel 551, part 12 1909 [Stevenson, W.E. – 1909 Bowman, David]). The total tax amount held steady in 1910, but by 1915, had increased to \$3,015 (Bexar County Tax Rolls Reel 51, part 12, 1909 [Boyd, Cora – 1910]; Series 2 Tax Rolls, Roll 102 Anderson-Bexar [Belzung, Frank]). The taxes had increased again by 1920, when Joseph's estate owed taxes on property worth \$3,710 (Series 2 Roll 196, Baylor [Unknown] – Bowie [Sanders, W.B.]).

The Balls never had more than a few cows and horses, with a few dogs, a wagon, and some machinery, indicating that ranching and commercial dairying were not part of their farming efforts. Instead, it appears they cultivated other agricultural crops, and did not have large landholdings (Dase et al. 2010: 11). There are no agricultural census records for Bexar County after 1880, so the types of crops the Ball family produced are unknown. However, they were substantial enough that they likely had tenants in 1900. The 1900 Bexar County Census shows that Joseph and Sallie, listed as Sarah in the census, had four of their children, Severin (29), Anna M. (26), Albert (21), and Crystle (15) as well as nephew Frank S. (8) living with them on the farm. Severin and Albert worked the farm with their father. Interestingly, the family had renters living on both sides of them. On one side, Tomas Gomez (29) headed a household containing his wife Mercida (21) and children Simona (3) and Benino (2), while on the other side Gregorio Alcalon (32) lived with his wife Juana (30) and daughter Isabella (1). Another family of renters, headed by Juan Carasco (68) included Carasco's son-in-law Pablo Pena (29), daughter Francesca (26) and grandsons Manuel (10) and Jose (7). A neighbor who had lived near the Balls for his entire life noted that the land was farmed continuously by the Balls and their tenants through written and oral leases, suggesting it is possible some of these renters could have lived on the property.

By 1910, there were no renters living next to the Balls, and only two of the Ball children, Annie (35) and Albert (31) remained at home. Albert was still working the farm with his father, who was 74. Joseph died in March, 1918, leaving behind Sallie and their 10 children (Frank, Caroline, Severin, Albert, Henry, Matilda, Annie, Theresa, George, and Crystal (Bexar County Deed Records 804:340; Figure 18). Sallie remained living on the land with Severin, Anna, and Albert. Sallie, who was 75, may have employed renters to cultivate the land, as neither Albert nor Anna was listed as a laborer, and Severin was a ginner who operated a cotton gin. While the Balls were likely cultivating cotton during this time, it is also likely Severin was providing ginning services to other members of the local farming community, as was common in twentieth century Texas (Carmack 2013). Oral history suggests that Severin and Albert did not alter the

Joseph Jr. and Salome Ball Homestead, Lytle, Bexar County, Texas

house during their occupation, and that the room with the dirt floor was left open for chickens to roam freely in and out (O'Banion 2016).

Sallie died in 1929, and was buried with Joseph at Our Lady of Grace Cemetery in Lacoste, Medina County, Texas (Ford 2003). Severin and Albert continued to farm the land, appearing in the 1930 and 1940 censuses as living together in the house. In 1943, the surviving children and grandchildren conveyed the 194.86-acre property (the original property size had been reduced through a road easement) to Laworia and Elsie Scoggin (Bexar County Deed Records 1969:362).

Scoggin Homestead

The Scoggins grew cotton and subsistence crops on the property. They made a few minor modifications to the home, including adding an entry to the rear of the house (which has since been removed), enclosing the porches (which have been rebuilt), and removing the outside staircase. Laworia and Elsie also raised their granddaughters in this house, one of whom, Sandra O'Banion, restored the house.

The interior of the house retained the layout it had during the Ball family's occupation, although the Scoggin family did not allow chickens or livestock in the house as the Balls had. The kitchen was often the only room heated in the winter (O'Banion 2016).

The Scoggins retained the property until their deaths, when they passed it on to their heirs. They split the property into separate tracts at this time, conveying the tract with the house and barn to their granddaughter, Sandra O'Banion. Ms. O'Banion restored the house in 2012.

Architectural Context

The Ball house is significant as a unique and late example of a German folk dwelling in rural Bexar County. Since there is not a recent survey of agricultural properties in Bexar County or Medina County, the MPDF *Historic Farms and Ranches in Bexar County* (Dase) was relied upon heavily. According to the MPDF, early German vernacular architecture featured "either cut stone or *Fachwerk*, which employs half-timber frame construction with nogging in-fill that could include stone or brick. Local materials adapted well to traditional German building methods. Later alterations sometimes plastered or clad over original materials" (Dase et al. 2010: 34). The floor plan, design, and materials of the Ball house reflect German construction methods found in Bexar County. Key character defining features like the plastered covered masonry exterior walls, exterior staircase, and partially finished lower level were unmistakably passed down to Joseph and Salome from their ancestors and other local influences. Since they were both so young when they came to Texas it seems unlikely they were directly influenced by building practices in Alsace. Instead, the Ball home represents a late nineteenth century adaptation of traditional German building practices. With the arrival of the railroad in 1877 long before the 1898 Ball house was constructed, popular architectural styles and building materials were widely accessible, even for rural residents. Thus, the intentional use of local handmade brick, whitewashed plaster, and wood rather than manufactured construction materials to create a simple and efficiently designed house is a symbolic continuation and gradual evolution of traditional German building practices making this home rather unique in its context (Dase et al. 2010:21-23, 34-36, 58-63) (Figure 5).

Joseph Jr. and Salome Ball Homestead, Lytle, Bexar County, Texas

Conclusion

In conclusion, the property is nominated to the National Register of Historic Places at the local level of significance under the multiple property submission *Historic Farms and Ranches of Bexar County, Texas* under Criteria A in the area of Ethnic Heritage/European and Criterion C in the area of Architecture. Joseph Ball Jr. and his wife Salome both immigrated from Alsace at a young age, initially settled in predominantly Alsatian communities to pursue agriculture before relocating to San Antonio where they married. Following the pattern of other immigrants, Joseph Ball Jr. found economic success came more quickly when he worked as a stonemason in San Antonio. After decades as a successful stonemason, he returned to rural Texas by moving to the edge of Bexar County about 20 miles from Castroville, Medina County. This homestead, and particularly the house, represent the transmission and later adaptation of traditional German building practices. It highlights the evolution of construction techniques and thus serves as a unique and late example of a nineteenth century German folk dwelling in rural Bexar County. Criterion D will not be pursued at this time, but the property is eligible under Criterion D pending further investigation. The period of significance begins in 1898 and ends in 1943.

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Geographical Data Restricted

10. Geographical Data

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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Maps 1-8 Restricted

