

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places Registration Form****1. Name of Property**

Historic Name: Colwick Homestead
Other name/site number: 41BQ332; CP Farm; Cleng Peerson Farm
Name of related multiple property listing: The Norwegian Settlement of Bosque County (1983)

2. Location

Street & number: 736 County Road 4230
City or town: Clifton State: Texas County: Bosque
Not for publication: ☒ Vicinity: ☒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 Wolff State Historic Preservation Officer 9/18/15
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

Colwick Homestead, Clifton (V), Bosque 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 type="checkbox"/>	district
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	site
<input type="checkbox"/>	structure
<input type="checkbox"/>	object

Number of Resources within Property

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

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

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions: DOMESTIC/single dwelling and secondary structure

Current Functions: VACANT/not in use

7. Description

Architectural Classification: OTHER: pre-railroad-era log construction

Principal Exterior Materials: Wood

Narrative Description (see continuation sheets 7-6 through 7-11)

Colwick Homestead, Clifton (V), Bosque County, Texas

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

	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 values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
X	D	Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations: N/A

Areas of Significance: Archeology: Historic/Non-aboriginal; Ethnic Heritage (Norwegian); Architecture

Period of Significance: c. 1855 – 1947

Significant Dates: N/A

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

Cultural Affiliation (only if criterion d is marked): European: Norwegian

Architect/Builder: N/A

Narrative Statement of Significance (see continuation sheets 8-12 through 8-17)

9. Major Bibliographic References

Bibliography (see continuation sheets 9-18 through 9-19)

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 -- Specify Repository:

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

Colwick Homestead, Clifton (V), Bosque County, Texas

10. Geographical Data

RESTRICT THIS LOCATIONAL DATA FROM PUBLIC ACCESS

Acreage of Property: Approximately 2.47 acres

Coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates (use decimal degree format):

Datum if other than WGS84: N/A

1. Latitude: 31.722835 Longitude: -97.686421

Verbal Boundary Description: The nominated property is 2.47 acres near the far western perimeter of the larger 26-acre parcel identified with Account #R03884 by the Bosque County Appraisal District.

The nominated property boundary forms a 100 meter by 100 meter rhombus roughly centered on the archeological remains of the historic Colwick home. The southwestern and northwestern sides of the rhombus follow the legally recorded property lines from the most western corner post of the property along CR 4230. The remaining two sides parallel the others. See map 4 on page 22.

Boundary Justification: The nominated boundaries were drawn to encompass the core of the historic homestead, including the archeological remains of the main house complex and former cemetery, as well as the extant log building. This boundary roughly mirrors those of the recorded archeological site 41BQ332

11. Form Prepared By

Name/title: Rebecca Shelton (THC Archeologist) and Carlyn Hammons (THC Historian), based upon the research and archeology reports of Bryan Jameson and Art Tawater of the Texas Archeological Stewardship Network
Organization: Texas Historical Commission; Texas Archeological Stewardship Network
Address: P.O. Box 12276
City or Town: Austin State: Texas Zip Code: 78711
Email: Rebecca.shelton@thc.state.tx.us and Carlyn.hammons@thc.state.tx.us
Telephone: 512.463.6100
Date: August 2015

Additional Documentation

Maps (see continuation sheet Map-20 through Map-22)

Additional items (see continuation sheets Figure-21 through Figure-29)

Photographs (see continuation sheet Photo-30 through Photo-36)

Colwick Homestead, Clifton (V), Bosque County, Texas

Photographs

Name of Property: Colwick Homestead
City or Vicinity: Vicinity of Clifton
County, State: Bosque County
Photographer: Bryan James
Date Photographed: As noted below
Number of Photo(s): 10

The following digital images accompanied this nomination on disk. For reference, they are also included at the end of this document, beginning on page 30.

TX_Bosque County_Colwick Homestead_0001.tiff
Overall view to the north-northeast. March 16, 2015.

TX_Bosque County_Colwick Homestead_0002.tiff
Feature 1 in the foreground; view to the north-northeast. June 26, 2014.

TX_Bosque County_Colwick Homestead_0003.tiff
East façade of the log building (contributing). Camera facing west. February 20, 2015.

TX_Bosque County_Colwick Homestead_0004.tiff
Southeast oblique. Camera facing approximately northwest. February 20, 2015.

TX_Bosque County_Colwick Homestead_0005.tiff
Detail of southeast corner. June 26, 2014.

TX_Bosque County_Colwick Homestead_0006.tiff
Detail of external wall bracing (south wall). June 26, 2014.

TX_Bosque County_Colwick Homestead_0007.tiff
Features 6(foreground) and 5 (background). View to the east. June 26, 2014.

TX_Bosque County_Colwick Homestead_0008.tiff
View to the southeast. Feature in foreground is possible privy location. December 3, 2014.

TX_Bosque County_Colwick Homestead_0009.tiff
Feature 9 (earthen wall cellar). View to the east. October 3, 2014.

TX_Bosque County_Colwick Homestead_0010.tiff
Previous grave location in former family cemetery. View approximately to the southeast. October 20, 2014.

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.

Colwick Homestead, Clifton (V), Bosque County, Texas

Narrative Description

Located in rural southwest Bosque County, the Colwick Homestead (41BQ332) is primarily an archeological site that once contained a large home, associated outbuildings, and a family cemetery. The remains of these features are collectively counted as one contributing site. It also contains one contributing building—a single-pen log building dating from the mid-nineteenth century. Norwegian colonizer Cleng Peerson once called this property home for a brief time before granting it to Ovee Colwick, a Norwegian immigrant, around 1860. The burials in the family plot were relocated in 1962, and the home itself was removed in the 1970s, leaving only archeological evidence of their existence. The site and the log building remained relatively undisturbed, and recent archeological investigation demonstrates that integrity is high.

Environment

The Colwick Homestead archeological site (41BQ332) is located in North Central Texas, in rural southwest Bosque County, approximately 80 miles south-southwest of the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex. The nominated property is located on approximately 26 acres (ac) (10.52 hectares [ha]) of land southeast of Clifton. The site core is approximately 100 m². It is 0.6 miles north of Neils Creek on a low, southeast trending ridge. An intermittent tributary is 400 meters east of the property boundary.

In 2014, site vegetation was characterized by a mix of open grass zones in the central portion that is surrounded by wooded stands of oak, juniper, mesquite and hackberry. Immediately to the north, west and south of the homestead are cultivated hay fields.

Located on the 26-acre property, but outside of the nominated boundaries, is a 1990s manufactured home, as well as a recently-constructed barn and smoke house.

Time Period of Occupation/Use

The site was originally part of the Andres Broten Survey, Abstract #81, dated May 24, 1854, for 320 acres. After the death of Broten, Cleng Peerson cared for and improved the property, and in 1857, the State of Texas granted possession of the property to Cleng Peerson (preemption grant-State Record Volume 13, Patent 913). In 1859, Peerson gave half (160 acres) his land to Ovee Colwick in return for Peerson to be able live on the property and be cared for, but it was not until November 26, 1860, that a deed was formally signed. Ovee Colwick moved to Bosque County and between 1859 and 1860, and a three room rock house was built with a cellar located below the main room (Bosque County Deed Vol E, Vol D, and Vol 1). As the Colwick family grew, additional rooms were constructed of wood. Peerson died in 1865. Ovee passed in June of 1895, and a photo of him with other family members standing on the house porch was taken in the 1890s (Figure 4). The original Colwick family cemetery was located in this tract, and 1962, Ovee Colwick and other family members buried in the cemetery were reinterred to the Norse community cemetery approximately 4 miles to the north (Colwick 1966). In 1916, the front section of the house was removed and became the home of Effie Colwick and her husband Fred Matson. The remodeled house was photographed in the 1960s (Figure 6). Today the removed section of the house remains substantially intact and is owned by Mr. Rallin Aars. The remaining portions of the rock and wood house were dismantled in the 1970s. Most of the stones were removed and all of

Colwick Homestead, Clifton (V), Bosque County, Texas

the wood doors and windows that were in good condition were removed, and the remains of the house were burned.

Associated Persons, Ethnic Groups, or Archeological Cultures

The nominated property is associated with Norwegian Cleng Peerson (the “Father of Norwegian Immigration to America”) and Norwegian immigrants Ovee and Johanne Colwick and subsequent generations of the Colwick family, including the children Colwick had with his second wife, Mathea.

Physical Characteristics

Field reconnaissance survey of the Colwick Homestead began in 2014, and was followed by strategic testing, which was conducted in 2014 and 2015. The only standing structure from the 19th century is a log building (contributing), and the rest of the features are foundation remains and other subsurface features. Even though the stone house was disassembled and burned in the 1970s, portions of stone and cement foundations remain intact, along with two cement breezeways and a cement cistern. An 1896 Norse Mutual Fire Insurance document (Figures 1 and 2), which consisted of a floorplan of the original rock house and the wooden frame additions, was very informative in the field investigations and for the uncovering of the rooms and cellar (see filed sketch, Figure 8). This insurance document, along with several historic photographs of the house [c. 1890s, 1960s], written and oral histories [Bosque County History Book Committee 1985; Hauge 1982; White n.d.)] by surviving members of the Colwick family [Matson 1999], deed records and newspaper articles [Bosque County Deed Records; Bronstad 1954] confirmed that these structural remains were the Ovee Colwick home.

