

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination FormSee instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

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received JUN 9 1983

date entered JUL 22 1983

1. Name

historic

The Norwegian Settlement of Bosque County TR

and/or common

2. Location

Southwestern part of Bosque County; see continuation
street & number sheets for specific locations of individual N/A not for publication
properties

city, town Clifton X vicinity of

state Texas code 048 county Bosque code 035

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	N/A in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> thematic	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: vacant

4. Owner of Property

name See continuation sheets for individual properties

street & number

city, town N/A vicinity of state

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Bosque County Courthouse

street & number

city, town Meridian state Texas

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Texas Historic Sites Inventory has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☒ nodate 1979, 1982 ☐ federal ☒ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records Texas Historical Commission

city, town Austin state Texas

7. Description

Condition

☒ excellent
☒ good
☒ fair

☒ deteriorated
☒ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☒ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☒ moved date 1893 (no. 29)

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The thematic nomination titled Norwegian Settlement of Bosque County contains 35 individual sites and one rural historic district of approximately 2,900 acres. All of these properties are situated in southwestern Bosque County, in an area of 150 square miles, bounded roughly by the towns of Clifton, Meridian, Cranfills Gap, and the site of Norway Mills. Including the structures within the Upper Settlement Rural Historic District, the nomination is composed of 46 farmsteads, two churches, and one mill, all of which were associated with the 19th-century Norwegian occupation of this part of the state. The log, stone, and frame structures which are represented exhibit clear Norwegian influence, or association, especially the early ones. The characteristically Scandinavian double house is identified and described.

The Settlement Area

The area of Bosque County colonized by Norwegian immigrants in the 19th century is characterized by gently rolling hills and occasional limestone outcroppings. In the 1850s there were very few trees in this region, and the land was covered with grass which, it is claimed, came up to the waist of a man on horseback. Since that time the countryside has been cultivated with wheat, oats, corn, and cotton, and recently has been turned to pasture. More live oaks, cedars, and other scrub bushes now dot the hills and line some of the roads than at the time of settlement. Numerous small creeks and springs flow through the local valleys.

The present nomination represents an attempt to help conserve the character of this land and the built environment of the Norwegians who pioneered it. Also a part of the present nomination is the creation of a rural historic district around the old Upper Settlement Community which grew up at the foot of Rogstad Mountain, near the Bersvend and Kari Swenson Homestead. Although each of the contributing properties within this district has been deemed individually eligible for the National Register, the remarkably undisturbed character of this rural Scandinavian community warrants its recognition as a group.

The Architecture

The buildings can be divided into three major categories:

1. log structures, usually temporary quarters raised by Norwegian settlers upon their arrival;
2. stone houses, constructed between 1855 and c. 1885, and their associated outbuildings.
3. wood-frame houses, built from the late 1870s through 1910, and their associated outbuildings.

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The Log Structures

Traditionally the earliest Norwegian settlers in Bosque County are believed to have constructed small log houses, or stone-and-wood dugouts, in which to live while clearing farm land before erecting more permanent shelters. Of the earliest pioneers, for instance, the Dahl, Questad, Ringness, and Jenson families all are said to have occupied one- or two-room cabins upon first arriving in the county in the 1850s, while Ole and Ann Pierson are believed to have lived for a short time in a stone dugout. With the exception of a few stones and a shallow pit on the Pierson Place, none of these shelters has survived. Several later examples, however, have been identified. Although all appear to date to the 1870s, it is believed that they nonetheless provide a good idea of the form of the earlier pioneer structures.

The best preserved of the Norwegian log residences is the Erickson-Amundson cabin (no. 20), which was constructed in 1874 by Even and Petrine Erickson. It stands as the centerpiece of a pioneer complex that includes a log barn and corn crib, as well as several slightly later frame structures. The remains of other log houses have been found on the Adolf and Christine Godager Homesite (no. 19), and on the Peder and Trine Pederson (no. 44) and Amund and Carlin Ilseng (no. 47) farms. In addition, an 1873 log building has been incorporated into a later house on the J. H. Bekken homestead (no. 27), and another (unidentified) log house, which stands on Bee Creek about four miles southeast of the Erickson-Amundson cabin, has been covered with asbestos siding. Both the Erickson-Amundson and Godager cabins are nominated as individual sites, while the Pederson and Ilseng places are contributing members of the Upper Settlement Rural Historic District. The asbestos-sided cabin has not been included in this nomination, although restoration might make it eligible for future listing.

Of these identified log residences, the Erickson-Amundson and Godager cabins are single-pen structures with side gables and central doorways. Remnants of the front lean-to porch and the original cedar shakes are still visible at the Godager site. Especially significant in the latter structure are the log plates, which project out beneath the gable ends of the roof in a manner reminiscent of Norwegian building practices. The Pederson cabin, which was originally set on a high stone cellar, recalls the Norwegian Laftehus ("log house") tradition. The Laftehus was a traditional and common Norwegian structure, since abundant and straight logs were easily come by in that country. The few trees available to the settlers in Bosque County, in contrast to those of Norway, supplied scrawny and crooked timbers. As a consequence, the log buildings erected in this part of Texas were much cruder in appearance than the finely crafted Laftehus of Norway. Characteristically, these New World buildings were constructed with a variety of notching techniques and required heavy stone and mortar chinking to fill the irregular interstices between logs.

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According to tradition, the early log buildings are supposed to have been erected with the assistance of neighboring farmers, and this may help to explain the wide variation in the notching and chinking techniques seen in the surviving cabins that have so far been located. An interesting description of such a cabin raising appeared in the Waco Tribune-Herald on July 14, 1946. The informant for the newspaper seems to have been Charlie Knudson, the youngest son of Knud and Carmel Knudson, whose farm is described therein. Charlie Knudson was born in 1867 or 1868, about the time that these events must have taken place. According to this account,

Salve and Knud settled on adjoining farms of 160 acres each, where they (sic) was sufficient land which would not have to be cleared of trees before the first crop could be planted. For a short time, until their log houses could be built, they camped under an oak tree in a little lean-to made of lumber which they had brought with them. . . As soon as they could the two pioneers set about building houses for themselves. They cut and trimmed the logs themselves in the plentiful timber in the hills and dragged them to the sites. Then the neighbors came from all around to raise the one-room houses. Two men sat on opposite sides of the walls and received the logs as they were handed up to them, notched them with axes and set them in place. The chinks between the logs were plugged with clay and rocks.

They had to be content with dirt floors at first until they could make the long trip to Waco by ox-wagon to get undressed lumber. They brought it home with them, trimmed it and grooved it and laid it across log joists.

For a number of years the Knudsons occupied their log cabins, adding to them from time to time. Knud's remaining five children were born there, and those alive today remember their first home well (Waco Herald-Tribune, July 14, 1946).

When the need arose these early log structures were typically expanded with stone additions. The Godager (no. 19), Ilseng (no. 47), and Erickson-Amundson (no. 20) cabins, for example, all have stone lean-tos attached at the rear. In contrast to this, the Pedersons erected a larger stone building (no. 44) about ten feet from their original cabin, although both structures continued to be used and were apparently connected by a common roof and porch. Although no other examples have been positively identified, it is reasonable to believe that this type of expansion was common. More prosperous settlers, such as the Knudsons, chose to build more substantial, stone houses.

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The Stone Houses

Although there was a minor tradition of masonry construction in their homeland, stone was not a material as familiar to the Norwegians as wood. Yet good timber was scarce in Bosque County, and an adaptation was soon made to the abundant local limestone, which was an excellent building material. As noted in the account of the Knudsons' early years in the settlement,

Stone houses weren't expensive. Everything needed was right at hand. They dug white rock out of the hills and hauled it home while it was fresh and soft and could be sawed. After the rock had been out in the air a while it became hard. The same limestone produced mortar they needed to hold the stones together. A hole dug into the hillside and lined with hard blue stone made a serviceable kiln. Chunks of limestone were placed on a grate in the kiln and wood burned under it. The resulting powder was mixed with sand and water for mortar and after the house was erected was used to plaster the inside walls (Waco Herald-Tribune, July 14, 1946).

Most of this work was presumably undertaken by the owners themselves, perhaps with the help of their friends and neighbors. Yet the high quality of the masonry work, as well as an underlying kinship among many of the structures, points to supervision by experienced stone masons. As noted in the statement of Significance, this conclusion is reinforced by the appearance of three masons of Norwegian birth in the 1860 U.S. Census for Bosque County. This discovery also means that a number of the early but undated stone buildings probably hark back to this early period. According to our review of the State Patent Records, the 1860 U.S. Census, and the 1860 Special Farm Schedule, these 17 Norwegian homesteads were established in Bosque County during the first ten years of settlement (1853-1863). The locations of 13 of these pioneer farms have been identified, and seven of this number have a substantial architectural feature apparently dating from this first period of activity. Six of these sites are nominated herein to the National Register, and are

the Carl and Sedsel Questad place (no. 1),
the Ole and Ann Pierson farm (no. 2),
the Eric and Martha Linberg farm (no. 3),

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the Jens and Kari Ringness farm (no. 4),
the Bersvend and Kari Swenson farm (no. 42), and
the J. Lasson and Oline Reiersen farm (no. 45).

In addition, it is possible that the Wilson homesite (no. 14) should also be assigned an early date.

Although the Civil War created a temporary disruption in immigration and building activities, both began to pick up by the later part of the 1860s. Unfortunately, the State Patent Records from c. 1865 to c. 1875 are incomplete for this area, and a precise pattern of settlement during this period is difficult to recreate. The Special Farm Schedule for 1870, however, lists 46 local entries with recognizable Norwegian surnames, and the locations of about half of these farms have been identified through historical research. Nineteen of these sites are included in this nomination. They include the seven sites mentioned above, plus

the Gunarus and Ingerborg Shefstad house (no. 7),
the Ole and Antonette Olson (Olson-Nelson) farm (no. 8),
the Gunsten and Lofise Grimland house (no. 9),
the Keddel and Liv Grimland farm (no. 10),
the Christen and Johanna Knudson farm (no. 11),
the Joseph and Anna Olson farm (no. 12),
the Olson-Hanson farm (no. 17),
the Hans J. and Petra Hanson farm (no. 38),*
the John and Martina Arneson (Olson-Arneson) farm (no. 39),*
the Amund and Carlin Ilseng farm (no. 47),* and
the Salve and Carline Knudson farm (no. 48).*

With the exception of the Ilseng house, all the above properties have buildings constructed of stone dating from c. 1868 to c. 1885. Despite the hiatus caused by the Civil War, little distinction in most cases can be made between later stone houses and the earlier ones of the original settlers. Several readily identifiable patterns continue throughout the entire period of stone building in the community. The most consistent of these are the ground plans of the houses, which are divisible into two different, yet interrelated, groups.

*Included in the Upper Settlement Rural Historic District.

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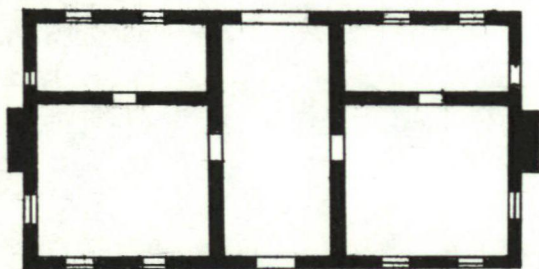
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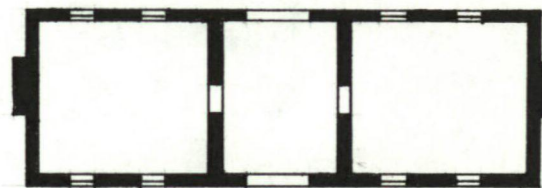
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The first group apparently derived from the Norwegian Dobbelthus (double house). The earliest of these is the Ringness house (no. 4), although the later Arneson (no. 39), Shefstad (no. 7), Olson-Nelson (no. 8), and Keddel Grimland (no. 10) houses are also double houses. They are characterized by a three-part, symmetrical plan most commonly with two large rooms set to each side of a broad, central entry-hall running from front to rear. Stairways were originally located in these halls, and led up to the attic or sleeping loft set under a low-pitched roof. Large hearths were disposed at both ends of the building to heat the two main, first-floor rooms. This sense of symmetry was carried over into the major elevations. The front facade, for instance, typically displayed a prominent, central, gabled porch flanked on each side by two windows. The end elevations, as on the Ringness house, were often composed of four windows regularly arranged about a centrally placed chimney piece.



Ringness house



K. Grimland house

Though only the Arneson house seems to retain its original (yet slightly modified) entry porch, historic photographs show that other houses once had similar porches. Another common alteration, in addition to the removal of porches, has been the addition of extra rooms onto the rear of the houses, thus modifying the original three-part configuration. Only the Ringness home originally consisted of more than three rooms. Although all the fine double houses are in reasonably stable condition, only one of them, the Arneson house, is now regularly occupied.

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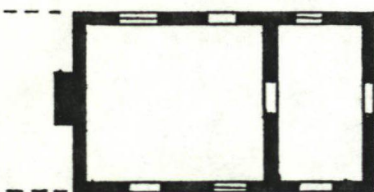
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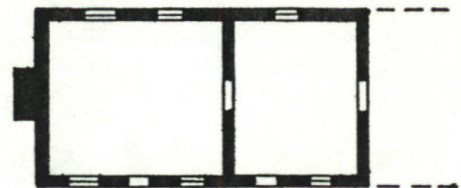
The second group of stone houses has an asymmetrical plan composed of a single large room similar in dimension and configuration to the main rooms of the symmetrical double houses, and a smaller second room opposite the end of the building with a single hearth. The chimney elevation of these houses is typically like that of the first group. Little consistency, however, is revealed in the other elevations. The gable end opposite the hearth, for instance, where an external stairway often offered access to the loft, is in some cases pierced by a single door and, in others, by windows. Likewise, the long elevations reveal an equally flexible approach, with windows and doors arrayed in a great variety of configurations. The Swenson (no. 42), Pierson (no. 2), Reiersen (no. 45), Christen Knudson (no. 11), Gunsten Grimland (no. 9), and the two Knudson (nos. 48 and 49) houses fall into this second grouping.



G. Grimland house



Pierson house



B. Swenson house

As with the first type of house, those of the second groups have likewise undergone modifications. Most commonly, a series of rooms was added onto one end of the original plan. The majority of these additions were made, however, in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, and are generally compatible with the original section, or are of historical interest in their own right, as in the case of the Bersvend Swenson House (no. 42). There are, however, half a dozen other Norwegian residences which defy such neat categorizing. For the most part these are smaller, single-room structures which are scattered geographically and chronologically throughout the settlement. Included among them are the Questad (no. 1), Finstad (no. 13), Alfei (no. 43), Pederson (no. 44), and Wilson (no. 14) houses. Still, many of these homes share certain characteristics which, when taken together, serve to distinguish them from the coeval stone houses erected by other ethnic groups in Texas, such as the Germans. The distinctive features include the low-pitched roofs and, on both ends of the house, the massive chimneys flanked by small and square attic windows. The most characteristic trait is the ubiquitous first-floor living room, measuring somewhere between 17 and 20 feet on a side, with a single hearth set at one end.

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In addition to the above structures, mention should also be made of the Reeder-Omenson house (no. 6). Although originally owned by an Anglo-American, Alvin Reeder, this house was constructed in 1870 by two Norwegians, Martin Shefstad and Charlie Olson. With its imposing, two-story porch and Greek Revival detailing, this structure is the only building in this nomination that relates closely to contemporary Anglo-American fashion in Texas. As mentioned in the Significance section, this house was closely related to Norway Mill (no. 5) and the small town that eventually grew up in that area.