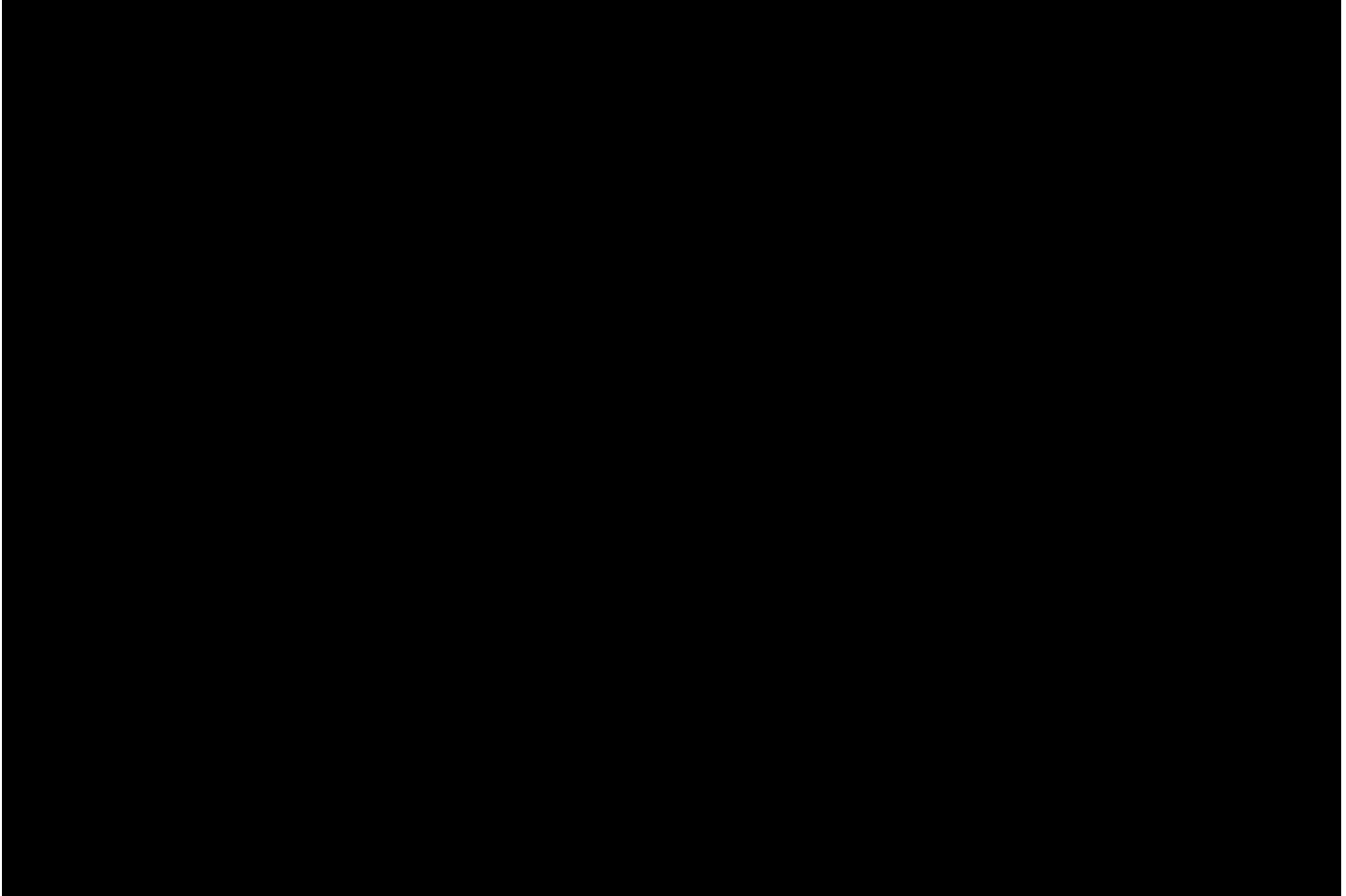
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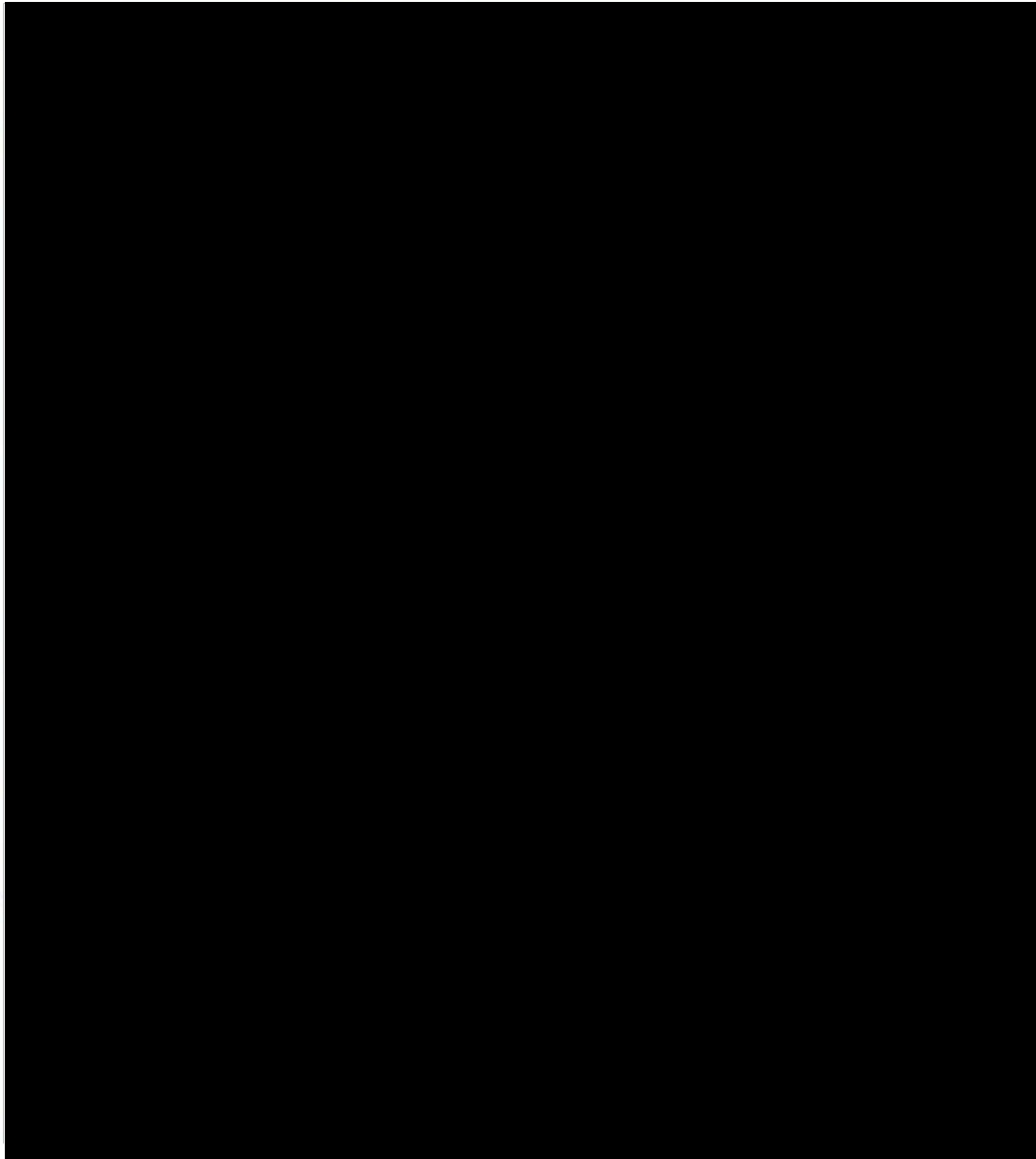
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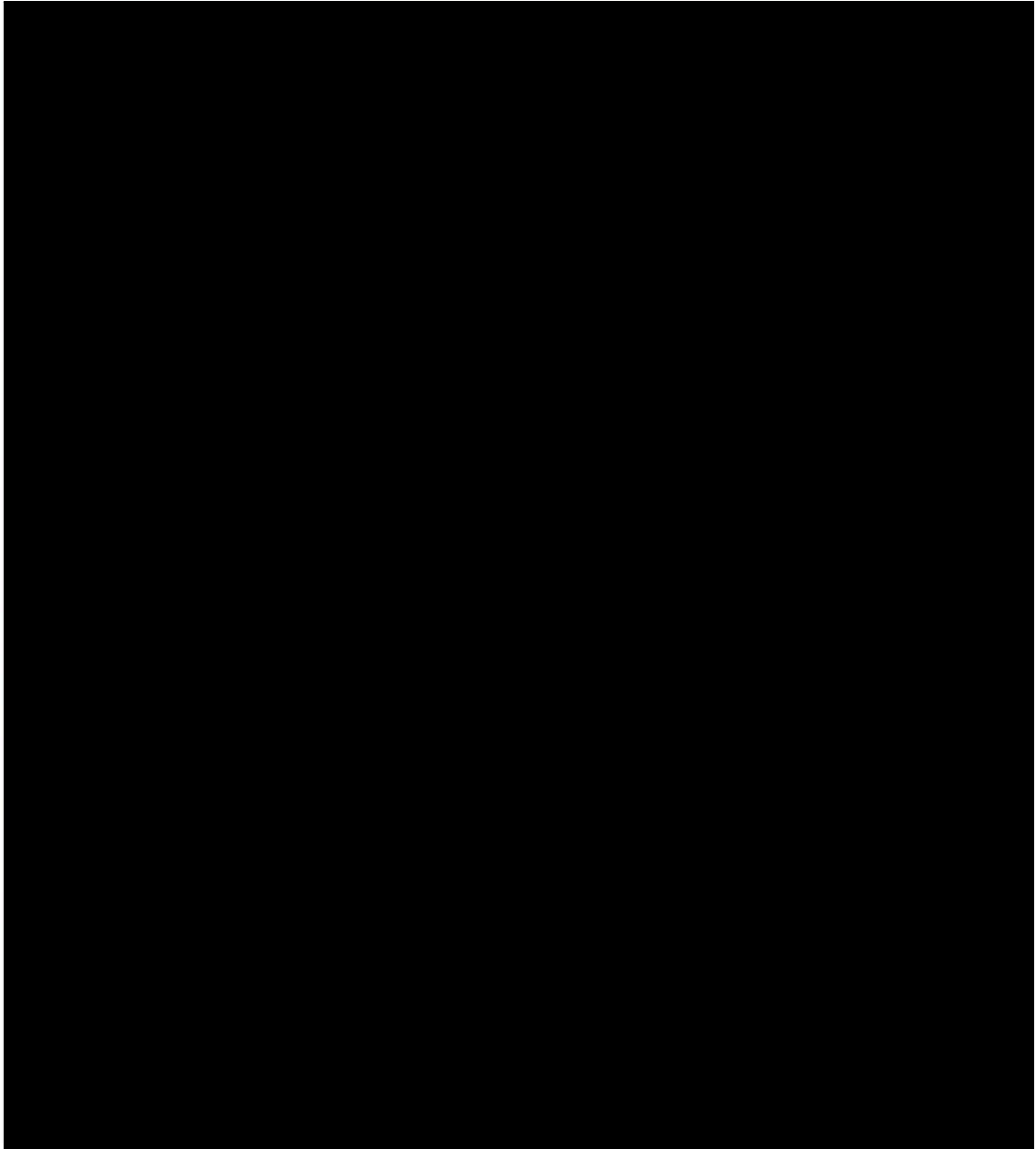
Joseph Jr. and Salome Ball Homestead, Lytle, Bexar County, Texas