The log building measures approximately 14 feet by 10 feet and stands about 100 feet north of the rock house site. Its only opening is a small door on the gable end and faces east. It is constructed of a combination of whole, rough, and half hewn oak and cypress logs—which results in wide gaps between logs—and utilizes both V-notching and saddle notching at the corners. Chinking consists of small timbers and slats of wood to fill the wide gaps, as well as small stones and mortar. What remains of the mortar appears to be lime and sand. The gable ends are covered with vertical wood planks and the building is sheltered by a tin roof. The roof is supported by whole cedar log joists and milled lumber rafters that are not original to the building. The central-most joist is externally supported on either end (east and west) by a vertical cedar log brace. Used as storage for many years, the flooring is plank, and the interior walls are sheathed in vertical boards of varying sizes. No evidence of a hearth can be found. A small, frame shed addition with no internal connection to the log building was constructed off of the north wall at some point. In poor condition, the addition is slated for removal.

Features (1-9) associated with the rock house (see field sketch, Figure 8):

- Earthen wall cellar 8 ½ ft x 14 ft (2.6meters x 4.27meters) (Feature 9)
- Cement and stones associated with the rock house foundation 26 ft long (7.93meters) (Feature 6)
- Wooden post for a gate (associated with cement walkway) 6 ft long (1.83 meters) (Feature 1)
- Foundation stones associated with a wooden fence 33 ½ ft x 35 ft (10.2 x 10.67 meters) (Feature 2)
- Cement capped cistern 5 ½ ft width x 2 ft height (1.68 meters width x 92 cm height) (Feature 5)
- Cement well 4 ft width x 3 ft height (1.22 meters width x 92 cm height) (Feature 7)
- Cement water trough 47” length x 19”width x 5”height (1.2 m x 50 cm x 10.3 cm) (Feature 8)

Colwick Homestead, Clifton (V), Bosque County, Texas

- Stone and cement pavement 18 ft x 12 ft (5.5 meters x 3.66 meters) (Feature 10)
- Cement breezeway 1 – 8 ft x 25 ft (2.44 meters x 7.62 meters) (Feature 3)
- Cement breezeway 2 – 5 ft x 18 ft (1.53 meters x 5.5 meters) (Feature 4)

Additional Features associated with Colwick Homestead:

- Alignment of stone, possible privy location (15 m northeast of stone house)
- Windmill and associated water trough (13 m northwest of stone house)
- Stone blocks, curbs, remains of the Colwick family cemetery (100 m south southeast of the stone house). The cemetery location is shown on the 1956 Hurst 7.5' USGS topographic map.

Signature plants, such as crepe myrtles, lantana, and irises are located near the cemetery, the back of the house, location of wooden fence, and adjacent to the cement cistern.

Likely Appearance of the Property during Its Period of Occupation

The appearance of the original rock house and its frame additions is well documented by historic photographs, as well as by an 1896 fire insurance document which illustrates the measured footprint of the home's rooms. It consisted of a c. 1860, three-room rock house that was enlarged in the mid- to late nineteenth century by adding a 1.5 story, central hall plan frame addition to the south side and a 1.5 story, L-plan frame addition to the west.

The earliest known photograph of the rock house (Figure 3) depicts the rooflines of other buildings in very close proximity to the house prior to the frame additions. As a working farm on an isolated frontier, the homestead undoubtedly once had a number of support buildings. The exact appearance and locations of these additional resources are not yet known.

Current and Past Impacts and Integrity

After the house was disassembled and burned in the 1970s, the property was left relatively undisturbed. The log structure remains intact, and the stone and concrete features associated with the rock house exhibit good integrity. The current landowner has committed to preserving the remains of the farmstead in place and has worked to create an interpretive set of story boards to educate the community and visitors of the importance of Norwegian settlers to the region. The interpretive panels are unobtrusive and do not detract from the integrity of the site.

Archeological investigation to date demonstrates that the spatial patterning of the rock house foundation, cellar, and associated features of the homestead are relatively intact. During the initial survey, cement features such as the breezeways, walkways, and rock foundation of several rooms were intact. Excavations revealed intact walls to the cellar. Other features associated with the homestead are also intact, and these include the cistern and posts associated with the fence. Thus, integrity of the archeological remains appears high.

The log building, which likely dates from c. 1855-c. 1875, also maintains a high degree of integrity. Sheathed for many years behind vertical wood weatherboard siding (removed in 1994), the walls are in excellent condition. It retains integrity of design, materials, workmanship, and feeling to a very high degree. Because it is

Colwick Homestead, Clifton (V), Bosque County, Texas

unknown at this point whether the building stands in its original location, integrity of location cannot be adequately addressed. However, its setting in a rural landscape adjacent to the remains of a mid-nineteenth century homestead allows the building to retain an adequate degree of integrity in terms of setting and association. Overall the building readily conveys its identity and architectural significance as an example of pioneer-era log construction.

Previous Investigations

Archeological investigations of the site to date have included surface reconnaissance survey, mapping, and limited testing around the remains of the stone house. A detailed review of historic photos and maps, deed records, insurance maps, review of published Colwick family histories, interviews with members of the community and a review of correspondence with the current landowner have provided insight into the history of the Colwick Homestead and a better understanding of the potential information that can be gained.

The Colwick Homestead represents a multiphase, multigenerational, period of occupation that spanned over 100 years. Artifacts recovered during preliminary testing date from the mid-19th century into the mid-20th century. Ceramics and glass was the dominant artifact categories of the items recovered. Diagnostic material included ceramic earthenware, stoneware, bottle and window glass, and cut or wire nails. Inventory of material is ongoing, but a preliminary artifact listing is included on the following page.

Nails: Square cut nails and wire nails were recovered in abundance from the excavations. The structure would have been originally assembled using square cut nails, but by the late 1890's, square cut nails only account for 14.9% of U.S. production, as wire nails became the preferred nail for construction (Adams 2002:72).

Glass: A model was developed by Randall Moir (1988) to date window glass at historic sites. This model was used for dating window pane glass recovered from the Colwick site. Window glass was measured, and the results, which range in thickness from 1.60 mm to 2.30 mm, dated the manufacture of the window glass to 1847-1907. This date range is consistent with the various construction phases associated with the Colwick house. A portion of a solarized glass medicine bottle dated between 1880-1915 (Society for Historical Archeology 2015).

Ceramics: the ceramics recovered span the 19th and 20th century. Examples include white earthenware with shell edge decorations (1850-1860s), spongeware (1830-1900), and transferware (1800 to present). A yellow Fiestaware dinner plate fragment was recovered, and this type was manufactured from 1930 to present. Stoneware examples include salt glazed (1850s-1860), Albany slip (1850-1900), and Bristol glazed (1900-1920) (Shelton 2015).

Additional archeological investigations at the site can fill in gaps in the historic record such as how the settlers brought their Norwegian heritage to central Texas, which building traditions and lifeways they were able to adapt to the environment, and insight into how the warmer climate may have affected the construction choices they made. Artifact analysis is still ongoing, yet based on the preliminary archeological investigations, categories of information that are anticipated to be recovered from continued testing include information relating to the economic status of the family and how this may have changed through time.

Colwick Homestead, Clifton (V), Bosque County, Texas

The following represents a general listing of artifacts, categorized by type, recovered to date at 41BQ332 (aka Colwick Homestead). Cataloging and analysis is ongoing.

Ceramics

Whiteware

Plate, bowl & cup fragments

Whiteware – Decorative Finishes

Shell edged – (1850's -1860's)

Hand painted floral – (mid 1800's)

Earthenware – spongeware decoration – (1800's)

Fiestaware (yellow) – dinner plate fragment – (1900's)

Transferware – (mid 1800's)

Stoneware

Salt glaze – body fragment – (1850's-1880's)

Salt glaze with Albany slip interior – body fragment - (1850's-1880's)

Albany slip – crockery, bowls and jar fragments - (1800's – 1900's)

Bristol-glaze – bowl fragments – (1900's – 1920's)

Coarse Earthenware – body fragments – natural clay slip – (1800's)

Semi-porcelain – base rim of plate - fragment

Porcelain – fragment of child's tea set

Glass

Window Glass Fragments – multiple thicknesses representing different timeframes (1847 – 1907)

Solarized Glass Medicine Bottle - lip and neck fragment - cork enclosure-applied lip with lipping tool (1880-1915)

Brown Glass Medicine Bottle - lip and neck fragment - cork enclosure-applied lip with lipping tool

Clear Glass Medicine Bottle - lip and neck fragment – screw top enclosure

Amber Glass Bottle Fragments

Solarized Glass Bottle Fragments

Aqua Glass Bottle Fragments

Brown Glass Bottle Fragments

Green Glass Bottle Fragments

Olive Glass Bottle Fragments – (possible wine bottle)

Clear Glass Bottle Fragments

Black Glass Bottle Fragment – (possible alcohol bottle)

Clear Glass Medicine Bottle (small)- (salve or vaseline)

Brown Glass Medicine Bottle (small)

Melted - Clear Glass Fragments

Glass Canning Jar Fragments

Milk Glass Canning Jar Lids and Fragments

Glass Beads – (one blue and one opaque)

Amber Glass Globe Fragment – lightning rod

Colwick Homestead, Clifton (V), Bosque County, Texas

Metal

Metal Pan - small
Metal Canning Jar Lids
Metal Can Fragments
Metal Can Rims
Metal Fragments - miscellaneous
Metal Parts – unidentified
Metal Brackets
Metal O-Ring – horse harness
Metal Hook - off of a single tree – wagon
Cut Nails – (1800's)
Wire Nails – (1900's)
Staples – barbed wire fence
Screws
Bolts
Lock Washers
Flat Washers
Chain Links
Hinges – doors and cabinets
Window Weights
Window Weight Pulleys
Wire Fragments

Miscellaneous

Bricks - fired
Shaped Limestone rocks
Mortar and Plaster
Slate Pencil Lead
Buttons – metal, shell, glass & plastic
Shell Casings (two) – 32 caliber (32 WIN SPL REM-UMC)
Shotgun Shell Base
Lead

Colwick Homestead, Clifton (V), Bosque County, Texas

Statement of Significance

The resources of the Colwick Homestead are significant for their association with the largest and most intact Norwegian settlement area in Texas, southwestern Bosque County. Briefly occupied by esteemed colonizer Cleng Pearson and then subsequently occupied and developed by the Ovee Colwick family over multiple generations, the remains of the homestead allow a unique opportunity to study the evolution of an ethnic lifestyle. Because of its potential to yield important information regarding the acculturation of a relatively isolated immigrant community which is underrepresented in the archeological record, the property is nominated to the National Register of Historic Places at the state level of significance under Criterion D in the areas of Archeology and Ethnic Heritage. It is also nominated under Criterion C in the area of Architecture at the local level of significance because the sole standing building is an excellent, well-preserved example of pre-railroad-era log construction in the county. The period of significance begins c. 1855 when Cleng Pearson is said to have occupied the property and extends to 1947, which is when the Colwick family's direct association and occupation of the property ended.