Besides the individual characteristics associated with the design of the Norwegian stone houses, certain common auxiliary traits can be identified with the Norwegian-Texan farm complex of this period, viewed as a whole. High stone fences, for instance, were often erected to enclose pens and pastures. Excellent examples of these have survived on both the Questad place (no. 1) and the Hans Hanson farm site (no. 34). Many fine stone outbuildings are also associated with the houses, such as barns, detached kitchens, blacksmith shops and smoke houses. These are sometimes built into, or on, the slope of a hill in a typically Scandinavian fashion. Structures at the Questad place are superb examples, and others are found on the Ringness (no. 4), Linberg (no. 3), Swenson (no. 42), and Pierson (no. 2) farms. In particular, the blacksmith shop on the Ringness farm, with its gently sloping walls and elegant proportions, represents one of the finest pieces of masonry work in the entire community.

Finally, the overall tendency to site early homesteads on the slope of a valley wall, or on the top of a small hill, may also reflect the Nordic building heritage, which itself had evolved in the much more precipitous terrain of the Norwegian fiords. Siting, in fact, appears to have played a particularly significant role in the development of the settlement as a whole. Several of the first pioneers, such as Ole and Ellen Canuteson or Bersvend and Kari Swenson, chose extremely prominent locations for their homesteads. These farms, in turn, served as focal points for the development of small rural communities. This is still evident in the Upper Settlement Rural Historic District, which grew up, in part, around the Swenson Farm.

In this light, too, Our Savior's (no. 33) and St. Olaf's (no. 40) churches have been carefully placed to be visible from many points in the settlement. This placement produces a series of unforgettably picturesque vistas which continually unfold as one moves through the rolling hills of the Meridian Creek valley.

The second of these churches, St. Olaf's, appears to be the last major stone structure erected in the Norwegian settlement. It was begun in 1885, long after the main period of masonry building apparently had ended. Although the congregation of this church moved into Cranfills Gap in 1917, this edifice has been meticulously

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maintained and is still occasionally used for special services. Both inside and outside, it remains almost exactly as it appeared when it was dedicated in 1895. By that date, however, stone was rarely used as a building material in the community.

The Wood-Frame Houses

In a sense, the arrival of the railroad into Clifton in 1880 heralded a new era for architecture in the Norwegian settlement. With it came cheaper building materials, such as milled lumber and brick, materials that the Norwegians soon began to adapt to their own structures. The wooden houses may be divided into two groups according to their dates. The first group dates before the late 1880s, the second group between the late '80s and 1910.

Though some wood-frame construction possibly appeared in the community as early as 1872, as in the upper story of the Joseph and Anna Olson house (no. 12), the first major project in wood was Our Savior's Lutheran Church, which was begun in 1875. Cut wood, of course, had been employed earlier in the superstructures of even the first stone houses, but most of this appears to have been either hand-hewn or pit-sawn lumber. Because of its scarcity, it was used only sparingly.

The first residence to be constructed entirely of milled lumber was probably the James Jens Jenson house (no. 21) in the Bee Creek community. According to Jenson's grandson, who still owns it, this building was erected in 1876. Its two-story, board-and-batten construction is unique in the area for this period. It may derive from Norwegian building practices, where this so-called "carpenter paneling" was common in the 19th century. Only one other house in the entire settlement area seems to have employed this technique. This was the Lahlum house (no. 29), which was likely begun in the early 1880s. It was not until the later 1880s, however, that wood-frame construction became the typical mode of building in the Norwegian community, at which time it entirely eclipsed the use of stone.

The earliest of the later group of wood-frame houses dating from the late 1880s to 1910, is said to be the John and Mary Colwick house (no. 22) which was built by John Nordahl in 1889. It was quickly followed by half a dozen similar structures, many of which have also been attributed to the Norwegian carpenter Nordahl. All these houses were covered with horizontal siding, as opposed to board and batten. Typically, they are a story and a half to two stories in height, with high-pitched roofs and gables, and tall, narrow windows. This new verticality signaled a definite shift in fashion from the earlier, low-pitched roofs of houses like the Jens Ringness home (no. 4), and clearly reflects late Victorian proportions. So persuasive was this new

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style that when the Bersvend and Kari Swenson house (no. 42) was enlarged by their son B. B., around the turn of the century, the angle of the gables on the old stone part of the home was increased to conform to those of the new addition. Steeply pitched dormer gables were also constructed at this time.

In plan and form, most of these frame houses can be divided into roughly three types: asymmetrical, and early and late symmetrical. The first of the groups, exemplified by the Colwick house (no. 22), has houses of two long sections set perpendicular to one another in the form of a "T". The primary facade is the central leg of this T, and the main entryway gives access to a wide breezeway that opens through the house and divides the two blocks of rooms. Other structures belonging to this group include

the Tom and Martha Rogstad house (no. 23),
the John Pederson house (no. 24),
the Bernard Ellingson house (no. 28), and
the Martin Larson house (no. 32).

The earliest of the houses with a symmetrical facade may be related to the symmetrical stone house. Like them, they are characterized by a central porch decorated with jig-sawn ballusters, brackets, and polychrome shingles. To this genre of house belong

the Peder Dahl house (no. 25),
the Tobias and Wilhelmine Schultz house (no. 26),
the J. H. Bekken house (no. 27), and
the Christen and Johanne Hansen house (no. 36).

Finally, the late symmetrical houses have two paired gables on their facades and a wider porch. Among this type should be included the recently demolished Syvent Reeing house, in addition to the Bersvend and Kari Swenson house (no. 42) and the second Brandhagen house (no. 30). The Bronstad house (no. 31), with its triple-gable facade, appears to be a hybrid of the last two types.

All of these houses were built between 1889 and 1910. Like the stone houses, they are often accompanied by outbuildings dating from the same period. Most characteristic of these are the barns, which are of board-and-batten construction and often display prominent arcades.

With the exception of the Hansen residence (no. 36), the wood-frame houses are generally in much better condition than the stone structures of the earlier period.

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Most, in fact, are presently occupied and well maintained. Other wood houses of these three groupings have also been identified in the community, but these have not fared as well. Because of incompatible additions, asbestos or aluminum siding, they are ineligible for the National Register. Some of them, however, can be added to this nomination at a later date if they undergo sympathetic restorations.

Survey Methods

The properties included in the present thematic nomination were selected by means of a comprehensive historic-resource survey of the Norwegian settlement in Bosque County. The project identified over 110 properties, and was an interdisciplinary study including architectural and historical research as well as some basic historic archaeological work. The staff members of the National Register Department involved in this project were Daniel Hardy (historic architect), David Moore (historian), Kenneth Breisch (architectural historian) and Ulrich Kleinschmidt (archeologist). All information generated by this survey is on file in the National Register Department of the Texas Historical Commission, Austin.

The impetus for this project came from local residents who contacted the Texas Historical Commission, in 1978, about documenting 29 properties built by Norwegian immigrants west of Clifton between Meridian and Niels creeks, during the middle to late 19th century. During their initial visit to the area in March 1979, THC staff members Hardy and Moore observed several additional sites similar to those already identified by local residents as associated with Norwegian settlers. It became apparent that the first group of structures was only a small part of a more extensive rural community. The scope of the project, therefore, was expanded and the survey plans made much more comprehensive.

The majority of the sites eventually recorded were identified during the spring and summer of 1979. The district which was surveyed covered over 150 square miles, within an area bounded by Clifton, Meridian, Cranfills Gap, and the site of Norway Mills. All accessible roads within this area were traveled and every historic structure and site was noted. Territory immediately outside of this district also was examined, but no other significant Norwegian sites were found. Surveyors also examined two other Norwegian settlements in the state, those at Brownsboro and Four Mile Prairie, but no Norwegian sites were identified which were eligible for the National Register. During the fall of 1982, the entire area was re-examined to note any changes or alterations that may have taken place to the buildings since 1979. It was found that remarkably few modifications had occurred on those properties included within the nomination, so that all photos accurately portray the existing appearance of nominated properties.

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The Bosque County survey made use of U.S.G.S. maps, 1936 and 1970 Texas Highway Department maps, and recent aerial photographs. These tools helped to point-out potential sites and structures, which were then visited and evaluated. In addition, a General Land Office map of the county provided the name of the original patentees, and the date of their claim, for each parcel of land in and near the settlement. A study of the Norwegian surnames which appear on this map allowed us not only to relate many of the early sites with specific settlers, but to calculate the areal extent of the original settlement as well. Observation on early patterns of settlement were reinforced by detailed work with U.S. Census Records (1850-1900), the Special Farm Schedules for 1860 and 1870, county deed records (1854-c. 1875), county tax abstracts (1880-1896), cemetery records and two later county tax maps (c. 1920 and c. 1950).

These data were overlaid with other historical information, in particular that gleaned from the histories written by Oris Pierson and William C. Pool, and the centennial edition (1954) of The Clifton Record. Local, state, and national archives were examined for further information, and historical photographs and local historians such as Mrs. Rebecca Radde were consulted. Finally, written questionnaires were mailed to each property owner and the most important properties were documented with additional photographs, measured drawings, and by oral interviews with owners or previous occupants.

The final phase of the survey involved the review of all data and assessment of the potential of all the surveyed historic resources for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. Criteria for this evaluation included the architectural character, quality, and integrity of a site, as well as its archeological potential (in some cases) and its association with significant historical events or persons.

Because of their age and their affiliation with the original settlers, stone and log structures were deemed the most significant of the resources, and most of them consequently have been included in the nomination. Those that were deleted, such as the house on the Hendrik and Christine Dahl farm, had been significantly altered in recent years. With sensitive restoration it may be possible to reconsider these properties for future listing.

Late 19th-century frame houses, which were mainly erected for second-generation Norwegians, constitute the other major group of resources in the nomination. Since these structures are more plentiful than the log and stone buildings, only those that remain virtually unaltered are included in the present listing. Finally, because of its unchanged state and high concentration of sites, the Norwegian settlement area in the Upper Meridian Creek valley was designated as the Upper Settlement Rural Historic District.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) ethnic
				history - Norwegian settlers

AB.C.

Specific dates see cont. sheets Builder/Architect see continuation sheets

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The area of Bosque County originally settled by Norwegians is an outstanding and intact example of a rural ethnic community that grew up on the Texas frontier in the last half of the 19th century. Begun in 1853, it is the only substantial Norwegian settlement of this period in the entire southern half of the United States. Because of the self-contained and self-sufficient nature of its social and economic structure, this settlement remained somewhat isolated from the surrounding Anglo-American society for more than five decades. During this period much of the traditional Norwegian culture was maintained in language, religion, agriculture, and entertainment. In style, plan and siting, the log, stone, and frame houses built by these settlers show a strong relationship to traditional Norwegian building forms and practices. Though some of the earlier homes have been abandoned over the years, the entire area and its architecture have changed little since 1900. This nomination, which includes 35 individual sites and a large rural historic district of 14 contributing sites, documents the rare survival of an entire settlement community. Through careful conservation and study, it should be possible 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.

Initial Immigration

Norwegian immigration to the United States first began in earnest when 53 emigrants from that country, led by Cleng Pearson, landed in New York City in 1825. Pearson, himself, had come to the United States in 1821 to investigate the potential of this new land for such a venture. After stopping briefly in Kendall County, New York, he and his small band eventually made their way further west. In 1834, they established themselves in LaSalle County, Illinois, where they founded the town of Norway. Following the establishment of this first permanent settlement, Pearson continued to encourage his countrymen to come to America, subsequently helping to found more than 30 additional Norwegian colonies in the United States before his death in 1865. It was during this period that the first large-scale influx of Norwegians into America began. The vast majority of these immigrants settled in the northern states of Minnesota, Illinois, and Wisconsin, although a few managed to find their way south into the newly created Republic of Texas.

The first permanent Norwegian settler in Texas appears to have been a physician by the name of Johan Nordboe, who was from Ringebu in Gudbrandsdal. Nordboe had arrived in New York in 1832, and four years later joined the Norwegian colony in LaSalle County, Illinois. In 1837 he moved again, to a new settlement in Shelby County, Missouri. By 1841, however, he was living on a large farm near Dallas, Texas, where he stayed until his death in 1855.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Aars, C. Pernell to Ken Breisch and David Moore. Oral interview, January 19, 1983.
Tape on file, Texas Historical Commission, Austin.

Anonymous. 1869-1969: Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Centennial Celebration. On file,
Texas Historical Commission, Austin. (see continuation sheet)

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property see continuation sheets for individual properties

Quadrangle name Sugarloaf Mountain, Clifton, Cranfills Gap, German Valley, Hurst Springs Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

See continuation sheets for specific UTM references

A	Zone	Easting	Northing	B	Zone	Easting	Northing
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

See continuation sheets for individual properties

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	N/A	code	county	code
state		code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kenneth A. Breisch/Architectural Historian
David Moore/Historian

organization Texas Historical Commission date March 29, 1983
street & number P.O. Box 12276 telephone (512) 475-3094
city or town Austin state Texas 78711

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

☒ national ☐ state ☐ local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Curtis Purnell

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date 12 May 1983

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Beth Grosvenor

date 7/20/83

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

Chief of Registration

See Continuation sheet for listing

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Of more consequence for the future of Norwegian immigration to Texas, was the arrival in New Orleans in 1843 of Johan Reinart Reiersen. Like Peerson, Reiersen was a strong and articulate advocate of Norwegian emigration, and was sent by a group of perspective immigrants to America in search of land for future colonies. He thus spent the fall and winter of 1843 exploring the upper Midwest. The following year, however, at the urging of the Texas Consul in New Orleans, he traveled to the Republic of Texas, where he visited Nacodoches, San Augustine, and finally Austin. In this last city, according to Reiersen himself:

Congress had just assembled and I easily gained admittance to the president of the republic, General Houston, who was intensely interested in having immigrants choose Texas as their fatherland. He assured me that Congress would give a colony of Norwegians all the encouragement that could reasonably be expected (Johnson 1962: 252, 253).

Upon his return to Norway, Reiersen, who was also the editor of the newspaper Christianssandsposten, in 1844 published his observations in a small pamphlet entitled Veiviser for norske emigranter til de forender nordamerikanske stater og Texas (Guide for Norwegian Emigrants to the United States of America and Texas). In this he reported on the governments, agriculture, climate, and general structure of American society in Wisconsin, Illinois, Missouri, and the Republic of Texas. Although Reiersen in this booklet showed no special preference for Texas, his own interest in that republic was clearly revealed when, in 1845, he and his father Ole founded the town of Brownsboro in Henderson County.

The following year the Reiersens were joined by about 50 of their fellow countrymen, including Johan's brothers, Christian and George. In 1847 only a few more immigrants arrived. Among them, however, were Elise Tvede and Wilhelm Waerenskjold, who would marry in this new country the next year. Many of this first wave of pioneers, wrote Elise Waerenskjold, some 20 years later

. . . settled, contrary to Reiersen's advice in very unhealthful places. Thus eight families crowded into two small rooms which an American had built in the bottom lands, completely surrounded by grainfields. The American, who knew how unhealthful it was, wouldn't live there himself but was glad to rent his undesirable place to the Norwegians. Three families also built themselves a cabin in the bottom lands All went fairly well until the warm season arrived; then almost everyone became ill. With the

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exception of J. R. Reiersen's family, whose house lay on high and healthful ground. Consequently many were discontented, and some had died when the writer of these lines arrived in the settlement in October 1847 (Waerenskjold 1976: 83, 84).