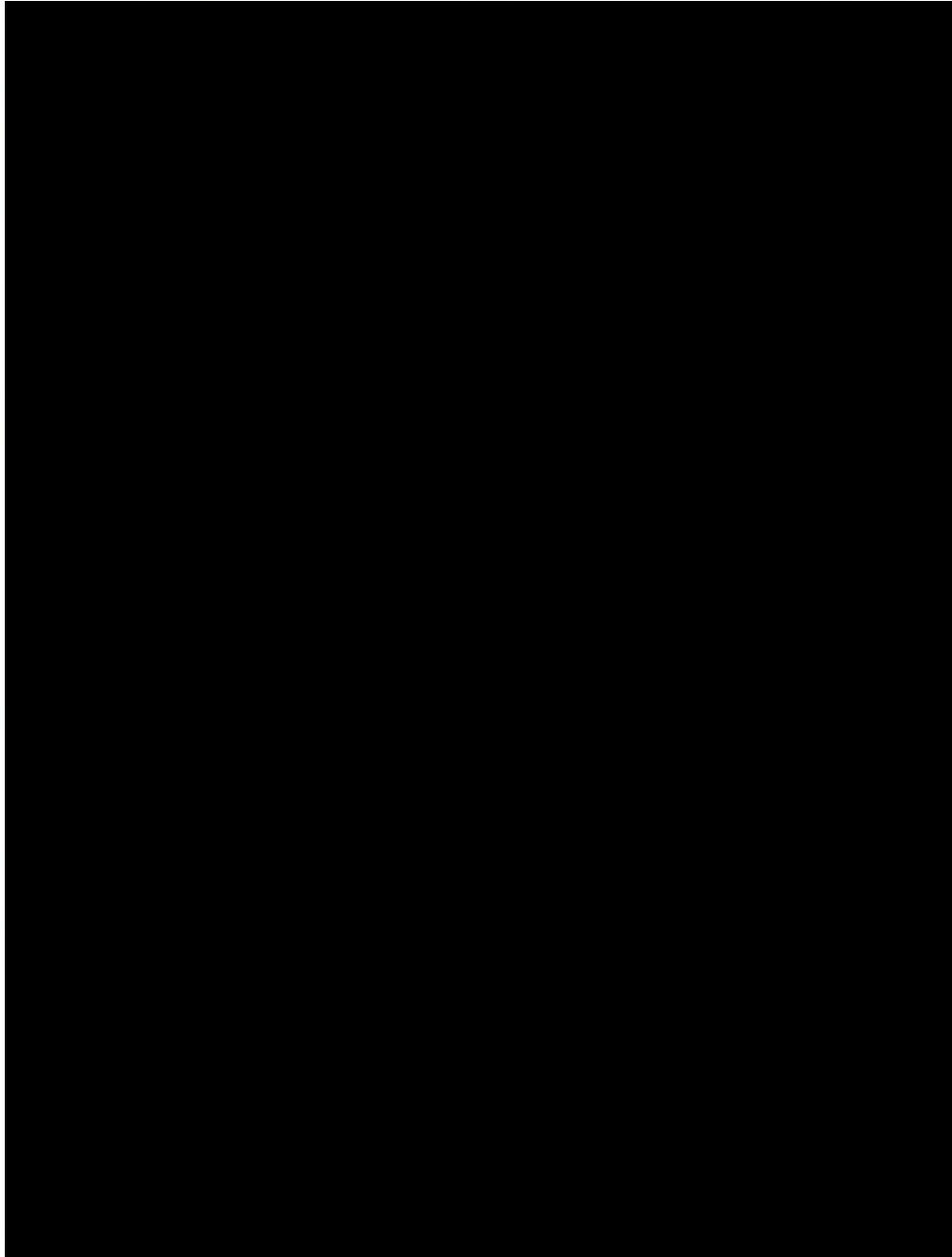
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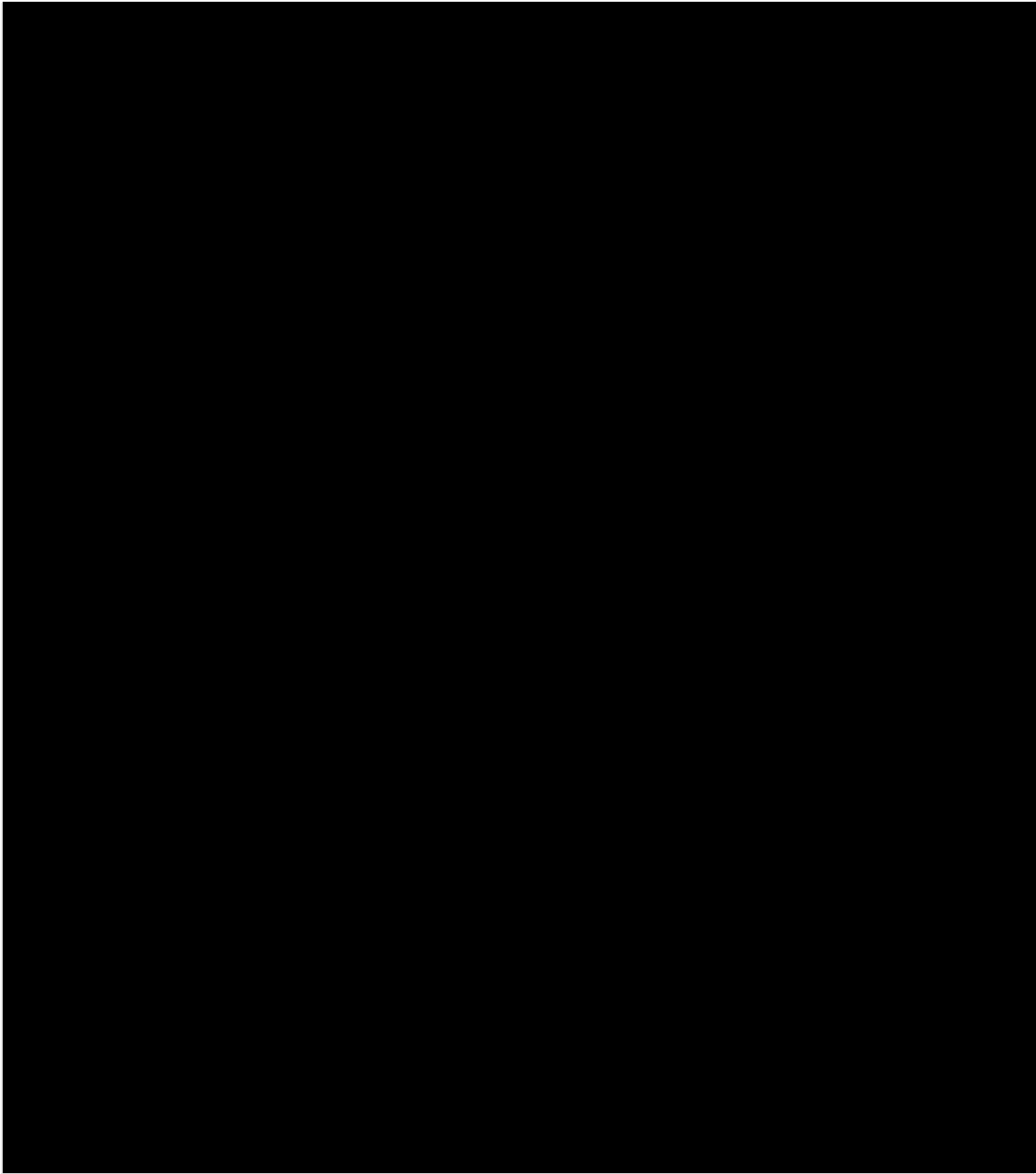
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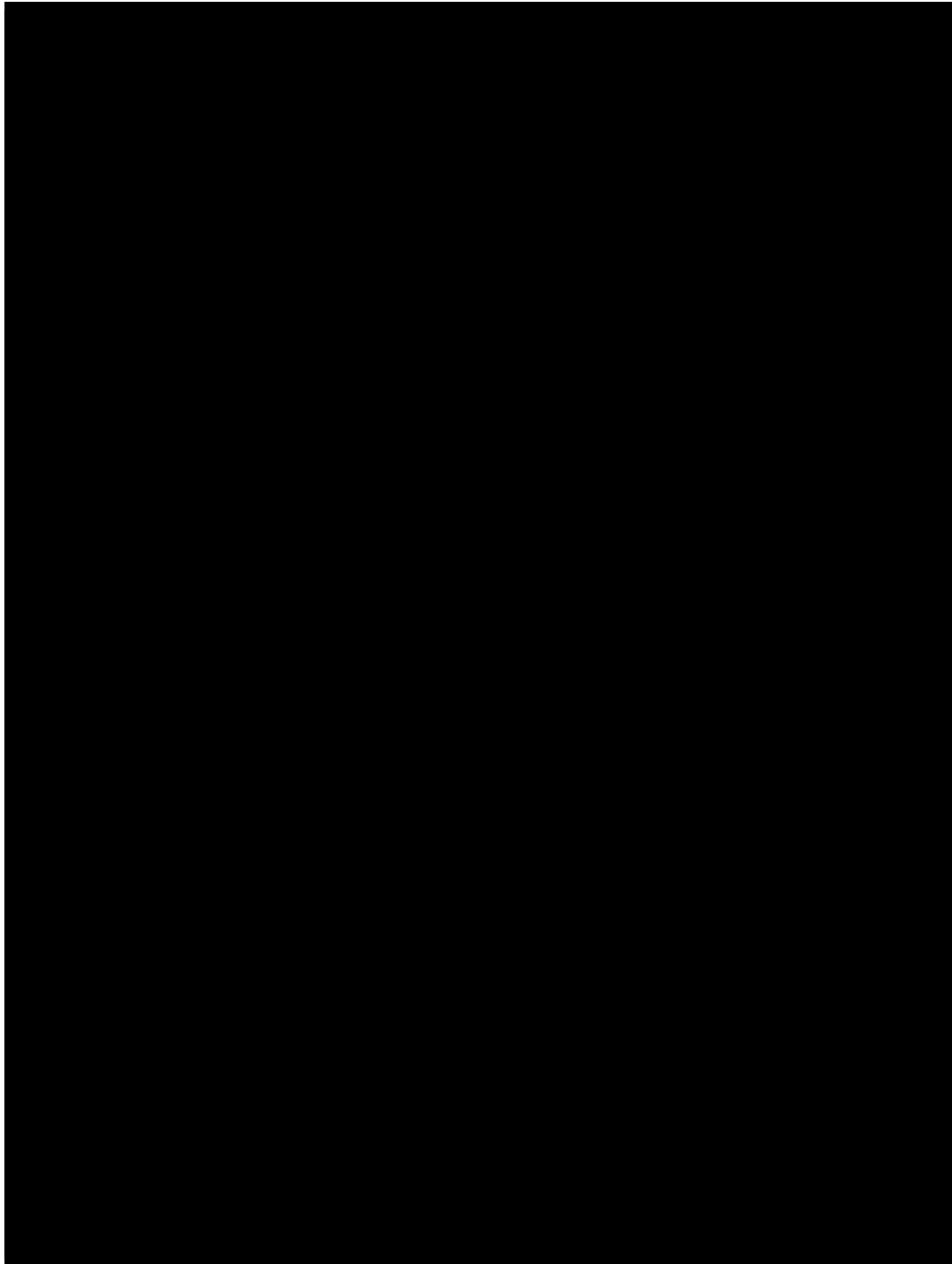
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Joseph Jr. and Salome Ball Homestead, Lytle, Bexar County, Texas