Historic Context¹

In 1983, the National Park Service approved a Thematic Resource Nomination titled the "Norwegian Settlement of Bosque County." With it, 35 individual sites and one 2,900-acre rural historic district were listed in the National Register of Historic Places. (A map of these properties is included as Map 3 in the continuation sheets of this nomination.) The properties included in the thematic nomination were selected by means of a comprehensive historic resources survey of the Norwegian settlement in southwestern Bosque County conducted by Texas Historical Commission staff in 1979. The survey area covered more than 150 square miles within an area bounded by Clifton, Meridian, Cranfills Gap, and the site of Norway Mills. The surveyors identified more than 100 Norwegian-Texan homesteads; roughly half of these were listed in the National Register as part of the 1983 thematic nomination.²

The nominated property was within the boundaries of the 1979 survey. However, it does not appear in the survey records. This is likely because at the time of the survey, there were no apparent above-ground historic resources, which was the focus of the surveyors at the time. Until 1994, the log cabin was sheathed in vertical board siding and the historic residence and outbuildings had long been razed.

Interest in the potential significance of the nominated property piqued when the log cabin was revealed in 1994. When the current owner purchased the property in 2012, he initiated additional investigations by contacting the Texas Historical Commission to help identify preservation opportunities. Through the THC-affiliated Texas

¹ Unless otherwise noted, the Section 8 narrative is adapted from the following sources: Kenneth A. Breisch and David Moore, "The Norwegian Rock Houses of Bosque County, Texas: Some Observations on a Nineteenth-Century Vernacular Building Type," in *Perspectives of Vernacular Architecture*, vol. 2, edited by Camille Wells (Columbia: University of Missouri Press, 1986); "Norwegian Settlement of Bosque County" Thematic Resource Nomination, National Register of Historic Places, 1983; the Bosque County Survey Files, Texas Historical Commission; articles from the *Handbook of Texas Online*; and source materials compiled by Bryan James of the Texas Archeological Stewardship Network and on file at the Texas Historical Commission.

² One of these properties was the John and Mary Colwick Home, constructed in 1889 less than a mile from the nominated property. John was Ovee and Johanne Colwick's son.

Colwick Homestead, Clifton (V), Bosque County, Texas

Archeological Stewardship Network, archival research and archeological investigation of the site took place from mid-2014 to early 2015.

The statement of historic context in the “Norwegian Settlement of Bosque County” thematic resource nomination establishes that southwest Bosque County was home to the only substantial Norwegian community not just in Texas, but in the southern United States, in the last half of the 19th century. Isolated on the then-western Texas frontier, much of the traditional culture was maintained, including building forms and practices. The significance of the resources listed under the thematic resource nomination rested on the potential to “learn much about early frontier life, the evolution of an ethnic, folk architecture, and the eventual assimilation of this northern European culture into American society.” The Colwick Homestead shares this same potential.

Overview of Norwegian Settlement in Texas and Bosque County

Norwegian immigration to the United States began in the early 1820s under the leadership of Cleng Peerson, who helped to establish at least 30 Norwegian colonies in the United States before his death in 1865. The vast majority of these colonies were located in northern states, including Minnesota, Illinois, and Wisconsin. The first Norwegian settlement in Texas dates to 1845 when Johan Reiersen and his father Ole founded the town of Brownsboro in Henderson County. Poor living conditions led most of the settlers to continue moving west to Four Mile Prairie, in Van Zandt and Kaufman counties. By 1852, there was an estimated 150 Norwegians living in Texas and almost all of them lived in Four Mile Prairie or Brownsboro. Apparently still unsatisfied with the living conditions and economic opportunities, a good number of the immigrants began looking for a more idyllic place to settle even farther west. By 1853, they began seriously considering Bosque County for their permanent home.

The Ole Canutson family was the first Norwegian family to settle in the newly-created and still-sparsely-populated Bosque County in the summer of 1853. Within two years, at least five additional families and numerous individuals—Cleng Peerson among them—had followed. By 1860, a handful of additional families had joined them, including Ovee and Johanne Colwick. Research shows that about 15 Norwegian homesteads were established in Bosque County between 1853 and 1860.

These early settlers typically erected small, dirt-floor log shelters in which to live immediately, but replaced these temporary shelters with homes of quarried limestone as soon as they were able. Unfortunately, the surveyors found no examples of these pre-Civil War-era log structures still intact in 1979. Because of the tremendous skill of the local rock masons, however, a good number of the earliest rock buildings still stand throughout southwest Bosque County and served as building prototypes in the community for at least two more decades. The 1880 arrival of the railroad in the area brought an abrupt shift in building patterns as people abandoned the more traditional rock construction for that of milled lumber and bricks. The distinctive wood-frame houses were closely related in style to those of the Midwestern Norwegian communities with high-pitched eaves and polychrome decorative porches. The frame additions to the Colwicks original rock house likely took place around this time.

By 1870, Bosque County had become the primary Norwegian settlement in the state. The population in the other two east Texas communities had dwindled considerably, but Bosque County was home to approximately 350 Norwegians living on 46 farms. The settlement grew actively until there were more than 1300 Norwegians

Colwick Homestead, Clifton (V), Bosque County, Texas

living in this area in 1890; the vast majority all of them lived on small farms and structured their settlements in much the same way as they had in Norway, although by the early 1900s more of them were migrating to town centers. A distinctive Norwegian-American blended culture was accomplished by the 1920s.

Cleng Peerson

Born in Tysvær, Norway, on May 17, 1782, Cleng Peerson (Kleng Pedersen) is widely regarded as the father of Norwegian immigration to America. He first visited the United States in 1821 in a quest for better living opportunities for his fellow Norwegians. Between 1825 and 1847 Peerson helped establish communities for his countrymen in New York, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, and Missouri. He moved to Texas in 1850 and lived with friends near Dallas until 1854 until his search for even better settlement opportunities took him to Bosque County.

Cleng Peerson petitioned the Texas legislature in December of 1855 requesting 360 acres of land in Bosque County, testifying that he had lived on this land and cultivated it for the previous two years since the death of its previous owner, Andreas Broten. This request was granted in August of the following year. In 1859 Peerson gave half of his land to Ovee Colwick in exchange for a home with his family during his final years. He writes of this situation in a letter dated September 12, 1860, to his nephews in Norway: "Since I arrived to Texas, I have not had any permanent home until now. I got 320 acres of land from the Government for free, half of it I sold to Ove Rosedal and the other half I gave to Ove Kjolvig (Colwick) in return for him to look after me during my old age. With these people I live now, and under these circumstances I am very satisfied."³

Peerson died in 1865 and is buried in the Our Savior's Lutheran Cemetery in the community of Norse in Bosque County.

Ovee Colwick

Ovee Kjolvig (Colwick) was born March 27, 1825, on a farm at Jelsa Sogn, near Stavanger in Norway. According to his obituary written by his son, Colwick's formal education was no more than a "few weeks' schooling" and he attempted to establish a career as a fisherman. He enjoyed modest success but early on suffered a tragic boating accident that nearly cost him his life and sparked a desire to seek a more prosperous life in America.

Colwick married Johanne Margarete Naadland on July 7, 1853.⁴ They sailed together from Norway to North America in 1854, settling briefly in La Salle County, Illinois. They immigrated to Bosque County, Texas, under the leadership of Cleng Peerson in 1859. Soon after, the aging Cleng Peerson gave half of his 320 acre land grant to Colwick in exchange for a home with the Colwick family during his final years. While it is unknown exactly where they lived upon their new property, it is assumed they lived in whatever temporary shelter Peerson had already erected until they completed their rock house around 1860. Family lore maintains that Peerson was provided with his own small room in the new rock house. Soon Colwick purchased the adjacent

³ Translation provided by Thomas Mannes.

⁴ Ovee and Johanne had eight children together, all of whom lived to adulthood. Their first child was born on the ship between Norway and Quebec.

Colwick Homestead, Clifton (V), Bosque County, Texas

160 acres and established a successful farm which primarily produced wheat. As he prospered and his family grew, so too did his home. As was typical for the region, the Colwicks expanded their residence by constructing two large frame additions to their original rock house. This likely took place in the mid- to late-1880s after the railroad reached the area and provided easier access to lumber and other economical building supplies.

Johanne Colwick passed away on March 25, 1881, after a prolonged illness. The 56 year-old Ovee then married 24 year-old Mathea Ericson on November 3, 1881. Together they had seven children. Colwick was a Mason and a member of the Farmer's Alliance. With O. Olson, he helped form the local Norse Mutual Fire Insurance Association. In the summer of 1892 he was seriously injured by a bull and was forced to use crutches for the remainder of his life. He died July 12, 1895.