The following year, perhaps in part because of this pestilence, Reiersen, Waerenskjold, and Elise Tvede moved further west, founding a second Norwegian colony at Four Mile Prairie, in Van Zandt and Kaufman counties. Here conditions proved somewhat more propitious for the new settlers, who were soon joined by several others from Brownsboro and, in 1850, by 14 additional families who arrived direct from Norway. By 1852, the total Norwegian population in the new state of Texas seems to have numbered just less than 150, and almost all lived either in Brownsboro or Four Mile Prairie.

Still, many of these new immigrants farmers appear to have been somewhat less than completely satisfied with their new situation. Johan Bronstad, for instance, noted in a letter to T. A. Gvestvang in Norway, dated July 21, 1852, that

. . . the soil here at Four Mile is poorer in quality than I believed land of this kind could be in America In addition, we have no other water than what we can find in stagnant pools in the brook, where even the pigs are wallowing and bathing. Furthermore, this water has to be carried a long distance, which, of course, is an unfortunate handicap in a country with such a hot climate (Unstad 1934: 48).

Because of these conditions, no doubt, a number of Norwegians from Four Mile Prairie began to look for a better area in which to live. In November 1851, Johan Reiersen Carl Questad, Johan Grimseth, Johan Bronstad, "and several younger folks" began exploring the land just west of Fort Worth. Here, along the West Fork of the Trinity River, in the northwest corner of Tarrant County, they discovered land fit for settling, and by the summer of 1852 plans were afoot to begin a third Norwegian colony in this part of the state. These plans, for some reason, never materialized. Instead, in late 1853 and in 1854, pioneer Norwegian families began to move from East Texas westward to an area about 40 miles beyond Waco, in newly established Bosque County.

The First Bosque County Settlement

By all accounts, the first Norwegian to settle in Bosque County was Ole Canuteson. Canuteson, along with other members of his family and Cleng Pearson, had come to Texas in 1850 from Pearson's settlement in LaSalle County, Illinois. They located first in

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Dallas County near Johan Nordboe's farm but, by 1852 or 1853, Canuteson had become restless and began to explore the frontier land along the Bosque River, west of Valley Mills. He was apparently drawn there by the promise of free and open land, with gently rolling hills, fertile grasslands, and numerous small, flowing creeks.

In the summer of 1853, under the terms of the recently renewed State Pre-emption Act, Canuteson claimed 320 acres in Bosque County, on the north side of Neils Creek, about eight miles from its mouth and 13 miles due south of Meridian. Here he was soon joined by his wife, Ellen, their children, and his parents, Canute and Betsy Canuteson.

This same year another small band of Norwegians set out from Four Mile Prairie with Ole Canuteson's friend, Cleng Peerson, in order to investigate other land in the vicinity of the Canuteson settlement. When they arrived at the edge of the hills overlooking the Bosque River Valley, wrote Axel Arneson, who had come to the settlement in 1873, these men sensed the land's potential:

There below them lay untouched by human hand the goodly land, fairer than they had dreamed . . . (and this) was only an introduction to a multiplicity of other valleys, one beyond the other, each separated by a range of hills--mountains they called them Here they found abundance of wood and water, and what good water means is beyond the understanding of those who have not experienced the trials of a hot climate with periodic droughts. Here, too, was good building stone and a "lay of the land" that makes for "hominess"; altogether, an ensemble that strongly reminded them of the home valleys from which they came.

After exploring many valleys they returned to their respective homes in East Texas to perfect arrangements for removal the following year . . . (Arneson 1941: 128).

Within two years these Norwegians had laid claim to about ten tracts of land in the county. Among the first pioneers were the families of Ole and Ann Pierson, Hendrik and Christine Dahl, Jens and Kari Ringness, Carl and Sedsel Questad, and Jens and Thonje Jenson. They were accompanied by Cleng Peerson, Ole Ween, Anders Bretta, Berger Rogstad, Ann Bronstad, and David Lund, among others.

The pattern of settlement established by these early pioneers set the pattern for the future Norwegian community in Bosque County, although in 1855, writes Oris Pierson, the settlers were still quite far apart:

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From Ole Canuteson to Berge Rogstad the distance was approximately fourteen miles, with H. Dahl and Jens Ringness living between the two. From O. Canuteson to Questad the distance was approximately seven miles and no family resided between them. From Ole Pierson to Rogstad the distance was only four miles, but the terrain is such that no vehicle could be drawn across the section at that time. However, these distances were soon to be shortened between families, for as new families arrived, they usually settled somewhere among those already there (Pierson 1979: 24).

The arrival of these new families at first proceeded slowly. Between 1855 and 1860, for instance, only a few more Norwegians seem to have attempted the arduous journey to Bosque County. Among them were the families of Bersvend and Kari Swenson, Ovee and Johanne Colwick, and Jo and Ann Wilson. They were joined shortly after 1860 by Ole and Antonette Olson, Canute Olson, and the nephew of Johan Reiersen, J. Lasson Reiersen. According to Oris Pierson, "There were one hundred and two Norwegians in Bosque County in 1860, thirteen of whom were born in Texas and eighty-one who were natives of Norway (Pierson 1979: 24)". Our own review of the 1860 U.S. Census, State Patent Records, and the 1860 Special Farm Schedule would seem to indicate that about 15 Norwegian homesteads were established in Bosque County between 1853 and 1860, and that five more pre-emption certificates were issued in 1863.

According to tradition, it was a common practice for the early settlers to erect small log shelters or dugouts in which to live during the first years after their arrival. As soon as they were able, however, they replaced these temporary shelters with more substantial houses of quarried limestone. The Hendrik Dahl and the Questad families, for instance, are both said to have lived in small log cabins until stone residences could be constructed. Likewise an account of the Ringness family asserts that Jens and Kari Ringness, along with three young children, occupied for five years ". . . a two-room log cabin that (Jens) built before he moved his family from Van Zandt County in 1854 (The Clifton Record, April 30, 1954)." The Jens and Thonje Jensen family apparently also occupied, and expanded, a log house over a period of quite a few years.

Although no log structures from the pre-Civil War settlement period have yet been identified, several later examples of log construction have been found in Bosque County. Through these it is possible to learn something of the early living conditions in the community. The best preserved is the Erickson-Amundson Cabin (no. 20), which was erected by Even and Petrine Erickson in 1874, and subsequently occupied by the Amundson family well into the 20th century. Of equal interest, despite the collapse of its

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roof, is the slightly larger Adolf and Christine Godager cabin (no. 19), which was constructed about the same time. In addition to these two structures, the remains of two other log houses can be seen in the Upper Settlement Rural Historic District on the Peder and Trine Pederson (no. 44) and the Amund and Carlin Ilseng (no. 47) farms. A fifth cabin can be found incorporated into the later J. H. Bekken house (no. 27).

As noted in the Description, all of these log structures are quite small and constructed rather crudely. Originally they apparently had dirt floors and open windows, making them even more uncomfortable. For these reasons, it is not surprising that they were quickly replaced by stone houses.

Though it cannot be positively confirmed, one of the earliest stone structures is traditionally said to stand on the Carl and Sedsel Questad place (no. 1) near Our Saviour's Lutheran Church (no. 33). According to one later account, for instance, Berger and Ann Rogstad are supposed to have "lived in a rock blacksmith shop on the Questad Place (The Clifton Record, April 30, 1954)" for a short time after their arrival in Bosque County in 1854. Lloyd Swenson, the present owner of the Questad farm, also believes that the blacksmith shop was the first stone structure erected by Questad. This, he says, was followed by the main house, which was begun between 1856 and 1858. The other stone buildings in this complex are, of course, very difficult to date, as is the case with most of the other stone structures in the settlement. Other houses which seem to date to the first decade of occupation, however, are the Pierson (no. 2), Swenson (no. 42), Linberg (no. 3), and Hendrik Dahl residences, all of which, with the exception of the Dahl house which was heavily altered in the 1950s, are included in this nomination.

Of particular importance among these early farms are the Questad and Ringness places. Not only is their architecture significant and intact, but their buildings were also religious and social centers. Among all of the Norwegian farmsteads in Bosque County, they exhibit the closest ties to traditional Scandinavian building practices.

The Ringness house (no. 4), for instance, appears to be closely related to the Norwegian Dobbelthus (double house). As Tom Carter has recently pointed out in his National Register Nomination for the Scandinavian pair houses of Utah, the pair house or double house was a common residence for upper-middle-class land owners by the mid-19th century in Scandinavia. It was thus natural that the imposing, symmetrical form of this style should be adopted by the new immigrant land owners in America, who suddenly found themselves with similar pretensions to a middle-class lifestyle.

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The Questad complex (no. 1), too, with its impressive array of stone fences and informally grouped stone buildings, exudes not only an impression of prosperity, but also the character of a Nordic mountain farmstead. The Questad place, in particular, served as a way-station for new immigrants. Carl Questad, himself, is said to have paid for the trans-Atlantic passage of several of these temporary boarders. These bondsmen, in turn, helped work the farm in order to repay him, and, according to tradition, it was they who erected much of the stone fencing that still encircles the main complex.

Other early structures also reflect an extremely high quality of craftsmanship in their masonry work. Outstanding among them are the Bersvend Swenson house (no. 42), the Ringness blacksmith shop, and the Linberg barn (no. 3). Given the good stone work, and the underlying kinship of forms and plans that was noted previously in the Description, it is not surprising that the 1860 U.S. Census records three "rock" masons of Norwegian origin living in Bosque County. These were John Johnson, Berger Rogstad (listed as Berry Rochester), and Eric (A. M.) Linberg. Carl Questad, too, in addition to being remembered locally as a skilled blacksmith and farmer, is often referred to as a rock mason.

According to Berger Rogstad's granddaughter, Johanna Rogstad, her grandfather had already begun to practice ". . . his trade as a 'Rock Mason,' a trade he learned in Norway," while living on the Questad farm in 1854. "He helped to build many of the old rock houses in the community," she said a century later, "some of them still standing--such as the rock building on the Questad place and an old rock building in Meridian (both unidentified)." "Shortly (after 1855) Grandpa purchased some land on the mountain, now known as the 'Rogstad Mountain,' where he built a nice little rock home for his family (The Clifton Record, April 30, 1954)." This building, unfortunately, has since burned.

Less is known of the activities of John Johnson, Eric Linberg or Carl Questad, although a number of buildings from the 1850s have survived on the Questad place. In addition, a barn and the remnants of a house from the early 1860s can still be seen on the old Linberg farm (no. 3). The quality of all of these structures bears testimony to the ability of the masons. The fine craftsmanship exhibited by all of the stone buildings in the settlement, in fact, speaks plainly of the skill of every one of the early stone masons. All seem to celebrate the stolid character of the Norwegian farmer in this forbidding land. As noted in the Description, these buildings would serve as prototypes for other stone houses in the community for at least the next 20 years.

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In addition to erecting stone buildings, the Norwegian settlement in the 1850s began to establish itself in other ways. The first schoolhouse, for instance, was built about 1857. According to Alvin Bronstad, this was known as the Peck School and was located ". . . on the north bank of Gary Creek some six hundred yards north-east of the Sokker top (sugar loaf) mountain (Bronstad 1933: 19). Its foundation was apparently still visible as late as 1931. It was, wrote Bronstad,

. . . a typical pioneer school house of post oak and cedar logs chinked with rocks and clay. It was about twelve by sixteen feet in size, or, as one of the pioneers put it, 'it was as large as the logs were long.' It faced south at which end was a door. On the east side there was an opening with shutter and no glass. A fireplace was built on the north end. The floor was of clay . . . (Bronstad 1933: 20).

During this same period, the old Canuteson homestead on the top of Norman Hill was establishing itself as an early center of other activities. In 1859, for instance, it became the first official post office for the community. Ole Canuteson was made postmaster and held this position until he moved to Waco about ten years later. Though the Canuteson house and post office have been destroyed, we have fortunately discovered an historic photograph of this very important structure. The site of the Canuteson house is well known in the community, but does not appear to have archaeological potential, because of removal of home and related features in recent years.

Understandably, the years of war between 1860 and 1865 inhibited further expansion or development of this new Norwegian community. Many of the men were drafted into Confederate service, several died, and the Union blockade of the Gulf Coast temporarily hindered further immigration from Norway.

Development and Growth of the Community

Within a few years of the end of the Civil War, the Norwegian community in Bosque County again began to receive new people and to expand. With this growth came renewed building activity and economic development. This second wave of immigration was spurred by the reopening of the Gulf ports, as well as by a series of severe epidemics in the East Texas settlements. In the fall and winter of 1867, for instance, 12 people among the 33 Norwegian families living at Four Mile Prairie in East Texas died in just such an epidemic. The following year, 12 of the remaining families fled to Bosque County in an effort to escape the pestilences.

This shift of population determined the future of the earlier Norwegian settlements in the state, for by late 1869, according to Elise Waerenskjold there were only 17

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Norwegian families left at Four Mile Prairie and the original settlement at Brownsboro had dwindled to 16. The Bosque County settlement, in contrast, had grown to about 60 households by that date. According to the 1870 Census, it now consisted of approximately 350 people living on 46 farms (see Special Farm Schedule, Bosque County, 1870). From this point on, the settlement in Bosque County became the focus of Norwegian immigration in the state, while the other two communities continued to stagnate.

Typical among the experiences of the second wave of settlers were those of the Salve and Knud Knudson families. Salve, the patriarch of the group, had first arrived in the United States with his sons, Knud and Oscar, and his daughter Signe, in 1846. Having originally settled at Brownsboro, the family moved in 1858 to Four Mile Prairie. Signe and her husband, Terry Nystal, settled in Bosque County in 1867, and were joined by her father and her brother, Knud, the following year. According to an account which can probably be attributed to Knud's youngest son, Charlie, who was born in 1867 or 1868,

Fear of the Indians had been the reason why the Knudsons and other families hadn't come from their former homes in east Texas to Bosque County a year earlier. They had been ready to move when word had come that Ole Nystel, a son of Salve's daughter who had made the move earlier, had been captured by Comanches. He was taken to Kansas and remained a prisoner for three months, finally being sold for government ransom and returned home. But fear of the dread cholera which struck once more in east Texas was more powerful than of redskins--they at least had a chance against the Indians--so they made the move in 1868.

Salve and Knud settled on adjoining farms of 160 acres each, where they (sic) was sufficient land which would not have to be cleared of trees before the first crop could be planted. For a short time, until . . . log houses could be built, they camped under an oak tree in a little lean-to made of lumber which they had brought with them (Waco Tribune-Herald, July 29, 1946).

These log houses soon were replaced by the two stone houses (nos. 48 and 49), which still stand within the confines of the Upper Settlement Rural Historic District. These, as noted in the Description, were probably constructed in the 1870s, but were still very similar in plan to the Swenson (no. 42) and Pierson (no. 2) stone houses, which had been erected more than a decade earlier. This practice of adopting the plans of earlier houses, was one that would be followed in other stone residences built by this second wave of settlers, so that structures of both the symmetrical and asymmetrical

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type can be found in this later period. Once the stone homes had been erected, life nevertheless continued much as it had before. For instance, the Knudsons continued to use an open fireplace for cooking and heating for many years, and much of their furniture was made by hand. For food they relied heavily on wheat and cattle, but also grew

. . . irish potatoes and sweet potatoes and they had an orchard of wild plum trees. Wild berries they could find in the hills. For meat, wild turkey, deer and fish were plentiful. Wild honey and cane syrup served as sweetening when there was no sugar. The syrup was cooked in a little clump of live oak trees near the house, 40 gallons annually for themselves and some for their neighbors.