Joseph Jr. and Salome Ball Homestead, Lytle, Bexar County, Texas

Figure 1: Pasture Land South of the House
Source: Pape-Dawson Engineers



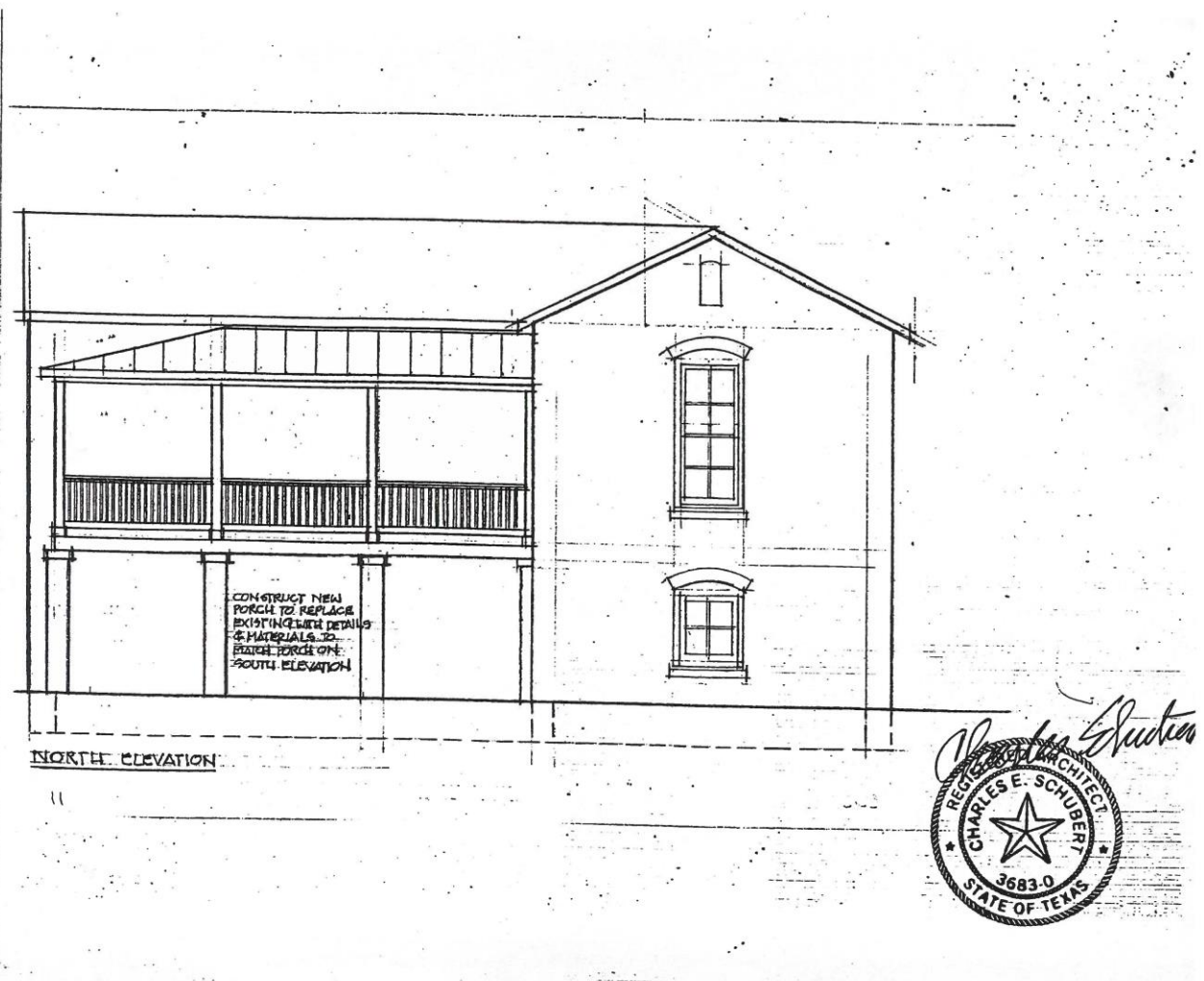
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Figure 2: Pasture Land West of the House
Source: Pape-Dawson Engineers