Ovee's second wife Mathea died in 1900. Sometime after her death, one section of the large Colwick house was moved about a mile away and served as the home for Ove's granddaughter Effie M. Colwick and her new husband Fred L. Matson. The two married in 1916 and it is assumed that the house was moved around that time. Large portions of that house still exist today, though as part of a barn and storage building. The remaining portion of the Colwick home stayed in the Colwick family until 1947. At some point in the 1970s, the house was dismantled, building materials salvaged as possible, and the remainder was burned.

Ovee Colwick, his first wife Johanne, his second wife Mathea, her second husband, and a small child were buried in a family plot a short distance from the house. Their remains were relocated to the Our Savior's Lutheran Cemetery in the nearby Norse community in 1962.

Log and Stone Buildings on Bosque County's Norwegian Farmsteads

In the 1979 historic resources survey, the investigators identified more than 100 Norwegian-Texan homesteads with extant historic resources. Represented on these homesteads were approximately twenty extant stone houses (locally called "rock houses") and five log buildings constructed between 1855 and 1885, representing the earliest phase of Norwegian settlement in the area.

The architectural historians studying the rock houses concluded that "in form, plan, and siting, they differ markedly from the masonry homes erected by other contemporary Texas immigrant groups." They also noted that there seemed to be very little distinction between those constructed before the Civil War and those erected after. Of the twenty rock houses, seven were large, symmetrical, central passage types that seem to be descended from the traditional Scandinavian Dobbethus (double-house or pair-house). Seven others were smaller, asymmetrical types which had one large living room in the same dimensions of those on the double-house and a second smaller room attached to the gable end opposite the hearth, which may be related to tradition to the two-room Norwegian houses popular in the Midwest. The remaining examples were a wide variety of mostly single-room examples. All of these dwellings shared characteristics that set them apart from those contemporaneous dwellings erected by other settlers in Texas. These characteristics include a first-floor living space in dimensions of approximately seventeen by twenty feet, a single hearth set on an outside wall, massive chimney flanked by small attic windows, and shallow pitched roofs.

The earliest settlers, however, erected small log shelters, typically single-pen buildings with side gables, central doorways, and dirt floors. They tended to be crudely constructed with "heavy stone and mortar chinking and

Colwick Homestead, Clifton (V), Bosque County, Texas

makeshift corner notching.” The earliest surviving examples found in 1979 consisted of those dating from the 1870s. The crudeness of construction is likely due to the quality of wood available in the area, a notion that is underscored by the fact that subsequent additions to the log buildings were most commonly constructed of stone. Additionally, the extant log buildings displayed a wide variety of corner notching techniques, often with several techniques (V-notch, saddle-notch, full dovetail) displayed in a single building. This variety in notching and chinking might exist because the buildings were usually erected with the assistance of neighbors and each man simply chose the notch technique he felt worked best given the nature of each log.

Of the 46 homesteads included in the 1983 thematic resource nomination, only five of them included a log building of some kind. The Even and Petrine Erickson farm contained a c. 1874 single-pen log residence, barn and corn crib. Remains of other log houses (not fully intact) were found on the Adolf and Christine Godager Homesite, the Peder and Trine Pederson farm, and the Amund and Carlin Ilseng farm. In addition, an 1873 log building was incorporated into a later house on the J. H. Bekken homestead. The Erickson Godager cabins were single-pen structures with side gables and central doorways. In the Godager example, the log plates project out beneath the gable ends of the roof in a manner reminiscent of Norwegian building practices. The Pederson cabin was originally set on a high stone cellar, recalling the Norwegian *Laftehus* ("log house") tradition. When the need arose, these early log structures were typically expanded with stone additions until milled lumber became more readily available. The Godager, Ilseng, and Erickson cabins, for example, all have stone lean-tos attached at the rear. In contrast to this, the Pedersons erected a larger stone building about ten feet from their original cabin, although both structures continued to be used and were connected by a common roof and porch.

The single-pen log building at the Colwick Homestead site measures approximately 14 feet by 10 feet and stands approximately 100 feet north of the rock house site. Its only opening is a small door on the gable end and faces east. It is constructed of a combination of whole, rough, and half hewn oak and cypress logs—which results in wide gaps between logs—and utilizes both V-notching and saddle notching at the corners. Chinking consists of small timbers and slats of wood to fill the wide gaps, as well as small stones and mortar. What remains of the mortar appears to be lime and sand. Used as storage for many years, the flooring is plank, and the walls are sheathed in vertical weatherboard of varying sizes. No evidence of a hearth can be found.

The construction date of the building is unknown, as is its original function. Based upon what is known about building trends on Norwegian-Texan farmsteads in Bosque County, however, the building was likely erected sometime between 1855 and 1875. Locally, there is popular speculation that Cleng Peerson may have called this humble shelter home prior to moving in to the Colwick's rock house. While this theory cannot be completely discounted, a number of the building's characteristics suggest it was not constructed as a dwelling—specifically its diminutive size, gable-end entry, lack of fireplace, and single opening. Of course, these characteristics can also be attributed to quick construction, lack of choice materials, and its intended use as a very temporary shelter. If this building was in fact used as an early, temporary dwelling, it is unusual that the rock house that followed was not connected to the log building, since the most common tradition in these early settlements was to adjoin the buildings rather than maintain them separately. Future archeology work could help determine how long this building has stood on its current location and provide evidence as to its original function.

Colwick Homestead, Clifton (V), Bosque County, Texas

Research Potential and Significance

Because extant examples are increasingly rare, the pre-railroad-era log building is architecturally significant because it allows for study of the material selection and construction techniques available to new immigrants on an isolated frontier. The Colwick Homestead site is further significant for its potential to reveal important information about the earliest Norwegian settlers and to trace the evolution of their lifeways through the eventual process of assimilation. The Texas Archeological Sites Atlas, maintained by the Texas Historical Commission, identifies only three other recorded archeological sites affiliated with nineteenth century Norwegian settlement. Beyond surface-level survey, none have been investigated. Many of the properties documented as part of the 1983 “Norwegian Settlement of Bosque County” thematic resources nomination were cited for their potential for important archeological remains based upon the observation of surface artifact scatters, but none were subject to additional investigation. Thus, unlike the homesteads of other ethnic groups to settle in Texas—such as Germans—the homesteads of Norwegian Texans are largely underrepresented in the current historical archeological record. Therefore, not only does the Colwick Homestead allow for study of the evolution of Norwegian lifeways during periods of both isolation and assimilation, but it also allows for a comparison of how that experience may or may not differ from that of other contemporaneous ethnic groups.

Colwick Homestead, Clifton (V), Bosque County, Texas

Bibliography

Adams, William Hampton

2002 Machine Cut Nails and Wire Nails: American Production and Use for Dating 19th-Century and Early-20th-Century Sites. *Historical Archaeology, Journal of the Society for Historical Archaeology* 36 (4): 66-88.

Bosque County History Book Committee

1985 *Bosque County: Land and People*. Curtis Media Corporation, Dallas.

Breisch, Kenneth A. and David Moore

1986 The Norwegian Rock Houses of Bosque County, Texas: Some Observations on a Nineteenth-Century Vernacular Building Type. In *Perspectives of Vernacular Architecture*, vol. 2, edited by Camille Wells. University of Missouri Press, Columbia.

Bronstad, Millie

1954 Ovee Colwick, Early Settler On Neils Creek, Leaves Many Heirs. *The Clifton Record*, April 30, 1954.

Colwick, Mary Latimer

1966 *The Colwicks Ovee, John and Family 1825-1966*.

Hauge, Alfred

1982 *The True Saga of Cleng Peerson*. Norwegian Society of Texas.

Jordan, Terry G.

1978 *Texas Log Buildings: A Folk Architecture*. University of Texas Press, Austin.

Matson, Lloyd

1999 Ovee Colwick 1825-1895. Papers compiled from Family Reunion.

Moir, Randall W.

1988 Windows and Window Glass. In *Historic Farming on the Hogwallow Prairies: Ethnoarchaeological Investigations of the Mountain Creek Area, North Central Texas*. edited by David H. Journey, Susan A. Lebo, and Melissa M. Green, Joe Pool Archaeological Project Vol. 2 pp 263-272, Archaeology Research Program, Institute for the Study of Earth and Man, Southern Methodist University.

Pierson, Oris E.

1947 *Norwegian Settlements in Bosque County, Texas*. Reprinted by the Bosque Memorial Museum, Clifton, TX in 1979.

Colwick Homestead, Clifton (V), Bosque County, Texas

Shelton, Rebecca

2015 White Bodied Earthenware, European and American Stoneware. Texas Archeological Stewards Network, Texas Historical Commission, Austin.

Society for Historical Archaeology (SHA)

2015 Historic Bottle Identification. Electronic Document, <http://www.sha.org/bottle/dating.htm>, accessed August 7, 2015.

Texas Historical Commission

Historic Resources Survey Files.

Texas Historical Commission

1983 "Norwegian Settlement of Bosque County," Thematic Resources Nomination for the National Register of Historic Places.