The Knudsons, like other settlers, at first cultivated only land which was already cleared and planted crops they could eat. Cotton didn't become a staple crop until later, when they were in position to plant it and when gins came into the community. When they were ready to spread out and cultivate more land, some of it had to be cleared. The trees were cut down and hauled away and the stumps were pulled out by ox team Wheat and corn were the first crops planted. The plows were made of wood, wheels and all, except for the iron plow share, and were drawn by oxen . . . (Waco Tribune-Herald, July 28, 1946).

After threshing, the grain was taken to Waco for milling until mills came to nearby Clifton. This trip usually took about five days, and the Norwegians traveled in groups for protection. Here part of the wheat would be traded for flour and the rest sold. According to the Knudson account,

The mill in Waco bought only wheat, but some of the merchants and buyers would come and sample and purchase cotton. Also, cotton and wool which had been fashioned at home into white, black and grey cloth could be exchanged in Waco yard for yard for calico. From Waco they took home a supply of cloth and groceries . . . (Waco Tribune-Herald, July 28, 1946).

By the early 1870s, the largely unpopulated district that had existed between the Rogstad and Ole Canuteson homesteads had begun to fill in with new Norwegian farms. As Oris Pierson has noted,

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These late arrivlas settled among those Norwegians already in the community, and along the northwestern fringe of what may be called the colony. The locations made by those who arrived during 1868, 1869 and 1870 established the lines of the settlement fairly well, and only one or two areas were added later. We may say that the settling of W. T. Tergerson in the Mustang Community in 1873 more or less fixed the boundaries of what people have chosen to call the Norwegian settlement in Bosque County. The period that followed, from 1870 to 1946, is one of transition, expansion, development, and growth--growth spiritually, economically, and socially--and finally one of absorpion (Pierson 1979: 27).

For the first three decades of this period, at least, the settlement continued to grow, and this growth was actively encouraged by people in the community. For example, Hendrik Dahl, one of the original pioneers, returned to Norway in 1872 to visit his mother, but also to lead a new group of Norwegian immigrants back to Texas. According to one of these immigrants, Axel Arneson,

Hendrik Dahl was a fine type of man, very capable, not given much to talk, conservative in all his statements; but coming from Texas, a remote land about which were told such fantastic tales, the whole countryside in Norway was aroused with curiosity. What was repeated from one to the other heightened the fancy.

A land of continual sunshine, free from ice or snow or biting cold, where horse and cow unhoused grazed out the winter long, where wool grew on bushes, where pork and grapes alike ran wild. A mental picture took on the colors of oriental imagination. Many rallied around Hendrik Dahl to join him on his return to Texas. A very considerable company was made up, the writer's parents among them. Mother was a relative of the Dahls; she already had a brother over here, and so it came about that we too joined the expedition (Arneson 1941: 130).

It was a difficult journey and several of these voyagers died from its hardships, including Dahl himself. Still, many more survived and, with others like themselves, arrived in Bosque County to swell the ranks of the settlement. By 1890 there were over 1300 Norwegians living in this area.

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During this same period (1870-1890) the state issued pre-emption certificates for land in Bosque County to over 80 individuals with Norwegian surnames, although this number dropped to fewer than 30 during the next 20 years. According to Bosque County tax records, many more Norwegians purchased land from families of the original Anglo-American patent holders, so that by 1900 approximately 100 square miles of the county, in an area surrounded by Cranfills Gap, Norway Mills, Clifton, and the Even Erickson farm (no. 20) on Bee Creek, were almost entirely owned by Norwegians. As this community grew, it began to evolve distinctive signs of permanent settlement. According to Alvin Bronstad,

The flour mill at Norway Mill was built in about 1870 by Mr. A. Y. Reeder, Mr. O. Canuteson and Mr. Andrew Canuteson. Helping in the construction were Charlie Olson and Martin Shefstad The mill was operated under a three-way partnership plan--O. Canuteson, Andrew Canuteson, and A. Y. Reeder. This same company operated their gin and blacksmith shop by the same steam power that operated the mill (The Royal Visit, October 1982).

The Reeder-Omenson house (no. 6) was constructed about this same time by Charlie Olson and Martin Shefstad for Alvin Reeder. Though Reeder was not of Norwegian descent, Norway Mill (no. 5) was one of the first operations of this sort to serve the Norwegian farmers, and in the 1870s and 1880s a small community of about a dozen Norwegian and Anglo-American families settled around the mill and the Reeder house. Though nothing of this survives but the mill and the Reeder house, this community once included a school, general store, drug store, and several blacksmith shops. In 1878, this town of Norway Mills was platted, and a year later the post office was transferred from Ole Canuteson's farm at Norman Hill to this new community.

Eighteen seventy-nine witnessed the creation of another post office at Cranfills Gap, at the extreme western edge of the Norwegian settlement. This post office served the Upper Settlement District and the Mustang Community, while a third was established mid-way between Cranfills Gap and Norway Mills at Norse, in 1880, to serve the core of the Norwegian area of the county.

As at Norway Mills, small communities soon sprang up at both Cranfills Gap and Norse. Cranfills Gap, however, is the only one of these early towns which still survives. Norway Mills, in contrast, flourished for only about twenty years, from around 1870 to 1890, and Norse somewhat longer, from about 1870 until 1930. In 1890, the post office at Norway Mills was closed and moved to Norse. This post office, in turn, was shut down in 1931, when it was consolidated with the post office at Clifton.

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Of these three small towns, only that of Norse was founded by Norwegians and maintained a fundamentally Norwegian population throughout its history. All of its postmasters, for instance, possessed Norwegian surnames. As early as about 1869, wrote Alvin Bronstad, it had become the site of a new stone schoolhouse, which had been constructed by the Norwegians to replace the old Peck School. In 1880, as noted above, the town received a post office, and soon possessed a general store and blacksmith shop. These were joined in the 20th century by the Norse Telephone Company exchange, which was located in a wood-frame house that also served as the residence of its operator until it closed in the 1950s. Even at its height, however, Norse was never very large. According to Alvin Linberg, whose father was postmaster and ran the general store in the 1890s, it never seems to have consisted of more than these few buildings. Although no substantial, unaltered historical remnants of this town have survived, there is a historic photograph of the old Norse Post Office as it appeared about this time.

The fact that the Norwegians in Bosque County developed no substantial urban centers is not surprising, given the traditional rural orientation of these people. In Norway itself small farms long had been organized into rural communities, and it was these, and not the towns, that served as centers for immediate social, economic, and religious activities. The immigrant farmers who came to Texas in the 19th century apparently brought this tradition with them, and structured their new settlements along similar lines, dividing them into a series of small and loosely-knit rural communities.

The sites of these vanished communities are marked by a concentration of farmsteads and, occasionally, by surviving schoolhouses which were often their focal point. In Bosque County, farming centers of this type included the Norman Hill, Bee Creek, Turkey Creek, Neils Creek, Boggy, Upper Meridian, Mustang, and Harmony communities. As the names indicate, they were typically organized according to geographic considerations, most commonly in valleys and along small creeks. The best preserved of these centers is the Upper Meridian Community, or Upper Settlement. It is gathered around the Bersvend Swenson homestead, and forms the heart of the Rural Historic District in this nomination.

Conspicuously absent from these communities are the large social halls which so often dominate contemporary German and eastern European settlements in Texas. In the Norwegian settlement it was the individual farms that served this function. Thus dances and other social events were held at different houses, and were often rotated around the community from one house to another. Some farms, of course, played a more important role in this process than others, so that places like the Dahl farm, wrote Axel Arneson, stood out

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. . . in the memory of old folks as the highest expression of cordial hospitality; it was the gathering point of friends and kindred for miles and miles around. On 'Meeting Sundays' it was the accepted gathering place, and everybody was welcome. They came on horseback and by wagonloads. Under the magnificent live oaks over acres of extent were tied up the horses and oxen of the guests. Sometimes it was almost like a public gathering, yet there was always room for everybody The whole household joined in unaffected hospitality, and the Dahl gatherings imparted good cheer and a festive mood that tided over isolation and monotony What the Dahl farm was to the lower settlement, so was the Rogstad farm, only to a lesser degree, to the upper settlement (Arneson 1941: 132).

Of course the church, too, played an active role in the organization of the whole community. Most important in this respect is Our Savior's Luthern Church (no. 33). This was built under the supervision of Gunarus Shefstad on ten acres of land donated for the purpose by Carl Questad in 1870. Although the exterior of this building, which was originally of wood, has undergone extensive change, the interior remains much as it appeared when it was dedicated in April, 1885. The cemetery next door serves as the final resting place for many of the original Norwegian pioneers, including Cleng Peerson, and the church itself still plays an important role in the life of the community.

In December 1885, the same year in which this first church was dedicated, the congregation resolved to build a second edifice further to the west, in order to accommodate the farmers of the Upper Settlement. The following year, Andreas Mikkelsen was awarded a contract to design and build this second church, which was named St. Olaf's (no. 40). In 1917 the St. Olaf congregation moved to a new structure in Cranfills Gap, but the "Old Rock Church" has continued to be carefully maintained, and stands today as a focal point of the Upper Settlement Rural Historic District. Though originally of different building material, the churches of St. Olaf's and Our Savior's share a similar plan and form, with a central bell tower and steeple, and a single wide nave with a small organ loft at the back. They are both remarkably similar to the Norway Lutheran Church, constructed in 1875 in Norway, Illinois. That settlement, it might be recalled, was founded by Cleng Peerson in 1834, 20 years before he himself was to migrate to Bosque County.

Transition and Absorption

In 1880 the railroad arrived in Clifton, which was located to the west of the Norwegian settlement, and brought new strength to this small community. As a result, by 1890 Clifton had replaced Norway Mills as the distribution and embarkation point

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for contact with Waco and the outside world. Within another decade or two it would also eclipse Norse and even Cranfills Gap as the major trading center for the Norwegian farmers. During this same period it began to draw increasingly larger numbers of Norwegians into its city limits. In 1896 the Lutheran College of Clifton was founded on its outskirts. By 1906, the town's Norwegian population was large enough that it was able to establish and build its own church. This increase in contact between the Norwegians and the outer world helped to bring about their eventual assimilation into Anglo-American society.

The arrival of the railroad also made available, for the first time, new and cheaper building materials such as milled lumber and bricks, which inevitably changed the course of local Norwegian architecture. The result was a wholesale shift from the stone buildings of the earlier era to larger, wood-frame houses. Although the first wooden house, that of James Jens Jenson (no. 21), predates the arrival of the railroad by about four years, the real heyday of wood-frame construction did not begin until the late 1880s, at which time wood almost entirely eclipsed masonry construction.

As noted in the Description, however, even these wood-frame houses, with their high-pitched eaves and polychrome decorative porches, are a unique style for Texas. It is said that many of them, such as the Colwick House (no. 22), were designed and built by the Norwegian-trained builder, John Nordahl, and that it was he who brought this style with him from his native land. In any case, and perhaps not entirely coincidentally, the closest relative of these houses may be the ubiquitous, wood-frame farm houses of the upper Midwest, an area that was itself heavily populated by Scandinavians in the 19th century.

The introduction of the telephone and eventually of the automobile after the turn of the century further increased contact with other areas. According to our interviews, most of the children in the community appear to have been bilingual as early as 1900, speaking Norwegian and English in their homes and English at school. Within another decade the Norwegian language was definitely on the wane. Interestingly, the architecture of this period seems to reflect a parallel assimilation of Anglo-American cultural ideals. In Clifton, for instance, it has not been possible to identify a specifically Norwegian building style and, in the settlement area itself, bungalows and other contemporary American fashions began to appear after World War I. In 1926, in fact, when the congregation of Our Savior's Lutheran Church erected a new parsonage, it was constructed in the Bungalow style. Significantly, perhaps, this was only one year after the final entry in the Norwegian language appears in the parish minutes.

Though a strong sense of community has been maintained throughout the years, the shift from Norwegian to a mixed Norwegian-American culture appears to have been

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accomplished by the 1920s. Only recently, as has happened elsewhere across the country, has a later generation begun to show renewed interest in its past cultural heritage. This interest was spurred by a visit to Bosque County of King Olav V of Norway, in 1982.

Nevertheless, many of the original Norwegian structures in the settlement have been abandoned for decades, and very few of them have been restored or otherwise modified. Most of the properties included in this nomination, too, are still owned by descendants of the 19th century settlers, who are enthusiastic about their past history. Thus the archeological potential of the region is considerable, and the opportunity exists for a careful coordination of historical studies with the planning and execution of any future restoration work in the community.

Documentation of the Sites

The properties included in this nomination are situated in the southwestern portion of Bosque County. Their location, as stated in the following inventory, is described as their distance and direction from the intersection of State Highway 22 and FM 219 in Clifton. The majority of sites are situated near unnamed and unpaved county roads, but those properties located near a farm-to-market (FM) road are appropriately indicated. The survey on which each property is located is also provided for clarification purposes. Each site is referred to in the nomination by its historic name, with the exception of the Brogdon farm (no. 15), which is only known by the name of its current owner. For those properties that were working farms at one time, the names of the husband and wife (if known) have been used. When applicable, other families who either were associated with the house for many years or who built large additions onto the original structure are included in the name, as in the case of the Hoff-Ulland farm (no. 18).

Unless noted otherwise, all of the nominated properties are noteworthy because of their architectural significance and their association with the Norwegian settlers. The Christen and Johanne Knudson farm (no. 11), the Ole and Ann Pierson farm (no. 2), and Our Savior's Lutheran Church (no. 33) have been altered, but are nominated for the reasons listed in their statements of significance. A site plan is provided for each nominated property. These maps, which vary in scale from 1":20' to 1":100', delineate the exact area to be nominated and take the place of a verbal boundary description. (This procedure was approved by Linda McClellan of the National Park Service by telephone, February 23, 1983.) Most of the boundaries follow physical features such as fence lines, creekbeds, or roadways, but in cases where no such features exist, the boundary is determined with respect to the structure which is being nominated.