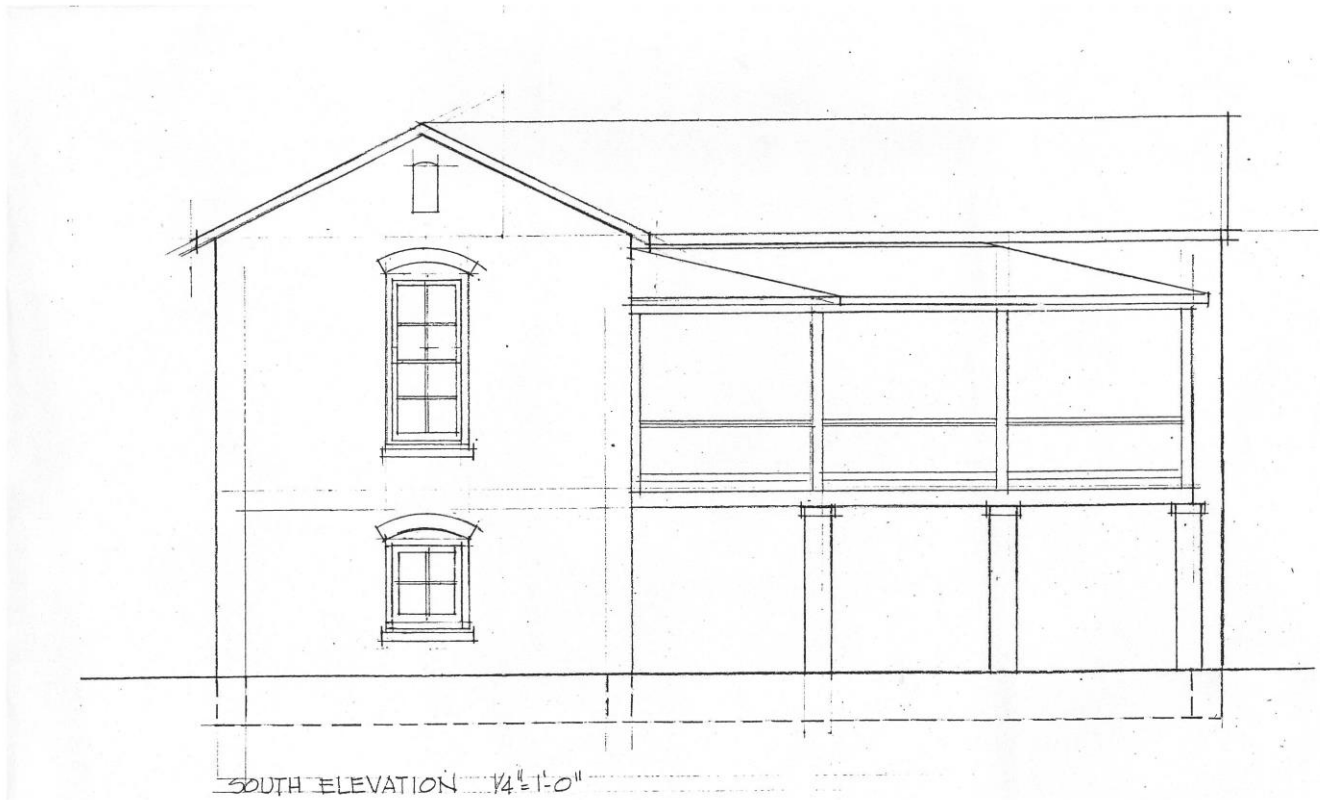
Joseph Jr. and Salome Ball Homestead, Lytle, Bexar County, Texas

Figure 3: Northwest (Primary) Elevation
Source: Sandra Scoggin O'Banion



Joseph Jr. and Salome Ball Homestead, Lytle, Bexar County, Texas

Figure 4: Southeast Elevation
Source: Sandra Scoggin O'Banion



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Figure 5: Brick Walls in Resource A

Source: San Antonio Conservation Society, Patricia Ezell



Joseph Jr. and Salome Ball Homestead, Lytle, Bexar County, Texas

Figure 6: Segmental Arch Window Opening in Resource A
Source: San Antonio Conservation Society