White, Velma Claire Eggen

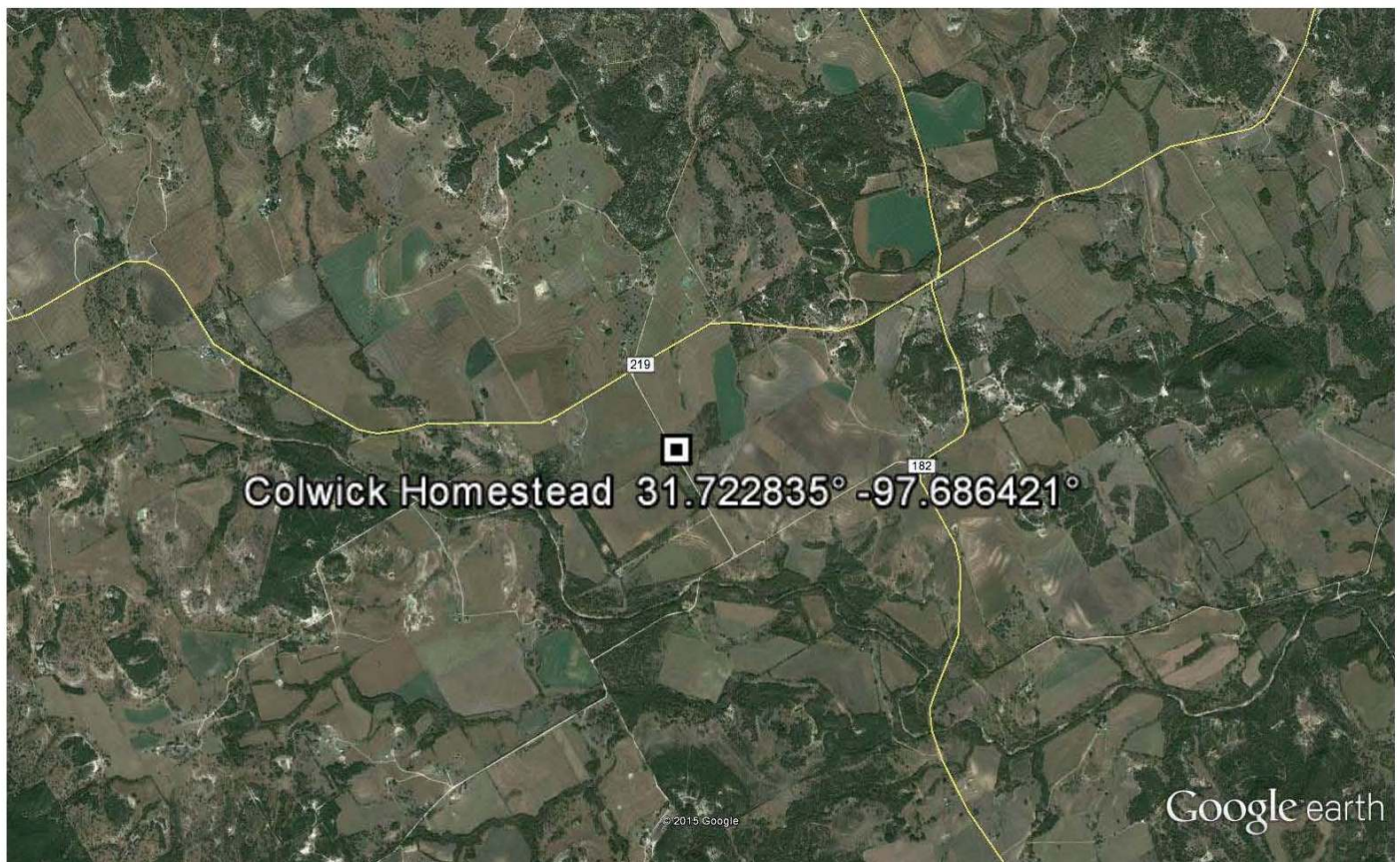
n.d. The Family History of Joirger and Kirsti Ellingsdatter Steinson Kjolvig in *The Colwick Family Book*.

Colwick Homestead, Clifton (V), Bosque County, Texas

Map 1: Bosque County (shaded) is located in North Central Texas.

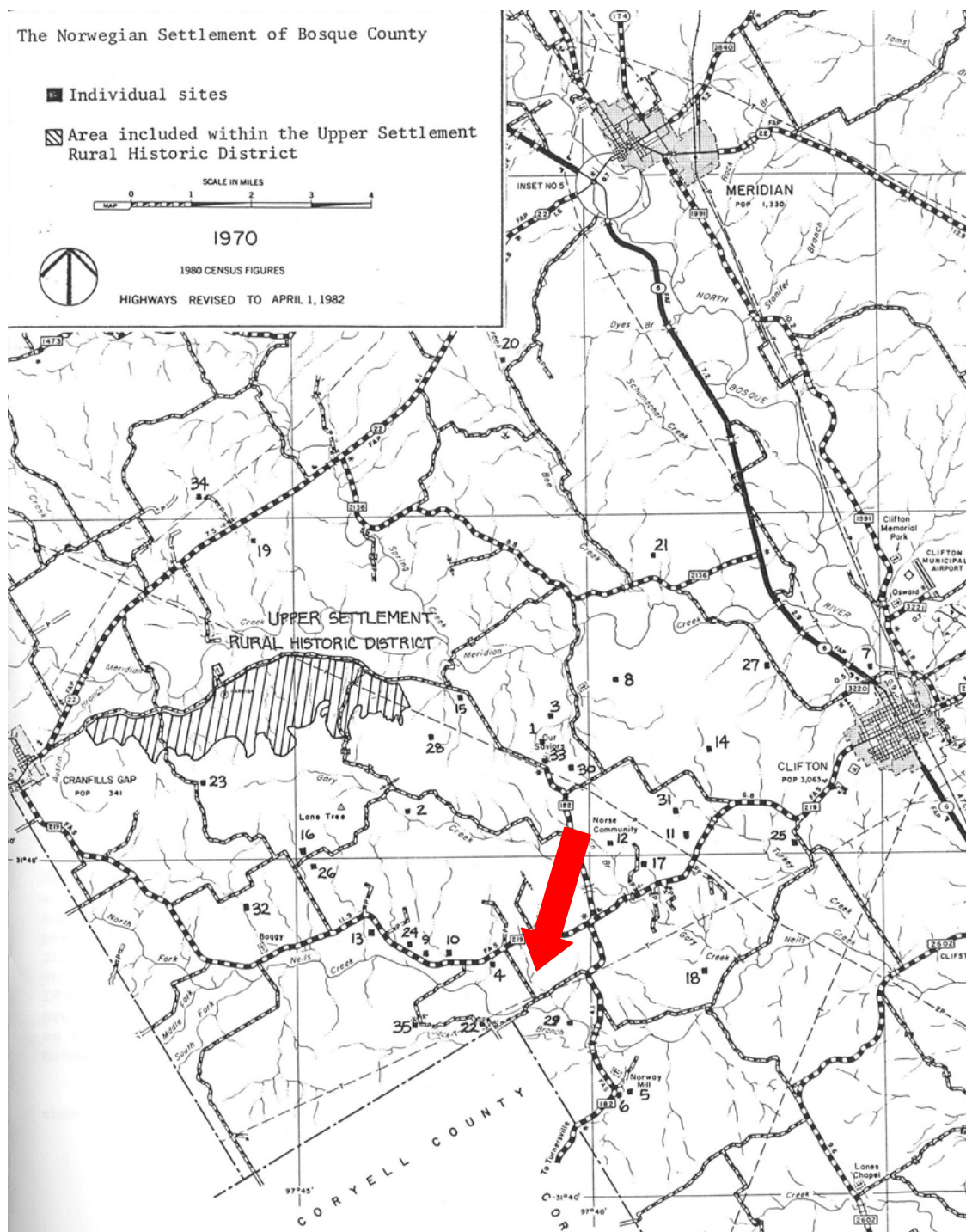


RESTRICT FROM PUBLIC ACCESS Map 2: The nominated property is located on CR4230 between FM 219 (“Cleng Peerson Memorial Highway”) and Neils Creek, in far southwestern Bosque County.



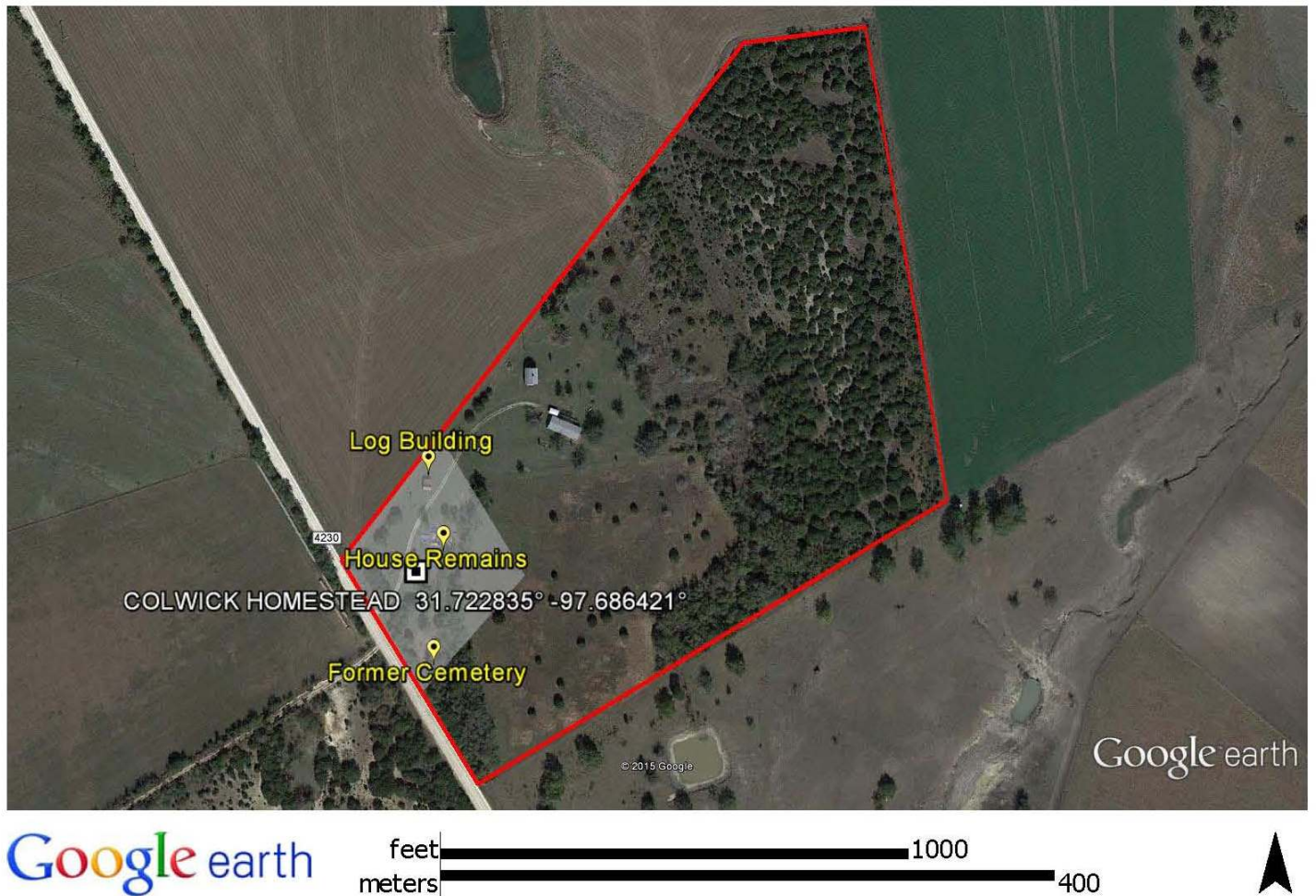
Colwick Homestead, Clifton (V), Bosque County, Texas