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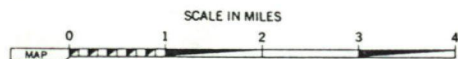
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The Norwegian Settlement of Bosque County

■ Individual sites

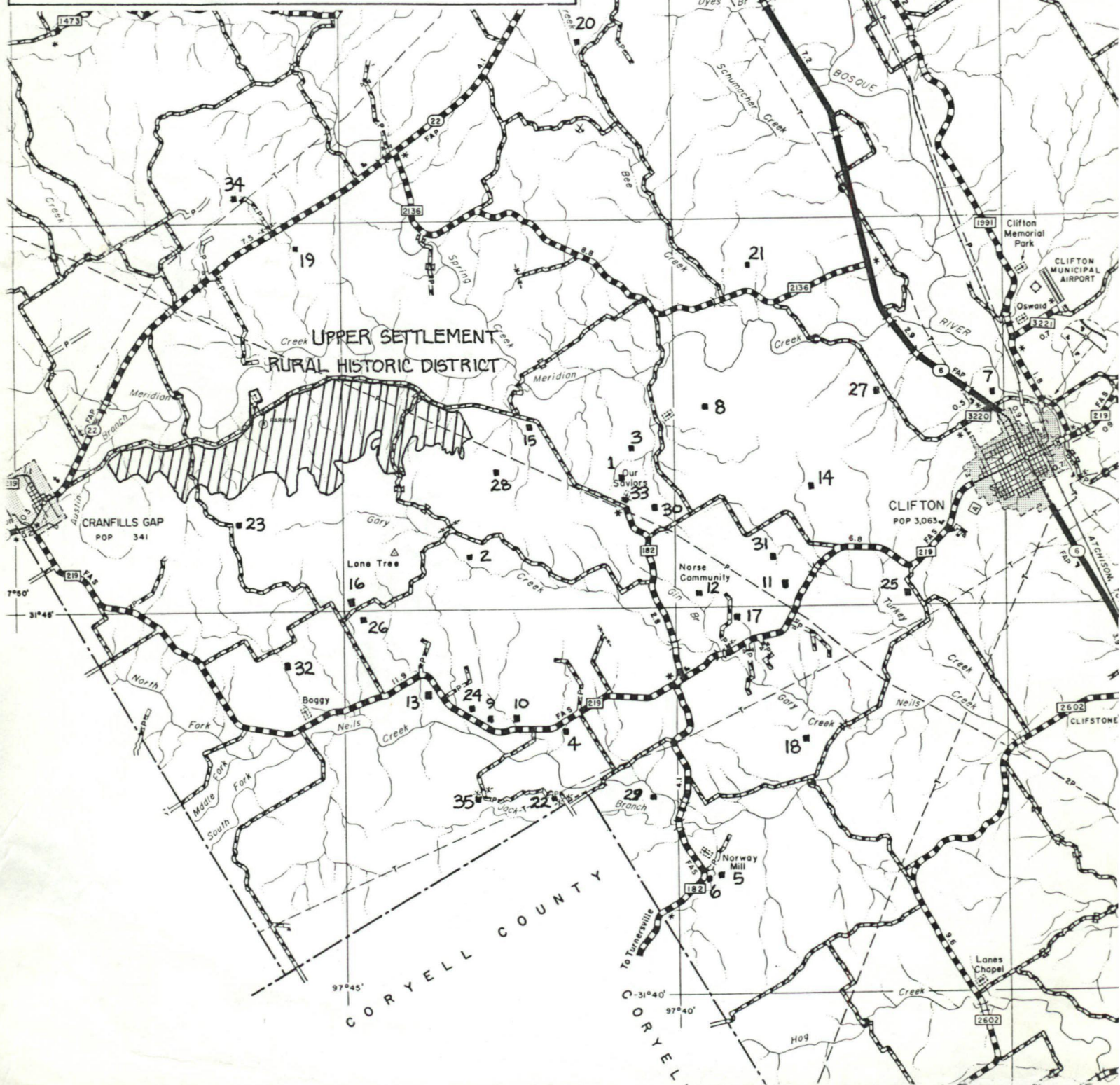
▨ Area included within the Upper Settlement Rural Historic District



1970

1980 CENSUS FIGURES

HIGHWAYS REVISED TO APRIL 1, 1982



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SITE NO. 1

NAME

Carl and Sedsel Questad farm

LOCATION

~~6 miles~~ west of Clifton, Bosque County, Texas,
on the C. Questad survey

OWNER

Lloyd S. Swenson
Questad Place
Cranfills Gap, Texas 76637

PRESENT USE

Private residence, agriculture

CATEGORY

Buildings

STATUS

Occupied

QUADRANGLE NAME

Sugarloaf Mountain, Texas

QUADRANGLE SCALE

1:24000

UTM REFERENCE

14/624940/3516340

ACREAGE

about 4½ acres

PHOTO REFERENCE NO.

1, 2, 3, 4, 5

DESCRIPTION

The Carl and Sedsel Questad farm retains, to a remarkable degree, much of its original character and ambiance. Prominently sited atop a hill that overlooks the Meridian Creek valley, the Questad Place, as it is known locally, is located about one and a half miles north of the old townsite of Norse. All of the farm's stone buildings and fences are well maintained and are equally important to the integrity of the property. The house has been substantially altered, but the changes were generally sensitive to the historic character of the structure. It consists of two stone sections joined only at their very corners, and dating possibly to the 1850s. A photograph made about 1930 shows a porch with balcony in the outside angle of this juncture, although the present gabled addition replaced the porch in 1949. This frame addition now serves as the entrance front. The northwest stone section of the house is particularly noteworthy because of its massive stone chimney and watertable.

The detached outbuildings represent an important aspect of the farm's historic character, and all stand within a stone fence that almost completely encircles the old

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farmstead. The springhouse and kitchen building, located northeast of the main residence, is built into the hillside and reflects the European heritage of its original owner. An open breezeway divides the structure into halves, with the springhouse at the north end and the kitchen opposite. The spring that once flowed from the hill has long been dry. Like the other buildings on the farm, the blacksmith shop is of limestone construction. Standing northwest of the house, it retains its original dirt floor and has a small tower, with cast-iron bell, atop the gabled roof. The largest structure on the farm is the two-story barn about 200 feet south of the house. The massive stone north wall is pierced on each floor by door-like openings. One-story lean-tos extend from the east and west ends of the barn. The stables are located on the south side and are protected by a shed roof extension. A stone fence extends about a third of a mile from the old farmstead to the grounds of Our Savior's Church (no. 33).

OTHER AREA OF SIGNIFICANCE

Science

SIGNIFICANCE

Carl and Sedsel Questad were among the original Norwegian pioneers who settled in Bosque County in 1854, and some of the stone structures on this farm are thought to date from before the Civil War. Questad is said to have paid for the passage of other immigrants who, upon arrival in the settlement, boarded with him and helped to erect his stone fences. From 1870 to 1879, the Questad Place also served as the home of Gustav Belfrage (known locally as "Belfrog the Bug Catcher"), a noted Swedish naturalist, whose collections of insects were sold to numerous museums in Europe. The farm, itself, is the best-preserved example of a "Nordic" ensemble of buildings in the entire Norwegian community.

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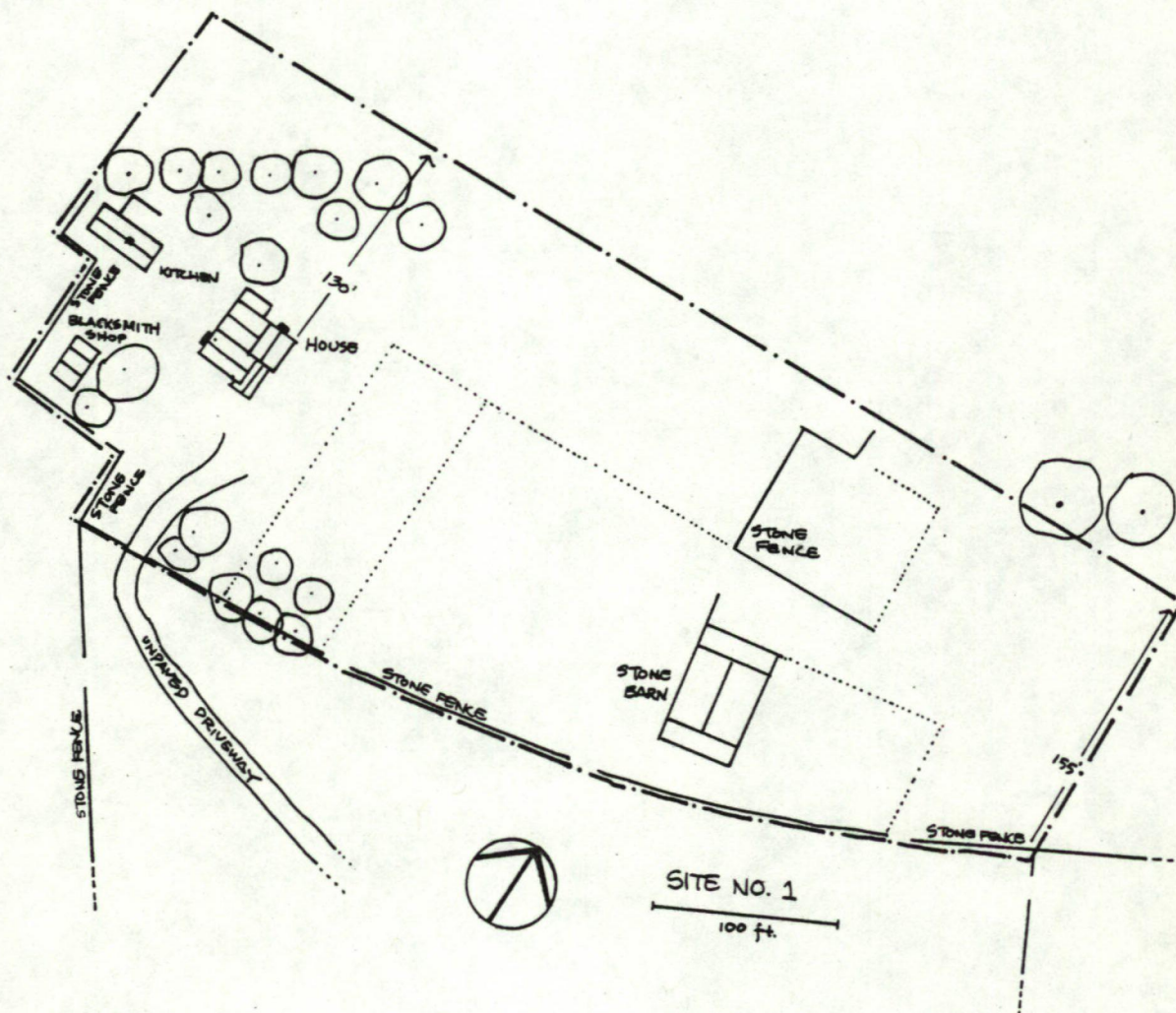
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SITE NO. 2

NAME

Ole and Ann Pierson, farm

LOCATION

8½ miles west of Clifton, Bosque County, Texas,
on the O. Pederson survey

OWNER

W.L. Penberthy, Jr.
13506 Alchester
Houston, Texas 77079

PRESENT USE

Private residence, agriculture

CATEGORY

Buildings

STATUS

Occupied

QUADRANGLE NAME

Sugarloaf Mountain, Texas

QUADRANGLE SCALE

1:24000

UTM REFERENCE

14/621420/3514400

ACREAGE

less than 1 acre

PHOTO REFERENCE No. 6, 7

DESCRIPTION

The Ole and Ann Pierson farm stands within the Gary Creek valley, near the base of Rattlesnake Mountain. The house is about 200 feet north of the creek and remains in good condition. The original, two-story stone house retains much of its integrity, despite the frame additions on the east end. In plan, the original residence is of the asymmetrical type, with dimensions similar to those of the Bersvend Swenson house (no. 42). A two-tiered porch extends across the front, or south, facade. The stone wall within this porch area retains its stuccoed veneer. An exterior stone chimney extends beyond the west gable end. Each floor of the rear wall is pierced by three evenly spaced window openings. The two-story frame section was added to the east end around the turn-of-the-century. Although presently covered with asbestos siding, this addition represents an important part of the structure's architectural evolution. In the 1950s, a garage and connecting hallway were added onto the east side of the frame part of the house.

A small outbuilding, which contributes to the historic character of the farm, stands about 150 feet south of the house, on the north embankment of Gary Creek. Of limestone construction, it has a single doorway on the south wall and small rectangular openings on the east and west walls.

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SIGNIFICANCE

Though the Ole and Ann Pierson house has been more heavily altered than most of the other stone houses in this nomination, it is deemed significant because of its association with two of the original Norwegian settlers in Bosque County. The original stone portion of the residence, moreover, has not had its historic integrity overly impaired. It is said by present and past owners to date to pre-Civil War times.

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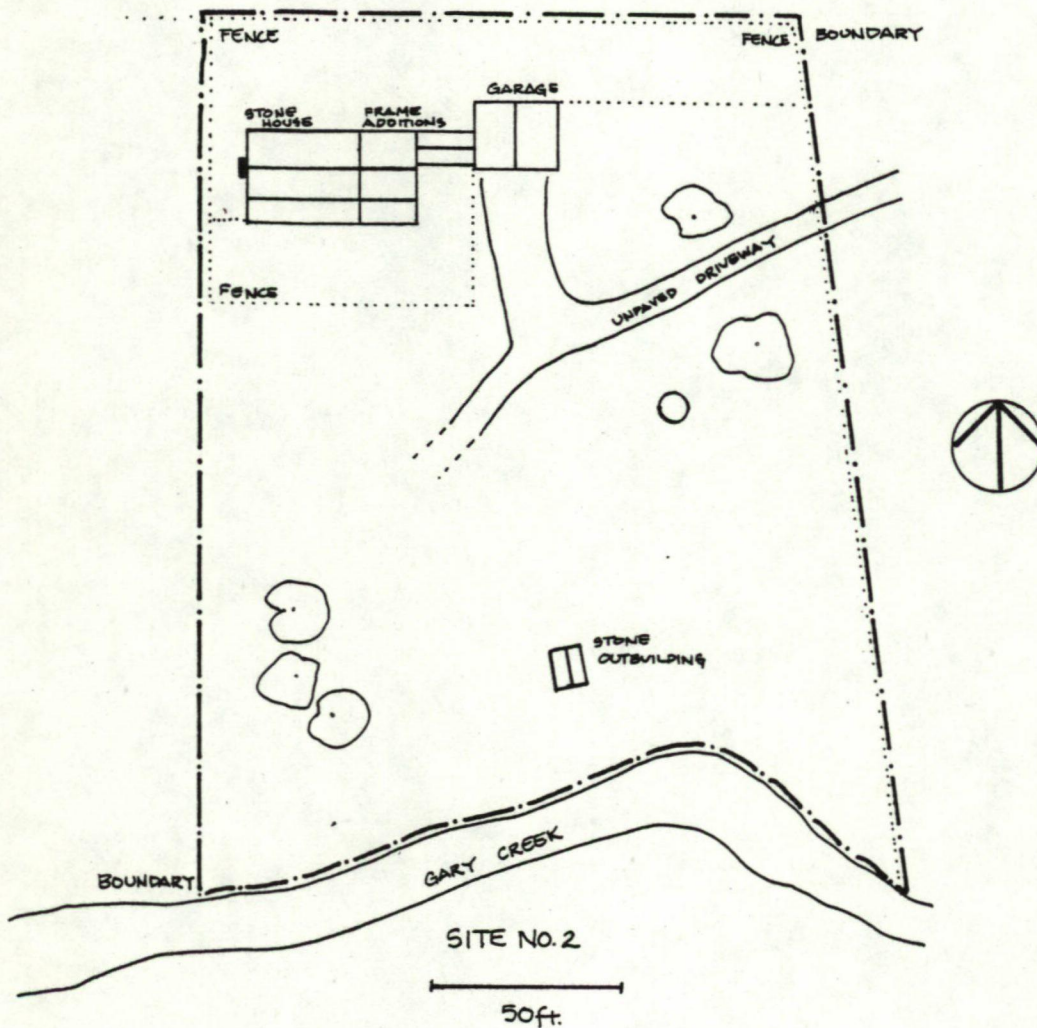
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SITE NO. 3

NAME

Eric and Martha Linberg farm

LOCATION

6 miles west of Clifton, Bosque County, Texas,
on the O. Ween survey

OWNER

Sam E. Deeley
Route 1
Valley Mills, Texas 76634

PRESENT USE

Agriculture

CATEGORY

Building, site

STATUS

Unoccupied

REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

Family Land Heritage Program
1974
General Land Office
Austin, Texas

QUADRANGLE NAME

Sugarloaf Mountain, Texas

QUADRANGLE SCALE

1:24000

UTM REFERENCE

14/625220/3517180

ACREAGE

about 2½ acres

PHOTO REFERENCE NO.