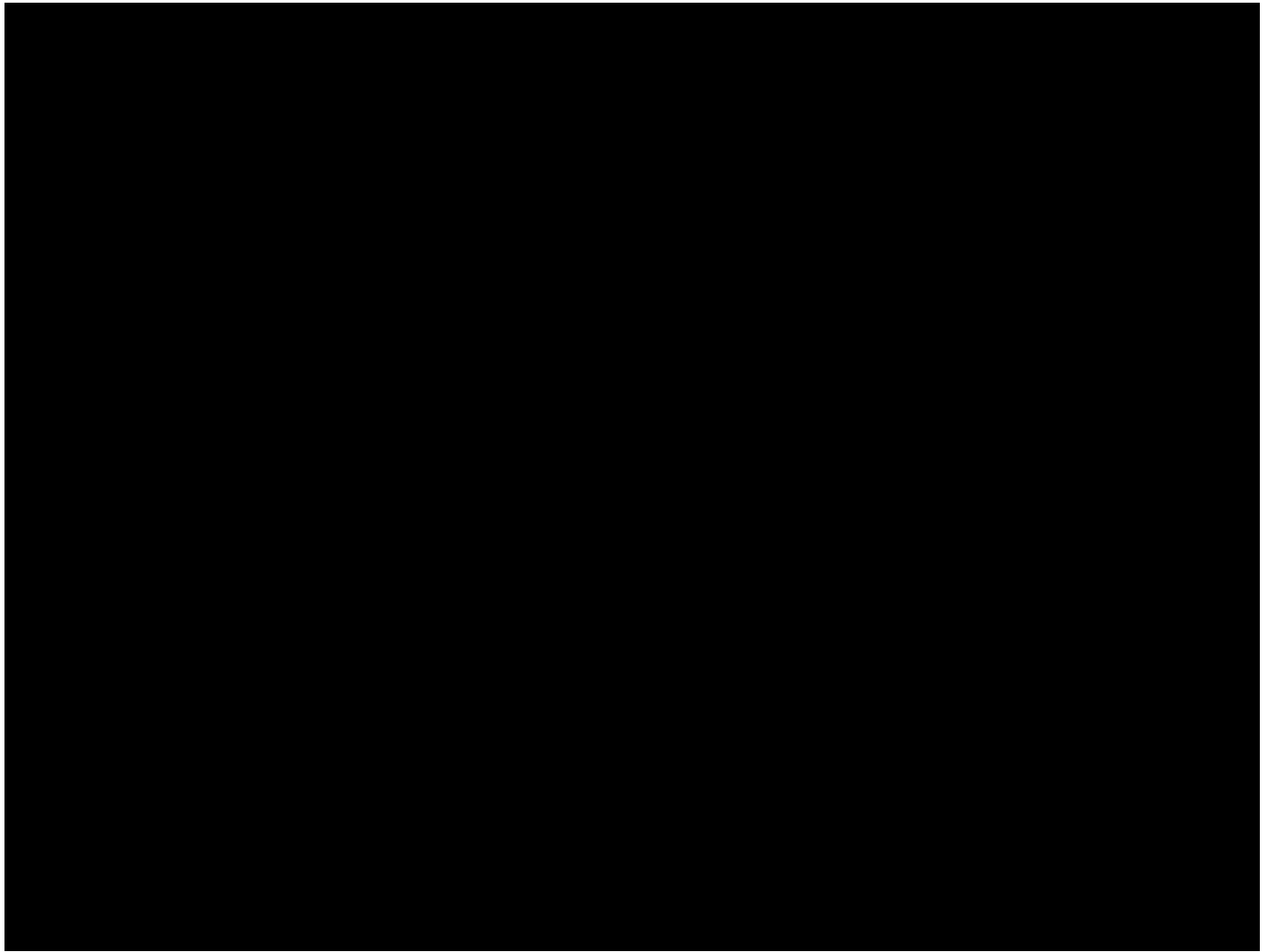


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Figure 7 Restricted

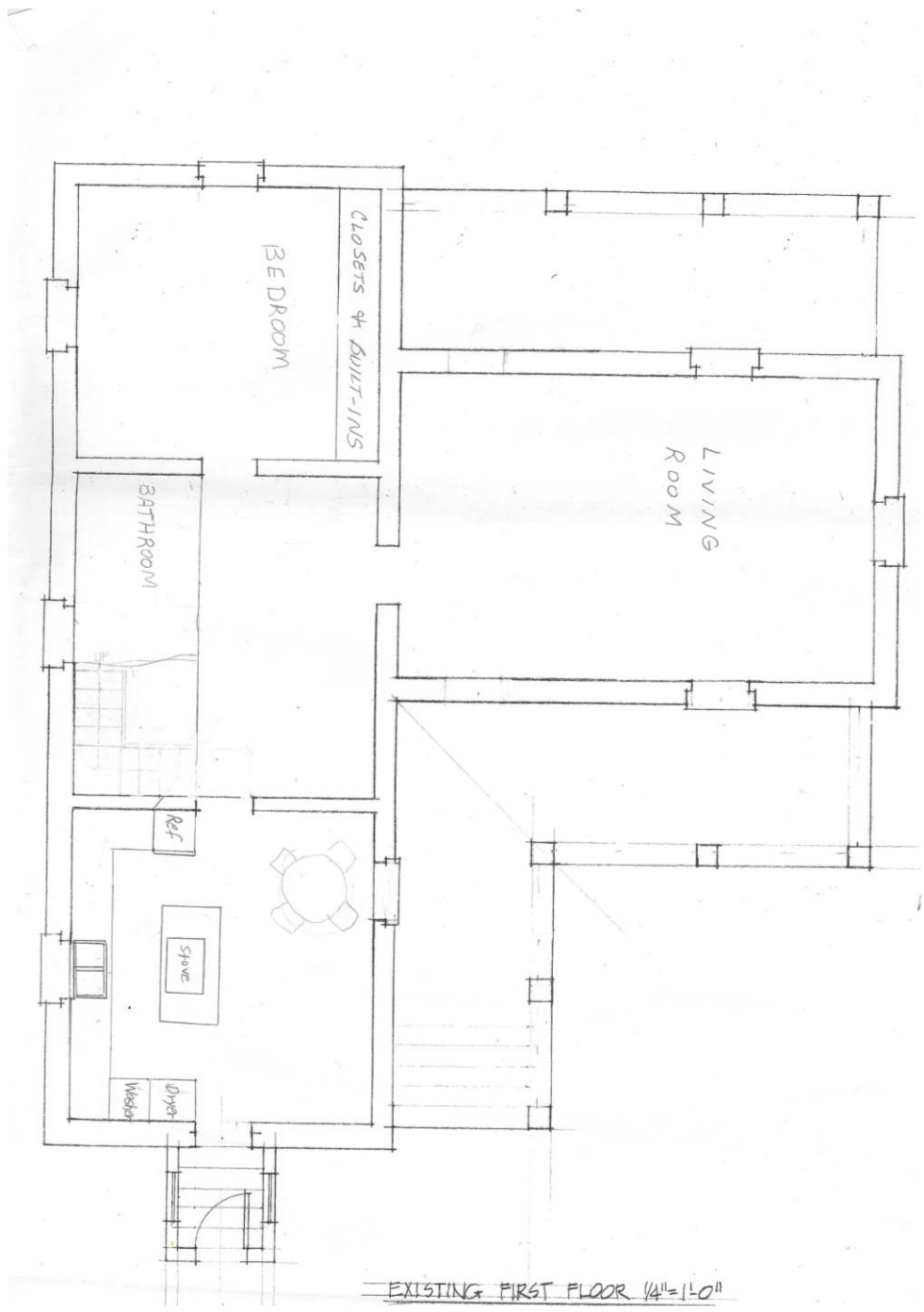
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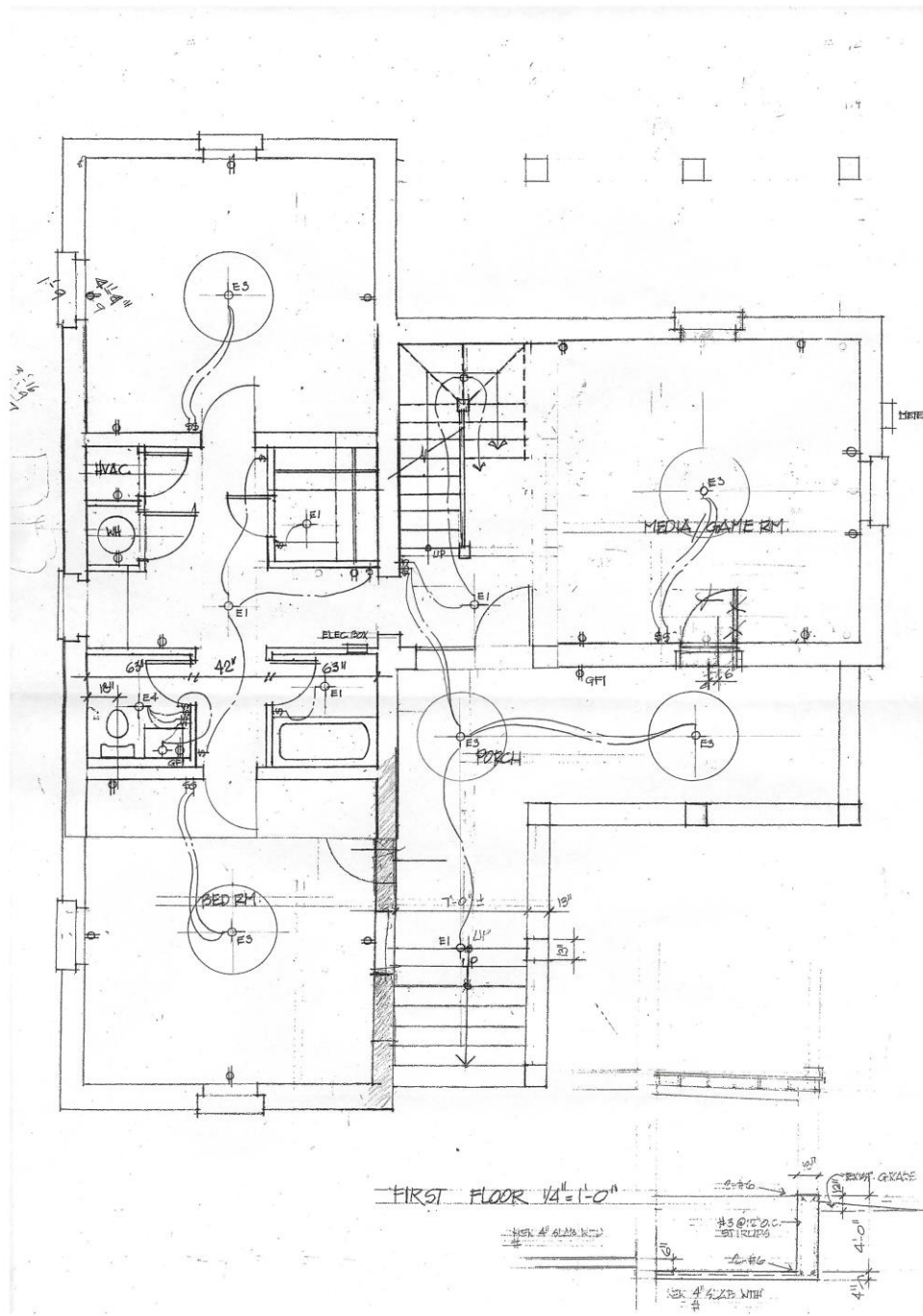
Joseph Jr. and Salome Ball Homestead, Lytle, Bexar County, Texas