RESTRICT FROM PUBLIC ACCESS Map 3: This map accompanied the 1983 thematic resource Nation Register nomination "Norwegian Settlement of Bosque County." The numbers represent individually listed sites, while the shaded area corresponds to the Upper Rural Settlement Historic District. The nominated property is noted with an arrow.



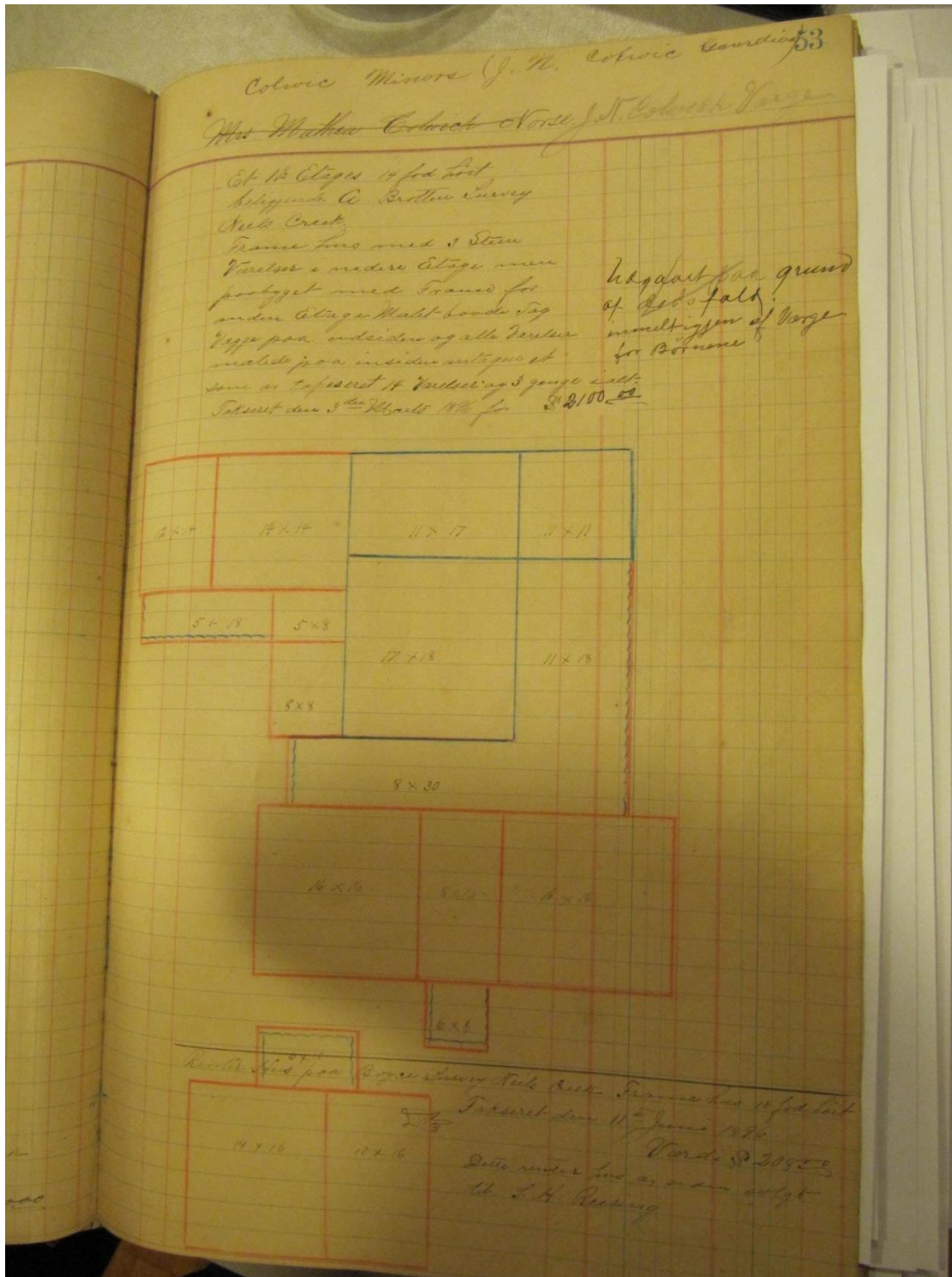
Colwick Homestead, Clifton (V), Bosque County, Texas

RESTRICT FROM PUBLIC ACCESS Map 4: Google Earth image depicts location of the log cabin, remains of the rock/frame house, and the former cemetery. The red polygon indicates the current 26-acre legal parcel. However, only the shaded area (100 meters by 100 meters, or 2.47 acres) represents the nominated property.



Colwick Homestead, Clifton (V), Bosque County, Texas

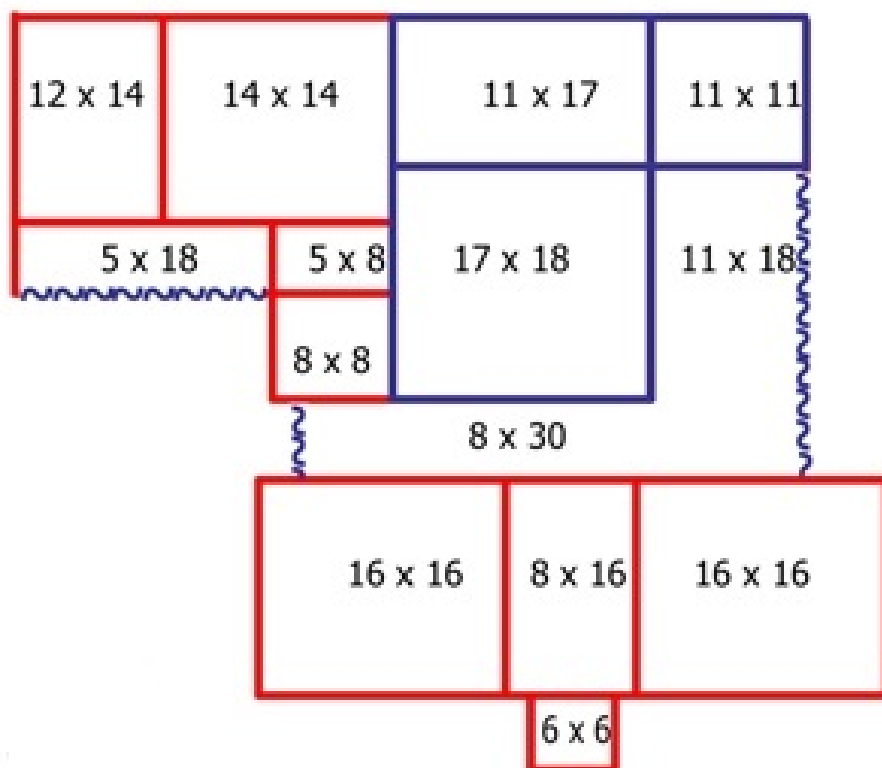
Figure 1: This 1896 Norse Mutual Fire Insurance Association document depicts the dimensions of the Colwick family home. Original held at the Bosque Memorial Museum, Clifton, Texas.



Colwick Homestead, Clifton (V), Bosque County, Texas

Figure 2: This plan reproduces the one in the original insurance document on the previous page.