9, 10

DESCRIPTION

The Eric and Martha Linberg farm, sited prominently on a bluff that overlooks the Meridian Creek valley, is located about one mile southwest of Round Mountain. The farm complex has been abandoned in recent years, but the land is still being cultivated. The house was used by the Linberg family as a barn between 1913, when the nearby bungalow was completed, and 1976, when the stone house was struck by a tornado. Because of this tornado, as well as another one which hit the house around the turn-of-the-century, the original configuration of the residence is difficult to determine. It was, however, a split-level house with a one-room cellar that was dug out of the southside of the hill.

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The only known historic photograph of the house shows only the east (front) elevation. Similar in composition to the five-bay arrangement of the Ringness house (no. 4), the front had a gabled porch over the entrance. A massive stone barn stands on the north side of the hill about 200 feet from the house. It, too, is a split-level structure. The barn is still in use and remains in excellent condition, although it has recently been repointed with portland cement. Other outbuildings that contribute to the historic character of the farm include two small sheds. The bungalow and a garage are not included in the nominated property.

SIGNIFICANCE

According to Alvin and Ibrey Linberg, this large stone house was begun by their grandfather, Eric Linberg, in 1861. Four years later he married Martha Ringness, and the house was presumably enlarged as the family grew. Though this structure has been badly damaged by a recent tornado, enough remains to reveal something of the skill of its builder, Linberg, who was one of three early masons in the settlement. His son, Martin, who served as Postmaster and ran the General Store in Norse at the end of the last century, lived here with his family after 1901. A large stone barn, which stands to the west of this house, is also of outstanding architectural note.

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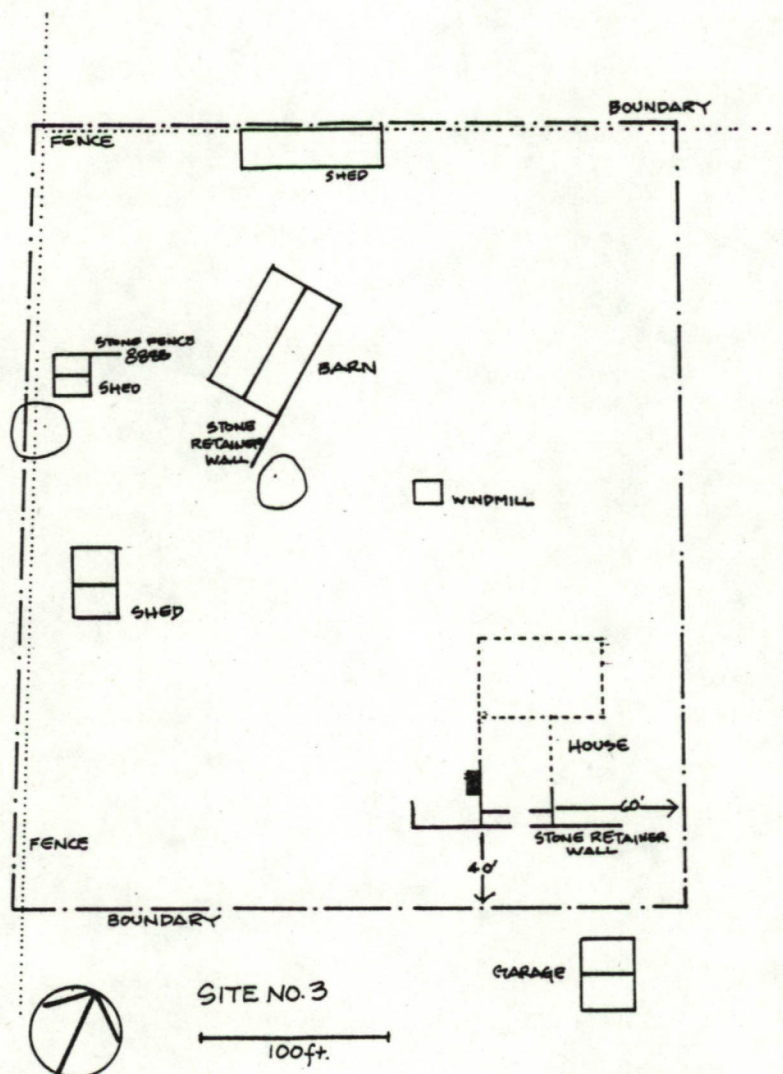
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SITE NO. 4

NAME Jens and Kari Ringness farm *on FM 219*

LOCATION ~~FM 219~~, 8 miles southwest of Clifton, Bosque County, Texas, on the J. Ringness survey

OWNER Don Brandenburger
Route 2
Clifton, Texas 76634

PRESENT USE Agriculture

CATEGORY Buildings, site

STATUS Unoccupied

REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS Family Land Heritage Program
1975
General Land Office
Austin, Texas

QUADRANGLE NAME Hurst Springs, Texas

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCE 14/623670/3510300

ACREAGE less than 1 acre

PHOTO REFERENCE NO. 11, 12, 13

DESCRIPTION

Located on a gently rising bluff overlooking the Neils Creek valley, the Jens and Kari Ringness farm stands near the east bank of a small creekbed. This rural complex is visible by car from its location south of FM 219, about two miles southwest of FM 182. The house, despite its poor condition, retains much of its integrity. It is a large, one-and-a-half-story building of limestone construction that was once covered

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with plaster. The front faces south and exhibits a five-bay facade that is symmetrically composed. Flat arches with stone voussoirs span each of the openings. A small gable, which originally was part of a porch, extends above the broad central bay. The end elevations are virtually identical to one another, and feature stone chimneys in the center of the gables, with flanking attic windows supported by wooden plates. The rear elevation is similar in its composition to that of the front, but it did not have the central gable. A low-pitched gable roof, in poor condition, caps the structure. Because of its present use as a barn, the interior is virtually gutted. Its plan has a central hallway that is flanked on each side by a pair of rooms.

The old blacksmith shop, which stands about 100 feet north of the house, remains in good condition with few alterations. With a square-shaped plan, this one-and-a-half-story building features limestone walls that are canted inward toward the top. It is now used for storage.

The old well and cistern located on the property contribute to the historic character of the farm. The modern buildings, which stand east of the old farm, are not included within the property to be nominated.

SIGNIFICANCE

Jens and Kari Ringness arrived in Bosque County, with the first wave of Norwegian settlers, in 1854. Their house, which is said to have been constructed five years later, represents an excellent example of the Norwegian Dobbelthus, and the blacksmith shop near it ranks among the finest masonry structures in the area. In 1867, the first Norwegian Lutheran service to be held in the county was celebrated in the Ringness house by the Reverend Styrk S. Reque.

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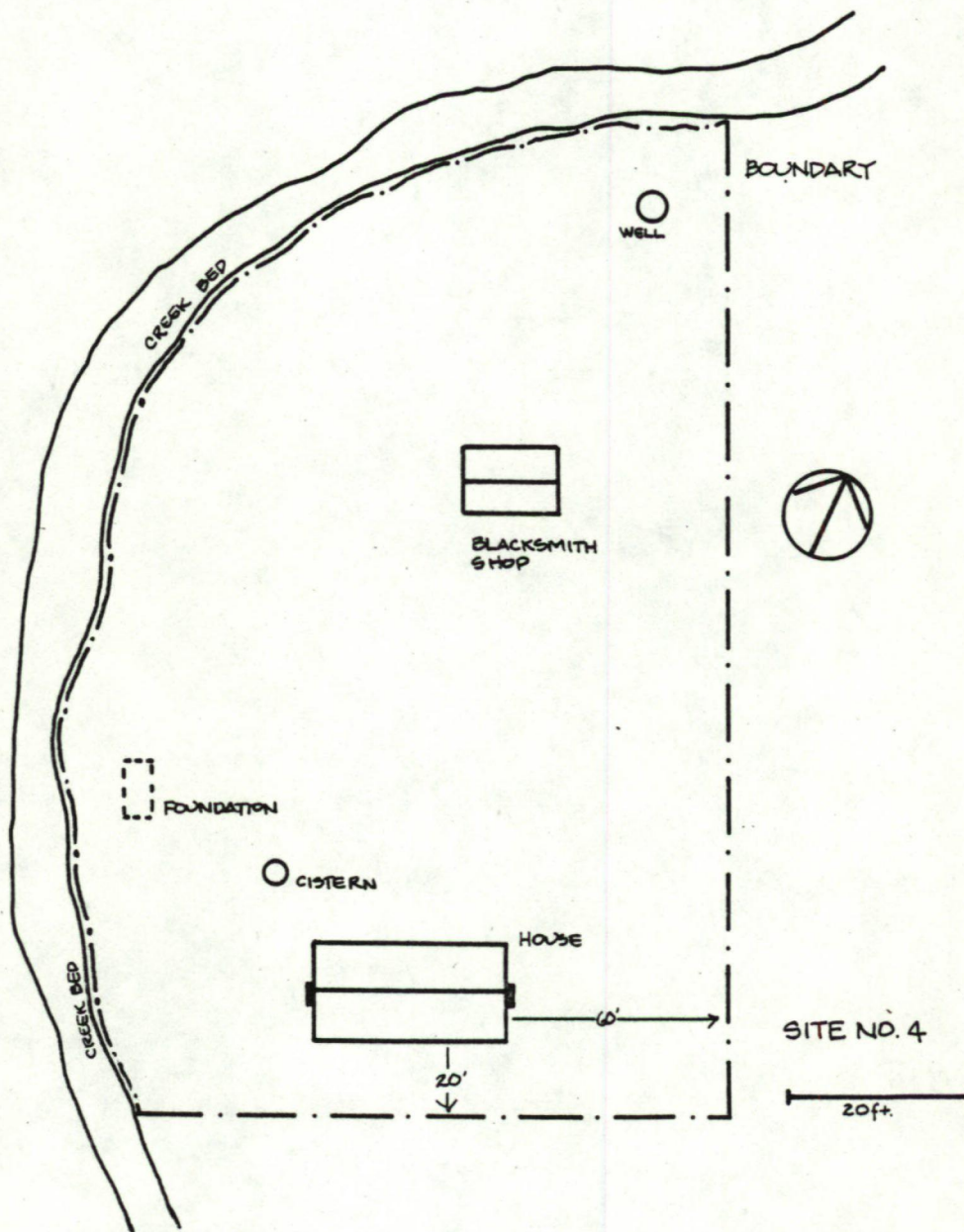
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SITE NO. 5

NAME

Norway Mill

LOCATION

FM 182, ^{on} 8 miles southwest of Clifton, Bosque
County, Texas, on the A.W. Moore survey

OWNER

Ms. O'Belle Harris
802 Canadian Circle
Grand Prairie, Texas 75050

PRESENT USE

Agriculture

CATEGORY

Building

STATUS

Unoccupied

QUADRANGLE NAME

Hurst Springs, Texas

QUADRANGLE SCALE

1:24000

UTM REFERENCE

14/627310/3507030

ACREAGE

less than 1 acre

PHOTO REFERENCE NO.

14

DESCRIPTION

Norway Mill is a massive, two-story stone structure that remains in fair condition. It stands near a small stream that provided the water to operate the mill's steam-powered engines. Its plan is rectangular in shape. The front facade is believed to have been on the south elevation, which has a broad, central opening in the ground level. The building is of limestone construction, which was once covered with a scored plaster coating. The only other examples of this type of scoring occur on the Linberg (no. 3) and the Reeder-Omenson (no. 6) houses. Flat arches span all the openings, but the original doors and window sashes have been removed. The ruins of the old engine room extend from the west side of the building, between it and the creek. The building has not been used as a mill since the late 19th century, and it retains none of its original machinery. One of its mill stones, however, has been moved to the grounds of the nearby Reeder-Omenson house, and another is on display at the Bosque County Museum in Clifton. Both the ground- and the second-level floors remain undivided by partitions. The first floor is used to store hay. The walls inside retain their plaster covering, and massive oak piers with chamfered corners support the second floor. A temporary metal roof presently covers the structure.

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OTHER AREA OF SIGNIFICANCE

Industry

SIGNIFICANCE

Norway Mill was erected about 1870 by Alvin Reeder, Ole Canuteson, and Andrew Canuteson with the help of Charlie Olson and Martin Shefstad. It was powered by steam and operated until about 1890. The first mill to serve the Norwegian community, Norway Mill represents the only industrial site in this nomination. Between c. 1870 and c. 1890, the small community of Norway Mills grew up around this site, but nothing of this town now remains.

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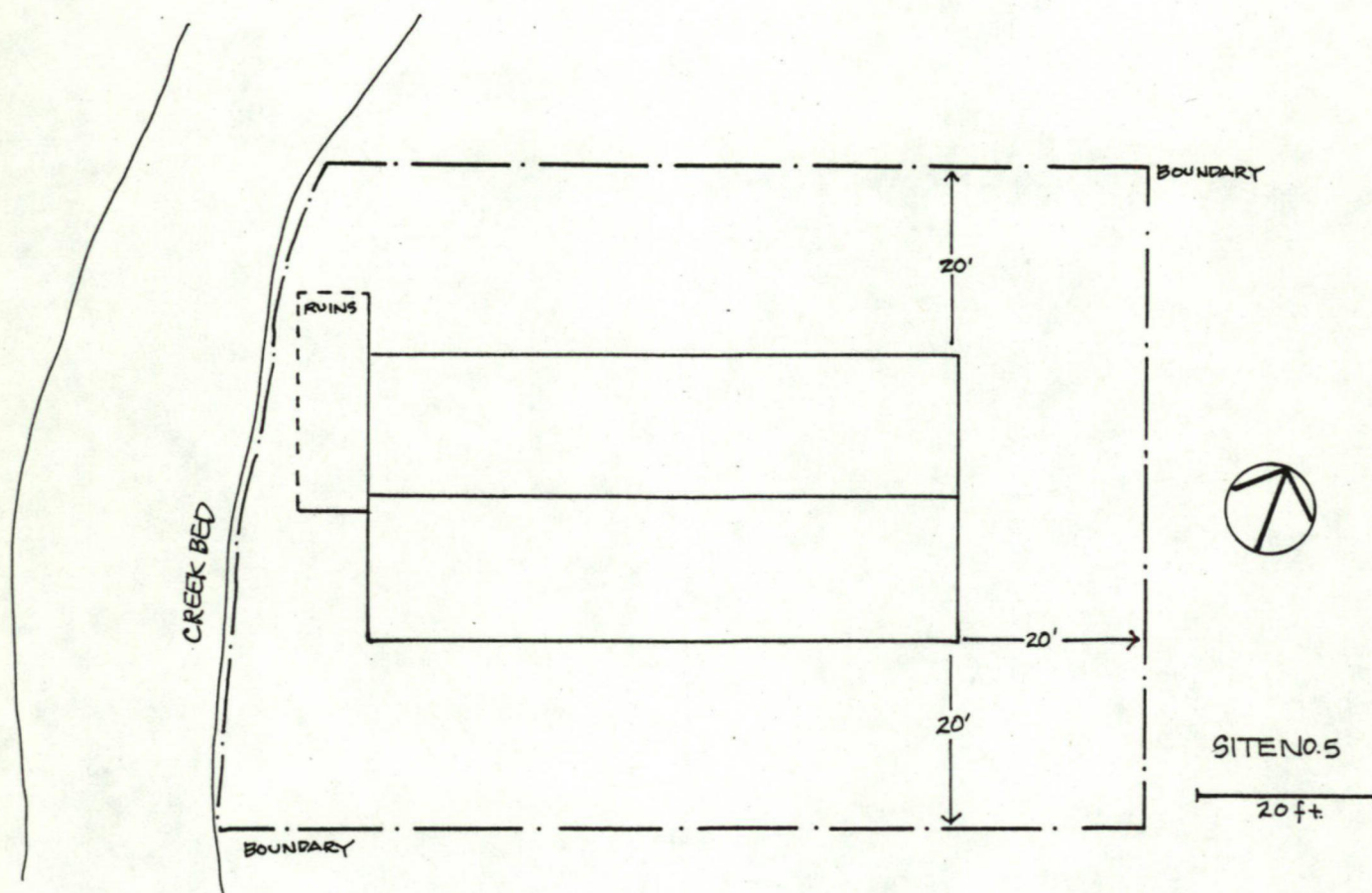
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SITE NO. 6

NAME

Reeder-Omenson farm

LOCATION

FM 182, ~~8~~⁷ miles southwest of Clifton, on FM 182
Bosque County, Texas, on the A.W. Moore
survey

OWNER

Ms. O'Belle Harris
802 Canadian Circle
Grand Prairie, Texas 75050

PRESENT USE

Private residence

CATEGORY

Building

STATUS

Occupied

REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

Recorded Texas Historic Landmark
1963
Texas Historical Commission
Austin, Texas

QUADRANGLE NAME

Hurst Springs, Texas

QUADRANGLE SCALE

1:24000

UTM REFERENCE

14/627160/3506880

ACREAGE

less than 1 acre

PHOTO REFERENCE NO.