Figure 8: Floor Plan – First Floor at the Time of 2012 Work
Source: Sandra Scoggin O'Banion



Joseph Jr. and Salome Ball Homestead, Lytle, Bexar County, Texas

Figure 9: Floor Plan – Current First Floor
Source: Sandra Scoggin O'Banion



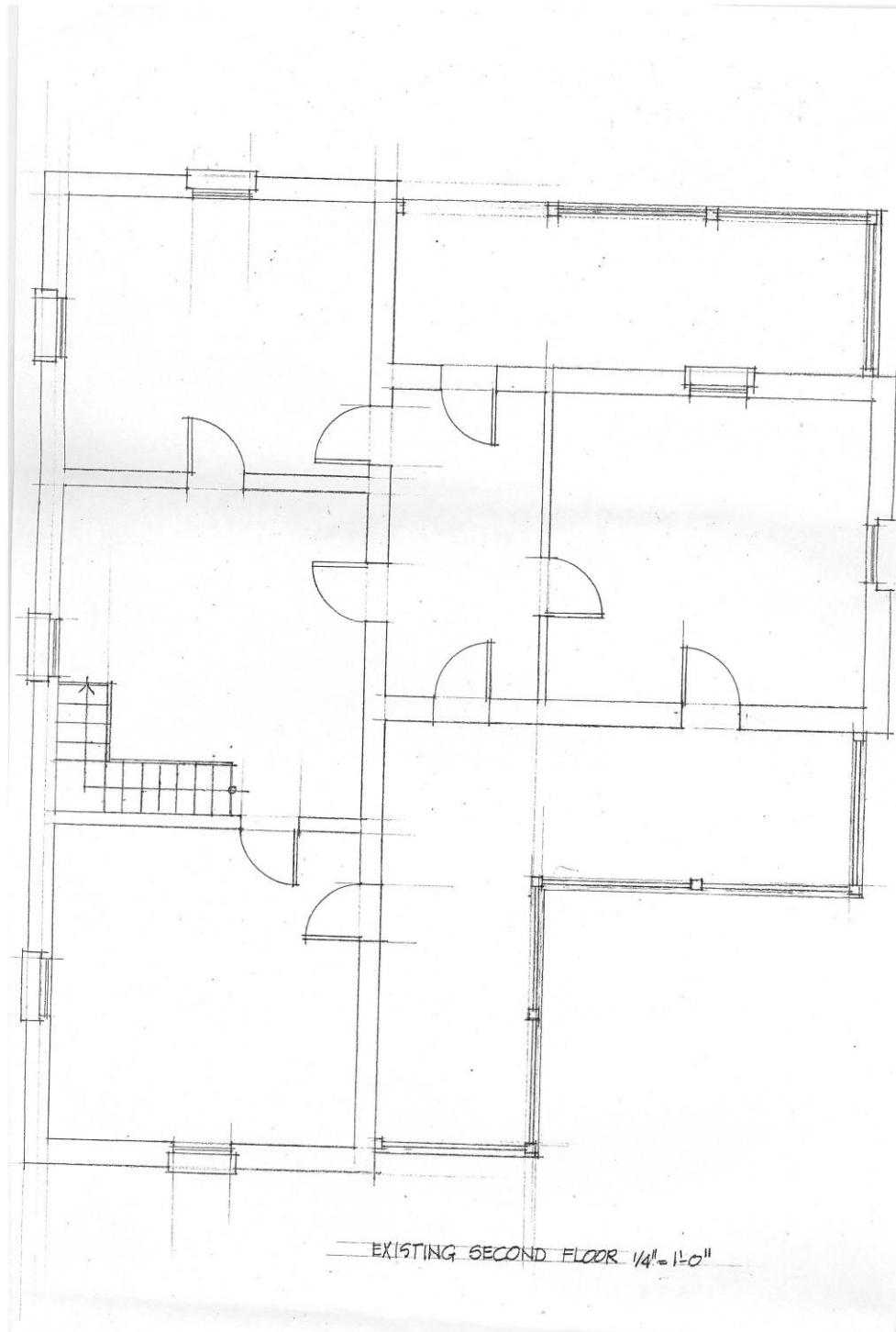
Joseph Jr. and Salome Ball Homestead, Lytle, Bexar County, Texas

Figure 10: Living Area – First Floor (Current)
Source: Pape-Dawson Engineers



Joseph Jr. and Salome Ball Homestead, Lytle, Bexar County, Texas

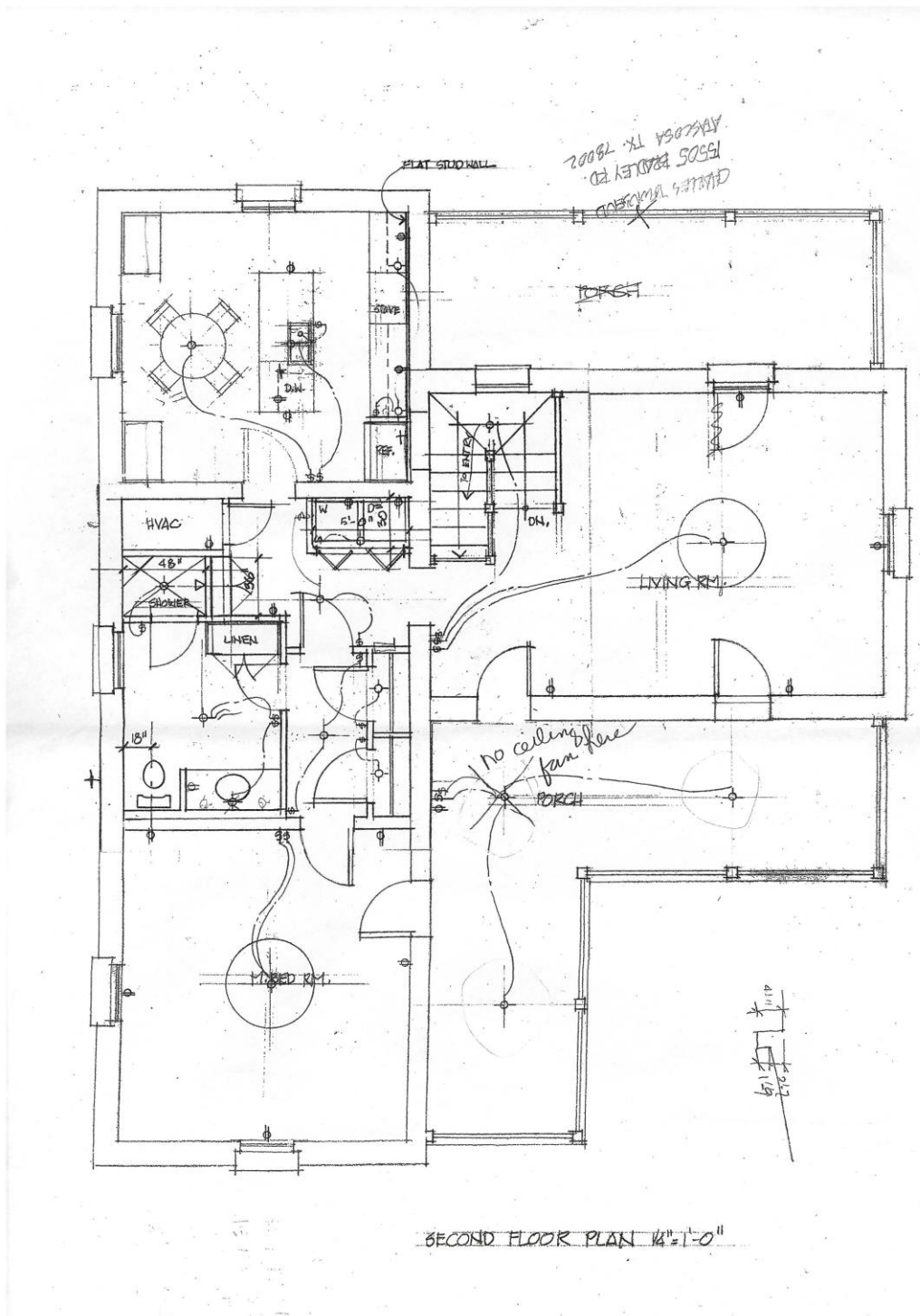
Figure 11: Floor Plan – Second Floor at the time of 2012 Work
Source: Sandra Scoggin O'Banion