Blue: Rock House
Red: Wood Addition
~: Breezeway



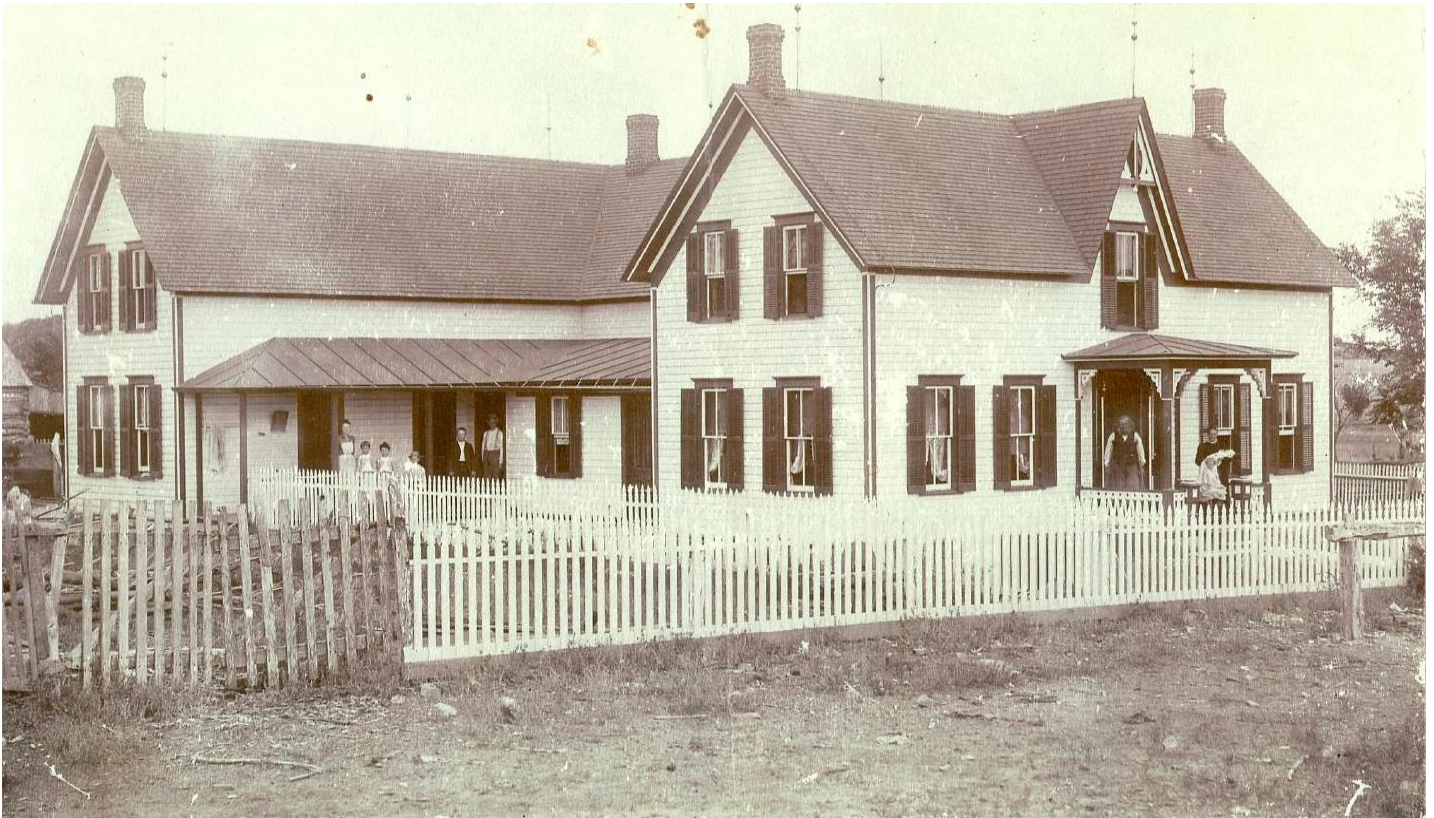
Colwick Homestead, Clifton (V), Bosque County, Texas

Figure 3: The earliest known photograph of the Colwick rock house.



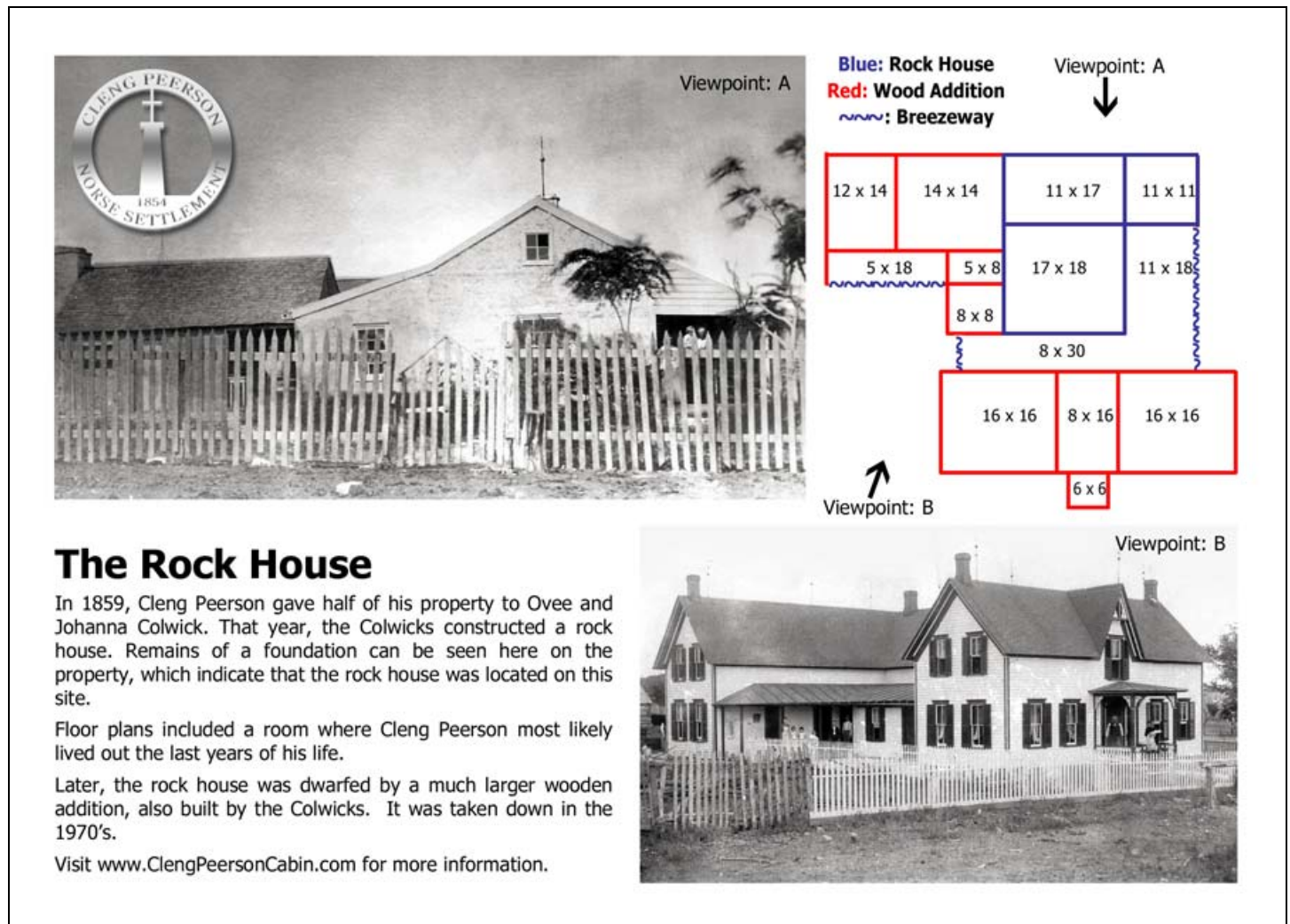
Colwick Homestead, Clifton (V), Bosque County, Texas

Figure 4: The Colwick house after it was enlarged with frame additions. Ovee Colwick stands on crutches near the front door (which dates the photo to sometime between 1892 and 1895). The front section of this house was removed in c. 1916. Note the edge of a log building visible on the far left. It is unclear if this is the same log building included in this nomination.



Colwick Homestead, Clifton (V), Bosque County, Texas

Figure 5: This interpretive graphic, produced by the current property owner and displayed at the site, helps visitors understand the layout of the historic home. Top edge of the plan is approximately north.



Colwick Homestead, Clifton (V), Bosque County, Texas

Figure 6: Front of Colwick family home in the early 1960s. The original, central passage front section was removed in 1916 to serve as a home for one of Ovee Colwick's granddaughters.