15

DESCRIPTION

Exhibiting some Greek Revival detailing, such as the returned cornices in its gables, the Reeder-Omenson house is a large, two-story stone residence, which faces northeast on the opposite side of a stream that flows by Norway Mill (no. 5). Despite several alterations, it retains much of its integrity and remains in excellent condition. The original plan of the house was rectangular, although it is now L-shaped because of rear additions. A five-bay, two-tiered attached gallery, with a jig-sawn balustrade, dominates the front facade. According to a nearby resident, this porch was rebuilt

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about 1967, but the new concrete floor is the only significant change from its original appearance. The fine gallery balustrade and thin square piers remain the same. Under this porch, the stone wall retains its stucco veneer, which has regularly coursed scoring. Exterior stone chimneys terminate both gable ends, and contribute to the overall symmetry of the composition. Flat arches with stone voussoirs span all of the openings. The only addition to the house occurs on the rear elevation, where a two-story, frame wing was built to join the house to an originally detached, two-story stone kitchen. One of the mill stones from Norway Mill has been planted in the ground just north of the house.

SIGNIFICANCE

Although Alvin Reeder, for whom this house was constructed, was not of Norwegian descent, the building itself was erected by two Norwegians, Charlie Olson and Martin Shefstad. Reeder was also associated with Norway Mill, which was built about the same time and served as an early milling center for the Norwegian settlement area. Probably because of its owner's taste, the style of this structure is more closely related to the contemporary Anglo-American Greek Revival fashion. The house was sold to the Omenson family just after the turn-of-the-century.

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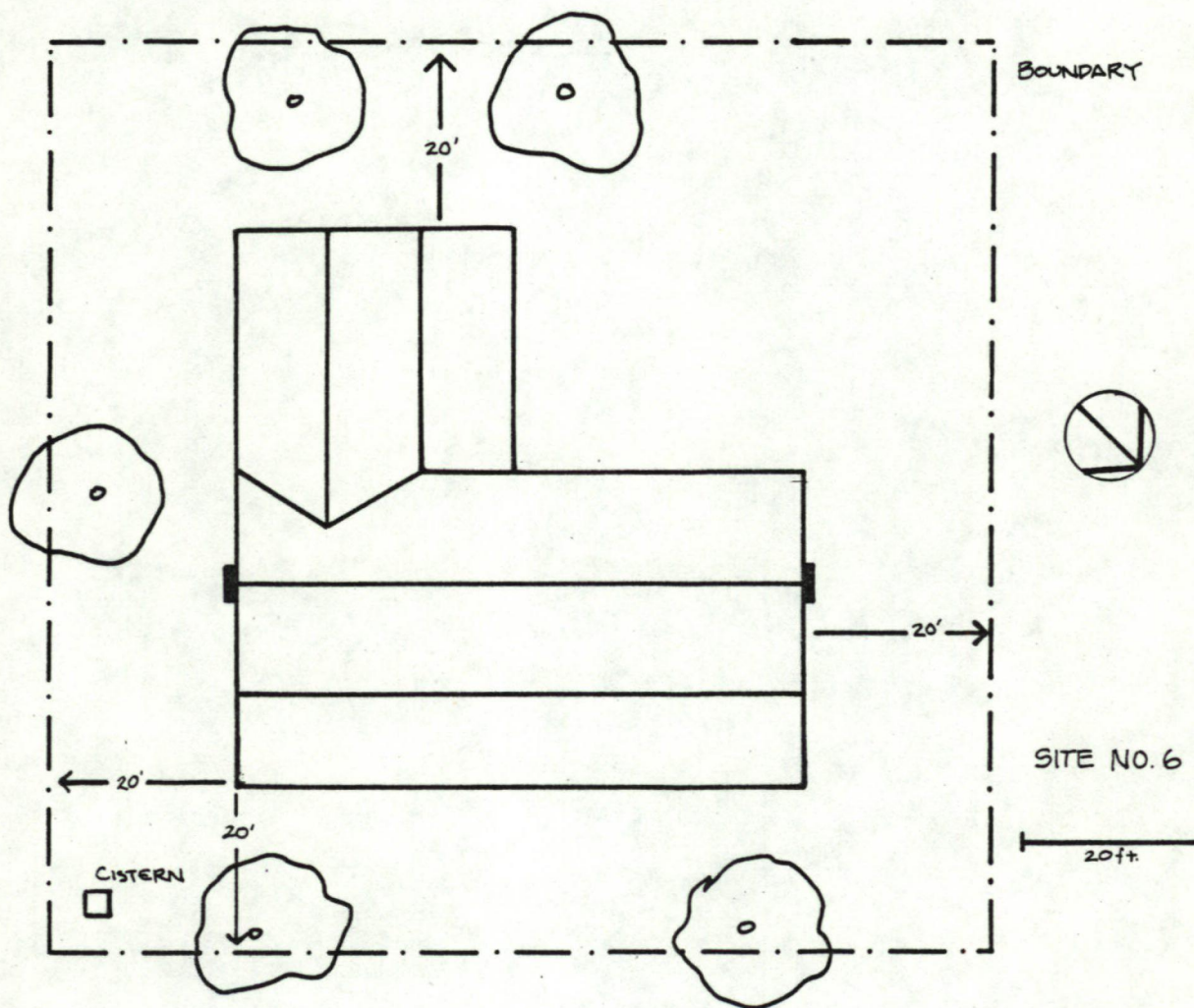
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SITE NO. 7

NAME

Gunarus and Ingerborg Shefstad house

LOCATION

S.H. 6, just north of city limits of Clifton,
Bosque County, Texas, on L. Armstrong survey

OWNER

John L. Jenson
Route 1
Clifton, Texas 76634

PRESENT USE

Storage, vacant

CATEGORY

Building

STATUS

Unoccupied

QUADRANGLE NAME

Clifton, Texas

QUADRANGLE SCALE

1:24000

UTM REFERENCE

14/633780/3518460

ACREAGE

less than 1 acre

PHOTO REFERENCE NO. 16

DESCRIPTION

Located just north of the present city limits of Clifton, the Gunarus and Ingerborg Shefstad house is a one-and-a-half-story stone residence unoccupied since the 1950s. It remains in delapidated, but relatively stable, condition, and few alterations affect its integrity. In plan it is of the symmetrical type and very similar to the Arneson (no. 39) or the Keddel Grimland (no. 10) houses. Unlike them, however, the front, or south, facade is composed of three bays with only one window on either side of the central doorway. A flat arch bridges this center opening, while segmental arches span the outer bays. The main entrance has been extensively altered, but it probably first contained a double doorway. Two square holes in the walls above this doorway indicate the possible location of a porch. The rear wall also exhibits a three-bay composition, and has a flat archway over the broad, central opening. The outer bays, however, have stone lintels. An exterior stone chimney rises from the east gable end, while the gable roof is covered with sheets of corrugated metal. The interior is in poor condition and is used for storage. No buildings associated with the house remain standing, and a search of the immediate area revealed no foundations.

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SIGNIFICANCE

Gunarus Shefstad apparently arrived in Bosque County sometime in the 1860s, and purchased the land upon which the Shefstad house now stands in 1868. This home presumably was erected shortly after that date. It is the only structure in this nomination that lies outside of the main Norwegian settlement area and is a good example of the symmetrical type of stone house. In addition to his occupation as a farmer, Shefstad was also a carpenter and cabinet-maker, and in 1876, he was hired to help build Our Savior's Lutheran Church.

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SITE NO. 8

NAME Olson-Nelson farm

LOCATION 4½ miles west of Clifton, Bosque County,
Texas, on E. Sessom survey

OWNER Orval O. Allen
8450 Westfield
Indianapolis, Indiana 46240

PRESENT USE Vacant, agriculture

CATEGORY Buildings

STATUS Unoccupied

QUADRANGLE NAME Sugarloaf Mountain, Texas

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCE 14/626660/3517740

ACREAGE about 2 acres

PHOTO REFERENCE NO. 17

DESCRIPTION

Overlooking the Meridian Creek valley, the Olson-Nelson farm is situated prominently about a mile south of Meridian Creek, near a pass between Round Mountain and Big Bee Rock. The farm, although presently unoccupied, is in good condition and retains much of its historic integrity. It includes a one-and-a-half-story residence of limestone construction, which conforms to the symmetrical stone-house type. The front, or south, facade has a five-bay composition with a central door. A markedly curved segmental arch with stone voussoirs spans this opening, while stone lintels cap the windows, which are all double hung with six-over-six lights. The east and west ends of the house are virtually identical and have exterior stone chimneys at the gable ends. They originally also had two loft windows, flanking each chimney in the attic story, but these have been

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filled in. A detached, one-story stone structure, which may have been the original kitchen, has been joined to the rear of the house to make a T-shaped overall plan. The entire structure is presently covered with a standing-seam metal roof. A small stone outbuilding with a cellar has been dug into the side of the hill just below the main house. This and the two wood-frame barns that stand nearby contribute to the historic character of the farm.

SIGNIFICANCE

This house was constructed by Ole and Antonette Olson, who apparently arrived in Bosque County in the 1850s. They probably built the house in the 1860s. It was later sold to O. D. (Dan) Nelson, who lived in it for many years. In plan, it is a good example of the symmetrical type of stone house with a kitchen attached at the rear to form a "T". It is majestically sited on a small hill near Round Mountain, along with several other stone and wood-frame structures. Its precise date of construction is unknown.

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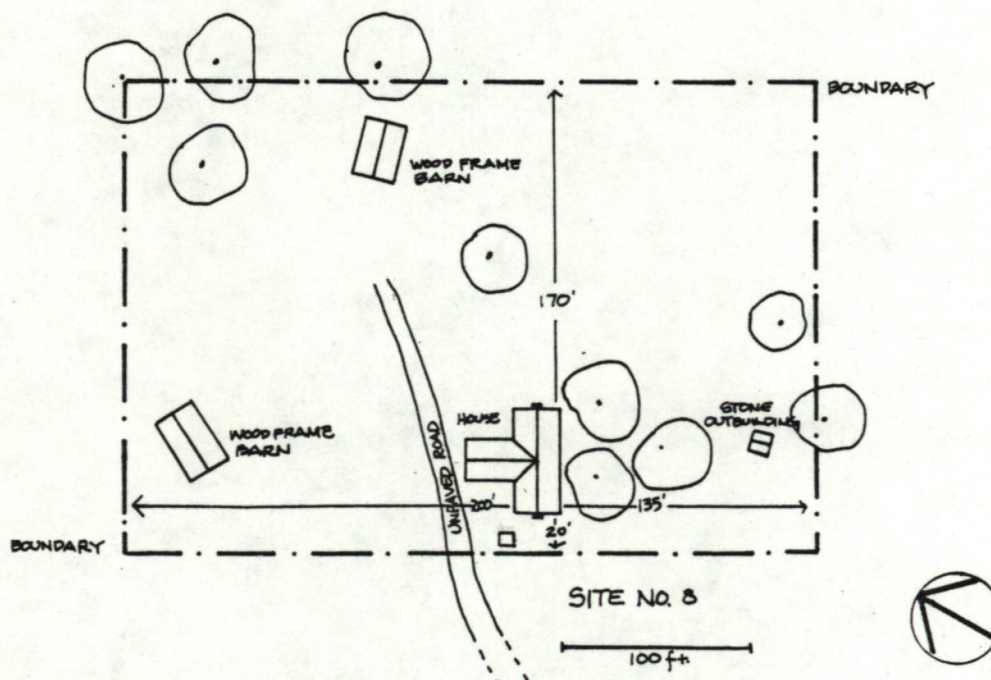
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SITE NO. 9

NAME

Gunsten and Lofise Grimland house

LOCATION

FM 219, 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ miles southwest of Clifton, Bosque
County, Texas, on J. Houston survey

OWNER

Tilden Pederson
Route 2
Clifton, Texas 76634

PRESENT USE

Agriculture

CATEGORY

Building

STATUS

Unoccupied

QUADRANGLE NAME

Hurst Springs, Texas

QUADRANGLE SCALE

1:24000

UTM REFERENCE

14/622160/3510610

ACREAGE

less than 1 acre

PHOTO REFERENCE NO.

18

DESCRIPTION

The Gunsten and Ingerborg Grimland house is a one-and-a-half-story stone structure with a wood-frame addition to one end. It stands abandoned in a field near the Keddel and Liv Grimland farm (no. 10). Although its plan is of the asymmetrical type of stone house, both of its major facades are symmetrically composed. The north, or front, elevation shows two windows flanking a central doorway, while the south wall has two doorways and a central window. The east end has a window opening on the ground floor and another in the loft. The original west end is presently obscured by a wood-frame addition, but its stone chimney pierces the roof of corrugated metal. Because the house has been unoccupied and used as a barn for over 40 years, the interior has been gutted and the doors and window sashes have been removed. The frame addition was probably built about the turn-of-the-century. A cistern is located a few feet south of the house.

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SIGNIFICANCE

According to Tilden Pederson, who presently owns the property, the two-room, stone portion of this house was erected by Gunsten and Lofise Grimland about 1869 or 1870. A frame addition was added on one end at a later date, to form a row-house type of plan. The structure stands in close proximity to the larger Keddel and Liv Grimland farm, and is a good illustration of an early pioneer farmhouse in the area.