Joseph Jr. and Salome Ball Homestead, Lytle, Bexar County, Texas

Figure 12: Floor Plan – Current Second Floor

Source: Sandra O'Banion



Joseph Jr. and Salome Ball Homestead, Lytle, Bexar County, Texas

Figure 13: Resource A, Southeast Elevation Before Completed Work

Source: San Antonio Conservation Society



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Figure 14: Resource A, Before Completed Work
Source: San Antonio Conservation Society



Joseph Jr. and Salome Ball Homestead, Lytle, Bexar County, Texas

Figure 15: Joseph Jr. and Salome Ball Family
Source: Sandra O'Banion



Joseph Jr. and Salome Ball Homestead, Lytle, Bexar County, Texas

Photo 1

Masonry Dwelling (A)
Primary (Northwest) Elevation
Camera facing southeast



Joseph Jr. and Salome Ball Homestead, Lytle, Bexar County, Texas

Photo 2

Masonry Dwelling (A)

West oblique view

Camera facing east



Joseph Jr. and Salome Ball Homestead, Lytle, Bexar County, Texas

Photo 3

Masonry Dwelling (A)

Southwest Elevation

Camera facing northeast



Joseph Jr. and Salome Ball Homestead, Lytle, Bexar County, Texas

Photo 4

Masonry Dwelling (A)
Rear (Southeast) Elevation
Camera facing northwest



Joseph Jr. and Salome Ball Homestead, Lytle, Bexar County, Texas

Photo 5

Masonry Dwelling (A)

East oblique view

Camera facing west



Joseph Jr. and Salome Ball Homestead, Lytle, Bexar County, Texas

Photo 6

Masonry Dwelling (A)

Northeast Elevation

Camera facing southwest



Joseph Jr. and Salome Ball Homestead, Lytle, Bexar County, Texas

Photo 7

Masonry Dwelling (A)
First Floor Interior
Camera facing northwest



Joseph Jr. and Salome Ball Homestead, Lytle, Bexar County, Texas

Photo 8

Masonry Dwelling (A)

Interior First Floor

Camera facing south



Joseph Jr. and Salome Ball Homestead, Lytle, Bexar County, Texas

Photo 9

Masonry Dwelling (A)
Interior Second Floor
Camera facing northwest



Joseph Jr. and Salome Ball Homestead, Lytle, Bexar County, Texas

Photo 10

Shed (B)

Northwest oblique view

Camera facing southeast



Joseph Jr. and Salome Ball Homestead, Lytle, Bexar County, Texas

Photo 11

Frame Barn (C)

North Elevation

Camera facing south



Joseph Jr. and Salome Ball Homestead, Lytle, Bexar County, Texas

Photo 12
Frame Barn (C)
East Elevation
Camera facing west



Joseph Jr. and Salome Ball Homestead, Lytle, Bexar County, Texas

Photo 13

Frame Barn (C)

Southeast oblique view

Camera facing northwest



Joseph Jr. and Salome Ball Homestead, Lytle, Bexar County, Texas

Photo 14

Frame Barn (C)

Southwest oblique view

Camera facing northeast



Joseph Jr. and Salome Ball Homestead, Lytle, Bexar County, Texas

Photo 15

Frame Barn (C)

West Elevation

Camera facing east



Joseph Jr. and Salome Ball Homestead, Lytle, Bexar County, Texas

Photo 16

Shed (D)

Northwest oblique view

Camera facing southeast



Joseph Jr. and Salome Ball Homestead, Lytle, Bexar County, Texas

Photo 17

Water Tank (E)

South view

Camera facing north



Joseph Jr. and Salome Ball Homestead, Lytle, Bexar County, Texas

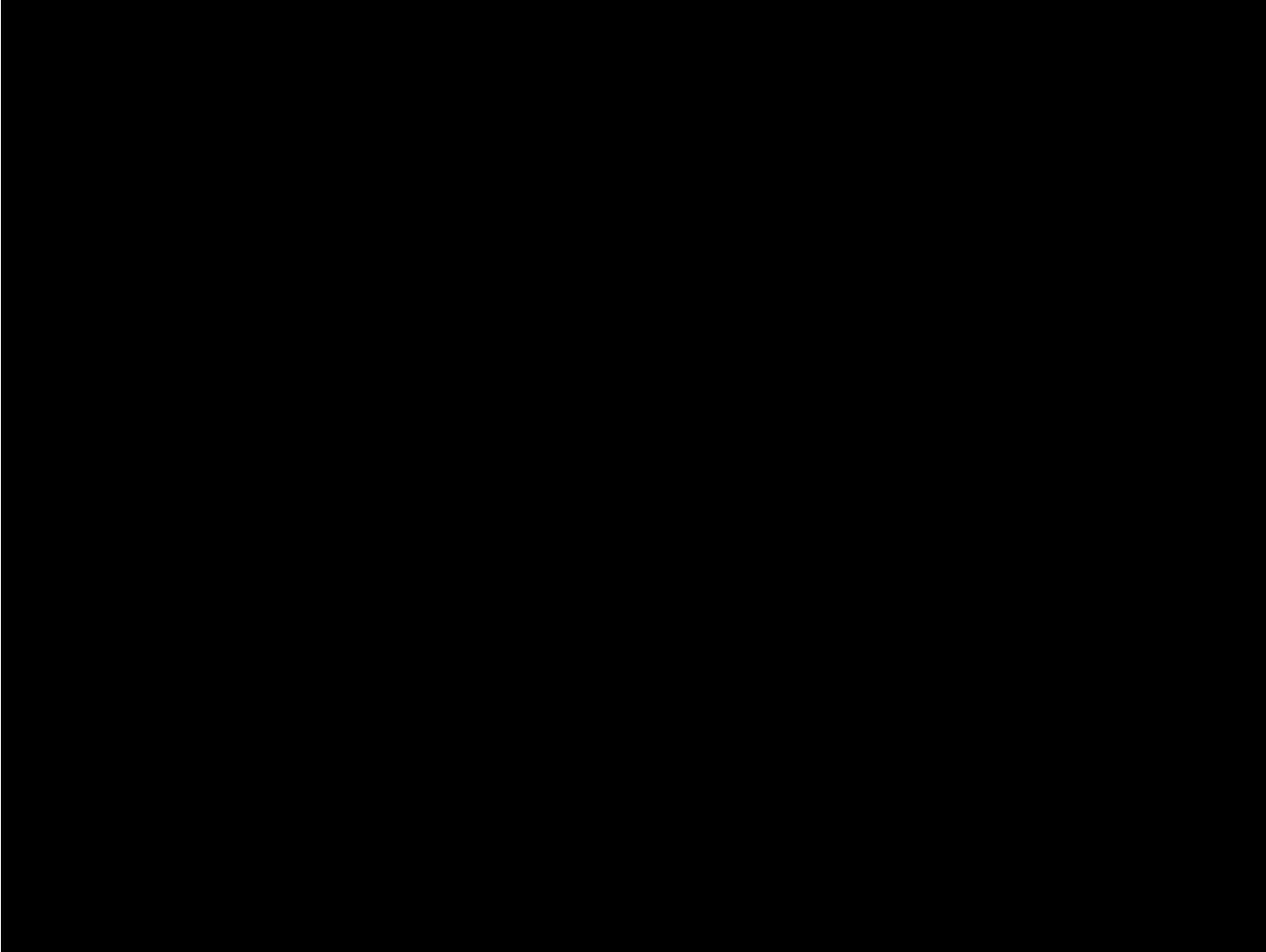
Photo 18

Trailer House (F)
Northwest oblique view
Camera facing southeast



Joseph Jr. and Salome Ball Homestead, Lytle, Bexar County, Texas

Photos 19-20 Restricted



Joseph Jr. and Salome Ball Homestead, Lytle, Bexar County, Texas

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Joseph Jr. and Salome Ball Homestead, Lytle, Bexar County, Texas

Photo 21

Site Overview

Masonry Dwelling

Camera facing South