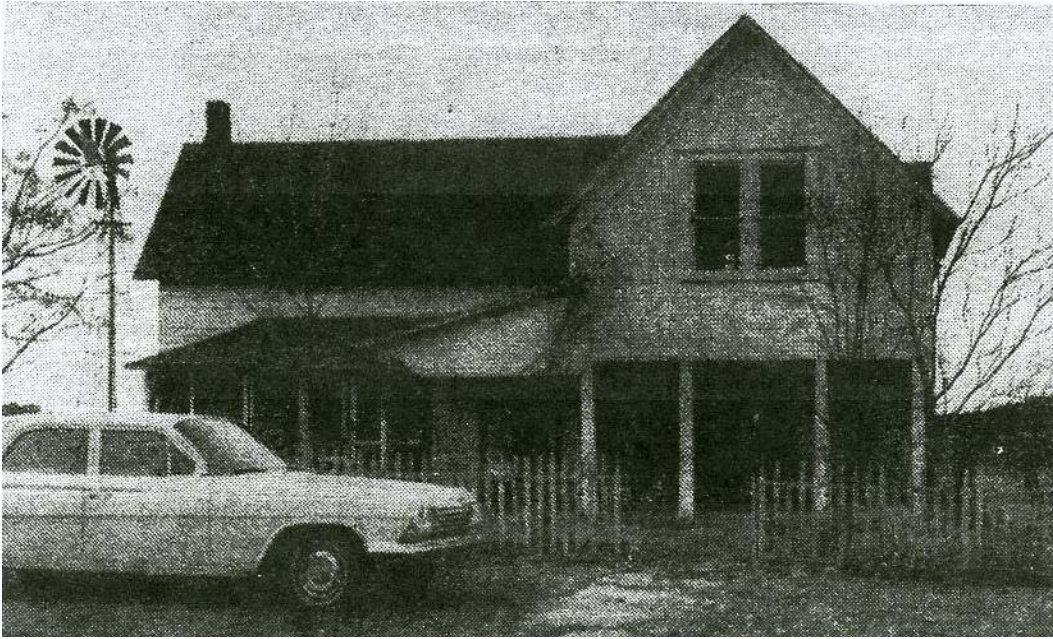
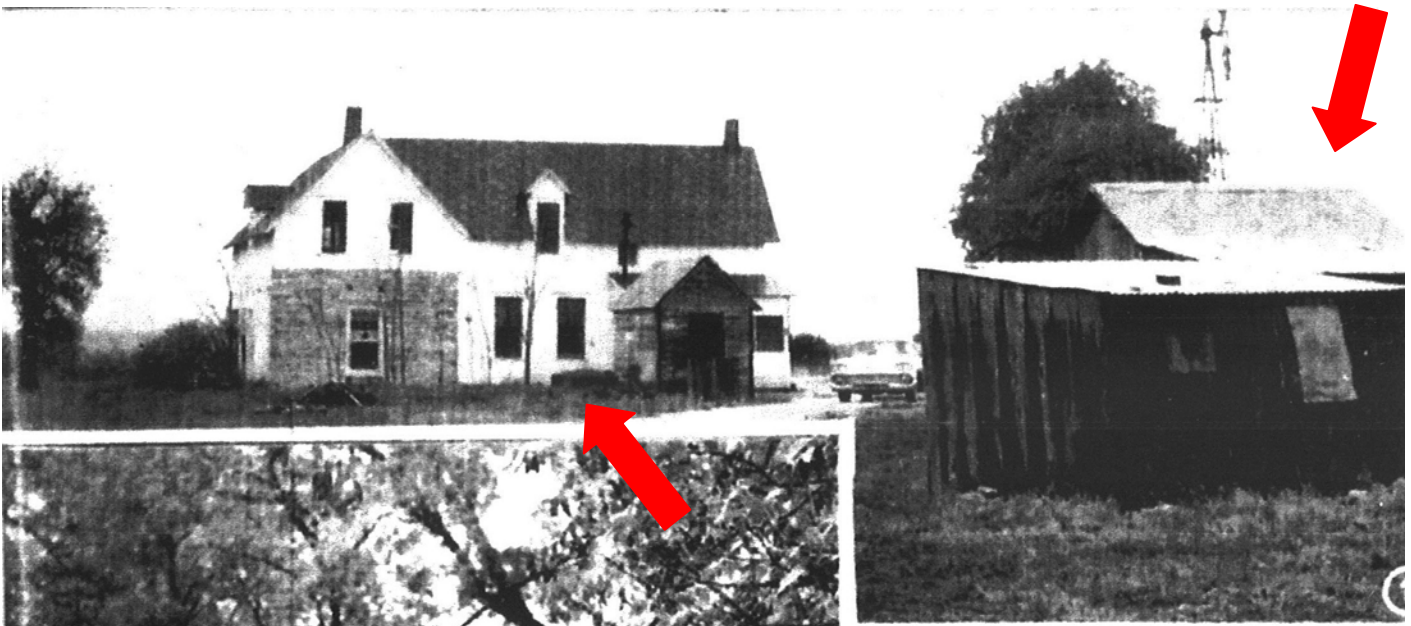
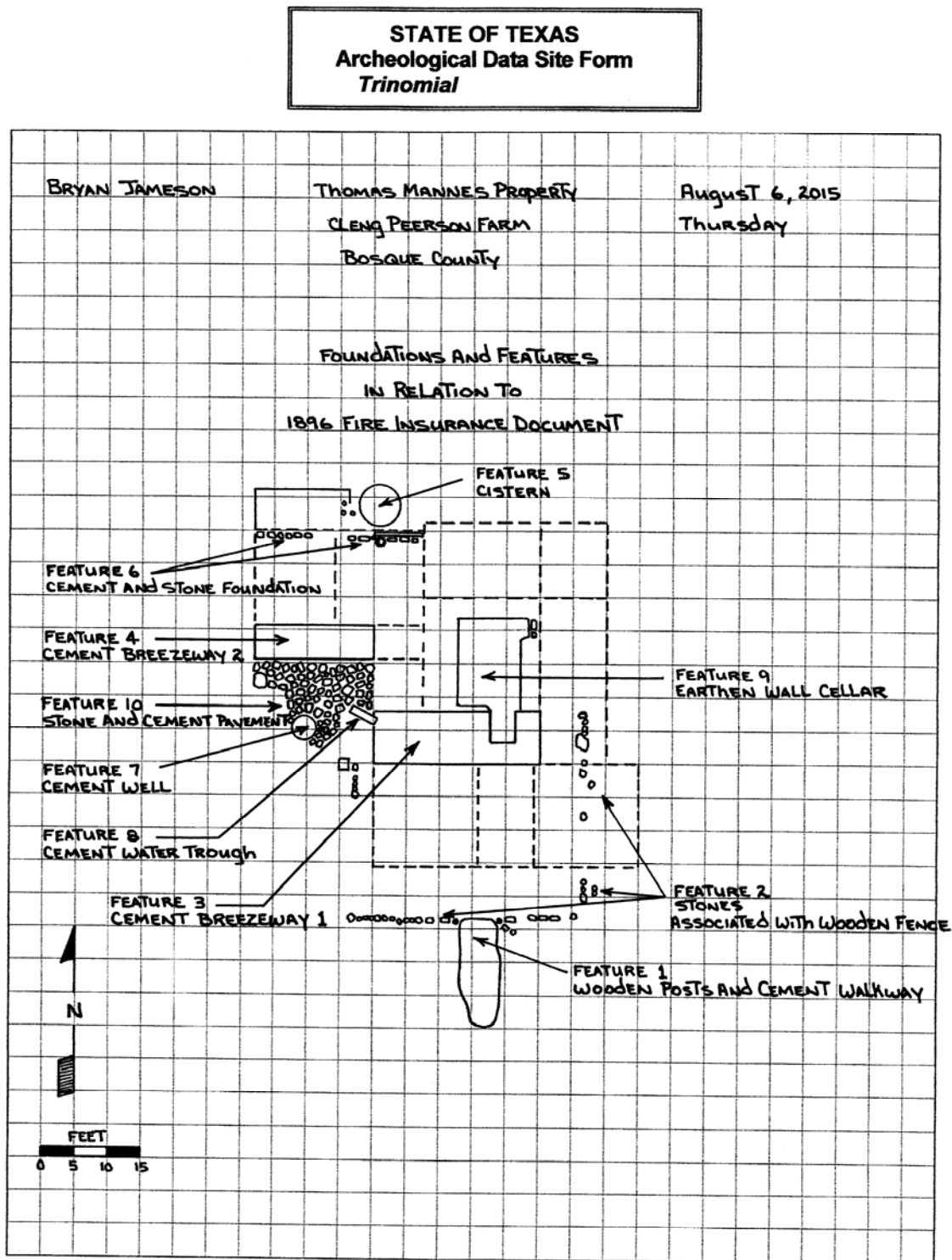


Figure 7: Rear of the Colwick family home in the early 1960s. Note that the easternmost room of the rock house had been removed by this time. The roof of the extant log building is visible on the far right; the extant cistern is also visible near the center. Both are marked with arrows.



Colwick Homestead, Clifton (V), Bosque County, Texas

Figure 8: Field sketch of the features identified in 2014-2015. Solid lines represent confirmed features; dashed lines represent estimated footprint of the house as based upon the 1896 insurance document.



Colwick Homestead, Clifton (V), Bosque County, Texas

CURRENT PHOTOGRAPHS

The following images were also submitted to NPS as high quality digital files.

TX_Bosque County_Colwick Homestead_0001.tiff
Overall view to the north-northeast. March 16, 2015.



Colwick Homestead, Clifton (V), Bosque County, Texas

TX_Bosque County_Colwick Homestead_0002.tiff

Feature 1 in the foreground; view to the north-northeast. June 26, 2014.



TX_Bosque County_Colwick Homestead_0003.tiff

East façade of the log building (contributing). Camera facing west. February 20, 2015.



Colwick Homestead, Clifton (V), Bosque County, Texas

TX_Bosque County_Colwick Homestead_0004.tiff

Southeast oblique. Camera facing approximately northwest. February 20, 2015.



Colwick Homestead, Clifton (V), Bosque County, Texas

TX_Bosque County_Colwick Homestead_0005.tiff
Detail of southeast corner. June 26, 2014.



Colwick Homestead, Clifton (V), Bosque County, Texas

TX_Bosque County_Colwick Homestead_0006.tiff
Detail of external wall bracing (south wall). June 26, 2014.



Colwick Homestead, Clifton (V), Bosque County, Texas

TX_Bosque County_Colwick Homestead_0007.tiff
Features 6(foreground) and 5 (background). View to the east. June 26, 2014.



TX_Bosque County_Colwick Homestead_0008.tiff
View to the southeast. Feature in foreground is possible privy location. December 3, 2014.



Colwick Homestead, Clifton (V), Bosque County, Texas

TX_Bosque County_Colwick Homestead_0009.tiff

Feature 9 (earthen wall cellar). View to the east. October 3, 2014.



TX_Bosque County_Colwick Homestead_0010.tiff

Previous grave location in former family cemetery. View approximately to the southeast. October 20, 2014.