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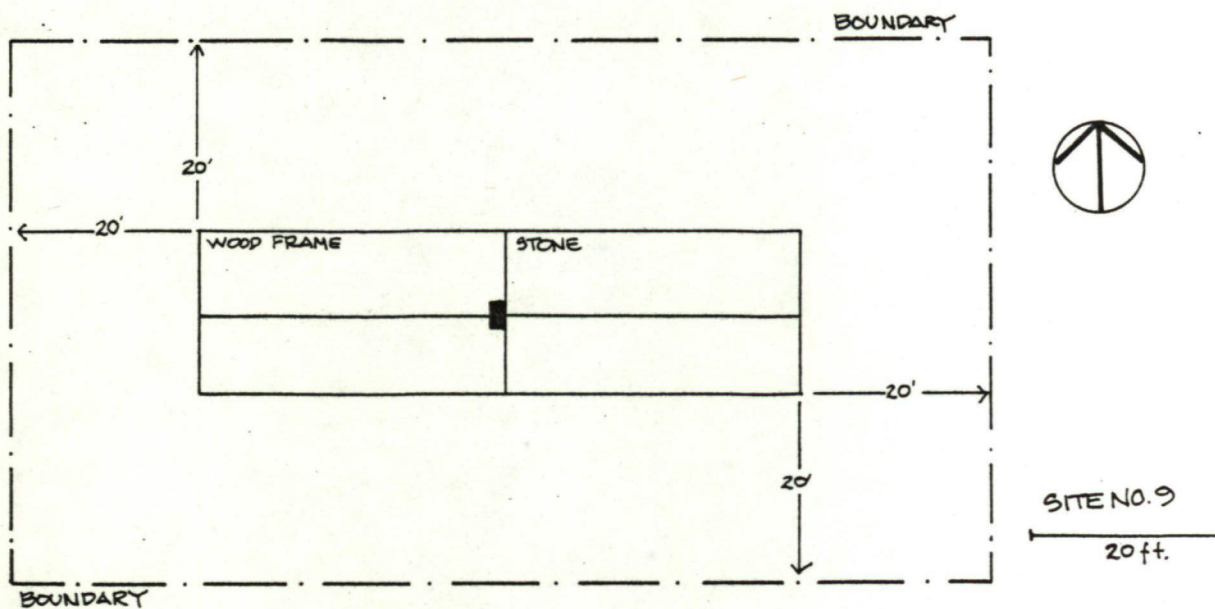
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SITE NO. 10

NAME

Keddel and Liv Grimland farm

LOCATION

FM 219, ^{on FM 219} 8½ miles southwest of Clifton, Bosque
County, Texas, on J. Llewellyn survey

OWNER

Tilden Pederson
Route 2
Clifton, Texas 76634

PRESENT USE

Vacant

CATEGORY

Building

STATUS

Unoccupied

QUADRANGLE NAME

Hurst Springs, Texas

QUADRANGLE SCALE

1:24000

UTM REFERENCE

14/622570/3510510

ACREAGE

less than 1 acre

PHOTO REFERENCE NO.

19

DESCRIPTION

The Keddel and Liv Grimland house faces south on the north side of FM 219, about eight and a half miles west of Clifton. It is presently unoccupied but remains in good condition. The symmetrical plan of this one-and-a-half-story stone house was originally rectangular, but a rear wing was added to make it L-shaped. The symmetrically arranged, five-bay front has a centrally located entrance that is protected by a small porch. The windows on the ground floor are composed of six-over-six lights with wood sashes. The stuccoed exterior finish has slowly deteriorated, thus exposing the lime-stone construction of the walls. Stone chimneys, flanked in the attic story by four-over-four windows, rise from each end and add to the symmetry of the structure. Gable roofs of composition shingles cover the original stone house and the rear ell. All of

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outbuildings contribute to the historic character of the farm. The ruins of a log corn crib are located behind the house. A wood-frame barn, with a broken-pitch, gabled roof, and a small frame shed stand in front of the house. Several abandoned farm implements can be found to the west of the house site, near the creek.

SIGNIFICANCE

According to Tilden Pederson, this excellent example of a symmetrical stone house was constructed by Keddel and Liv Grimland about 1868. It has been in continual use as a residence up to the present time, and is in an excellent state of repair.

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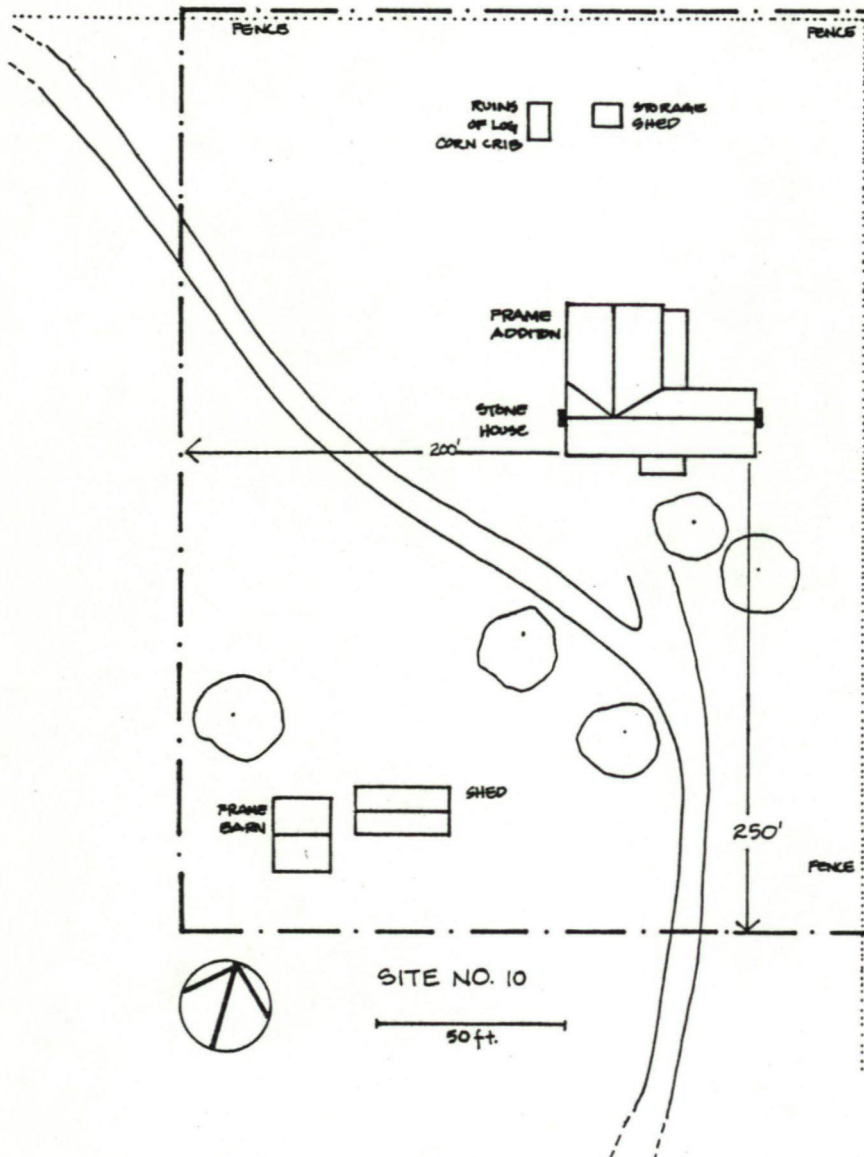
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SITE NO. 11

NAME

Christen and Johanne Knudson farm

LOCATION

FM 219, ⁹~~4~~ miles southwest of Clifton, Bosque
County, Texas, on C. Knutzen survey

OWNER

Emma Byford
Route 2
Clifton, Texas 76634

PRESENT USE

Private residence

CATEGORY

Building

STATUS

Occupied

QUADRANGLE NAME

Sugarloaf Mountain, Texas

QUADRANGLE SCALE

1:24000

UTM REFERENCE

14/628950/3514090

ACREAGE

less than 1 acre

PHOTO REFERENCE NO.

20

DESCRIPTION

The Christen and Johanne Knudson house faces southeast from its prominent position atop a gently rolling hill north of FM 219 and west of Turkey Creek. This structure is in good condition and is still in active use as a residence. Despite several additions and alterations, the house retains its basic integrity. The original structure was a small, one-and-a-half-story residence with a two-room, asymmetrical plan on the ground floor and a sleeping loft above. Built of limestone, it originally had a three-bay facade with a centrally located, single-door entrance. At some later date a frame extension was made to the northeast end of the house, creating a five-bay front with two single, front doors that flank a center window, with two additional windows toward each end. Recently, this frame addition has been covered with aluminum siding. A large gabled porch has been constructed in the center of this extended facade. In spite of

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these additions the original stone portion of the house remains intact. With its gable-end chimney and two-part plan, it represents a good example of the asymmetrical type of stone house. Because of alterations to the corn crib and wellhouse, the residence is the only building of this complex that is to be nominated.

SIGNIFICANCE

Christen and Johanne Knudson arrived in Bosque County in 1868, and were well established by the time of the 1870 U.S. Census and Special Farm Schedule, where they appear as Cris and Johhanna Cannudeson. Presumably, the asymmetrical, two-room stone section of the house was constructed at about that time. Despite the extensive alterations, this early stone house is significant because of its association with the Norwegian settlers of Bosque County.

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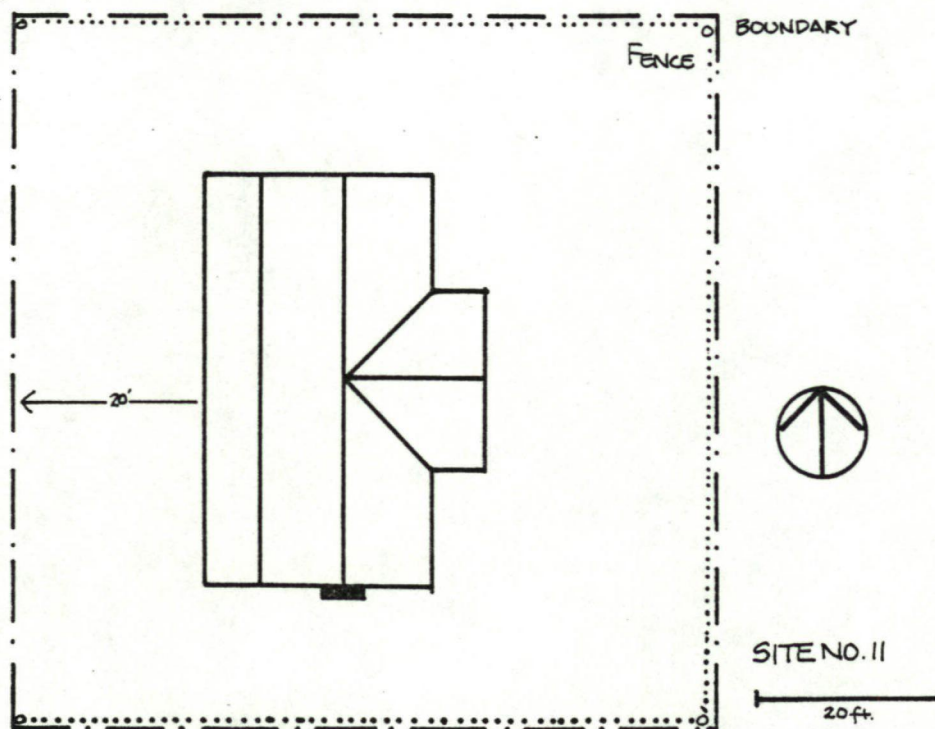
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SITE NO. 12

NAME

Joseph and Anna Olson farm

LOCATION

FM 182, ~~5~~ miles southwest of Clifton, Bosque County,
Texas, on J. Olson survey

OWNER

R.E. Henderson, Jr. and D.M. McTaggart
c/o Henderson
7224 Westover Road
Waco, Texas 76710

PRESENT USE

Vacant, agriculture

CATEGORY

Building

STATUS

Unoccupied

QUADRANGLE NAME

Sugarloaf Mountain, Texas

QUADRANGLE SCALE

1:24000

UTM REFERENCE

14/626920/3513770

ACREAGE

less than 1 acre

PHOTO REFERENCE NO.

21, 22

DESCRIPTION

The Olson farm is located on gently rolling land near the base of Norse Hill, and stands about one mile north of FM 219. The farm, although presently unoccupied, remains in good condition and retains its historic integrity to a remarkable degree. The house is a two-story stone and wood-frame structure which faces south. The ground level is of limestone construction, while the top floor is of wood. A single-door entrance and double-hung windows with six-over-six lights have been arranged in an asymmetrical composition at the ground-floor level, with two more irregularly spaced windows above. A simple, one-story porch extends across the full length of this facade. A stone engraved with "1872" appears above the front doorway. Each end of the house has a single window at ground level and two narrower, symmetrically set windows above. The upper floor of the

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rear elevation is composed of an unpierced frame wall, while the lower, stone story is broken with two alternating doors and windows. A gable roof of corrugated metal now covers this structure. A corbeled brick chimney rises near the mid-point of the ridge line of this roof.

A detached stone smokehouse, with a stone lean-to and cellar, stands east of the house. To the north, a stone fence meanders around the property and remains in excellent condition. Other outbuildings include two wood-frame barns that rest upon stone foundations and contribute to the historic character of the property. The old Olson log cabin, which once stood near the main house, was moved to Valley Mills, but recently has been obtained by Dale and Mary Orbeck, who are storing it at their Clifton home.

SIGNIFICANCE

Although Joseph and Anna Olson arrived in Bosque County in 1858, their home, according to a date inscribed over the door, was not built until 1872. Its combination of stone and wood-frame construction is unique among the Norwegian residential buildings in the county, and may reflect a Scandinavian building tradition. The upper floor of this house served for many years as the home for Jacob Olson's collections of prehistoric relics, natural history objects and Norwegian pioneer memorabilia. Many of these things were later transferred to the present Bosque County Museum.

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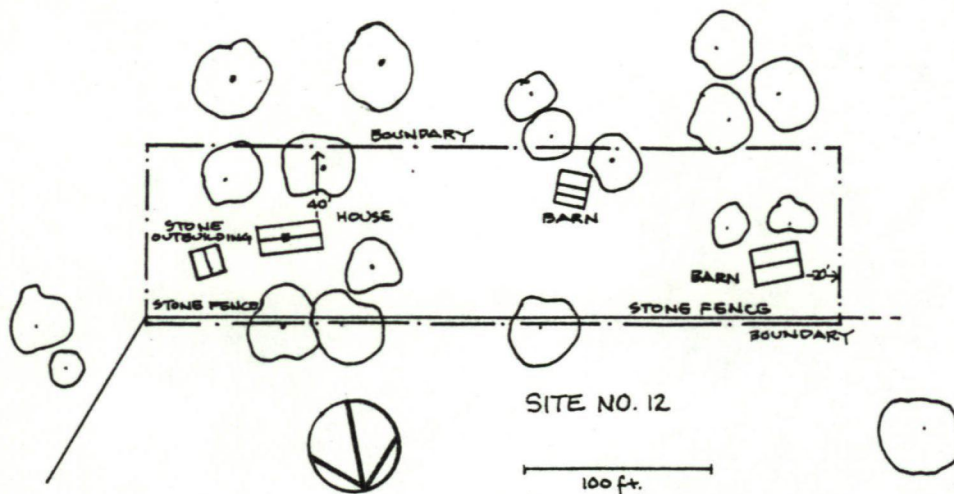
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SITE NO. 13

NAME

Ole and Elizabeth Finstad homesite

LOCATION

FM 219, ^{on FM 219} 9 1/2 miles southwest of Clifton, Bosque
County, Texas, on W. Haddin survey

OWNER

Edgar and Yolanda Davis
P.O. Box 4457
Waco, Texas 76705

PRESENT USE

Ruins, agriculture

CATEGORY

Building, site

STATUS

Unoccupied

QUADRANGLE NAME

Hurst Springs, Texas

QUADRANGLE SCALE

1:24000

UTM REFERENCE

14/620640/3511200

ACREAGE

less than 1 acre

PHOTO REFERENCE NO. 23

DESCRIPTION

Easily visible from FM 219, the Ole and Elizabeth Finstad homesite stands in ruins in the Neils Creek valley. Little of the original configuration remains, as several of the walls have collapsed. The house is built of limestone blocks with mud mortar and rubble-stone pointing. The original fenestration is difficult to discern. The only visible opening is a small window which pierces the east wall at attic level. An exterior stone chimney extends from this same wall, and the hearth, which has a fine segmental arch, remains intact. No structures associated with this house have been located, but examination of the immediate vicinity of the site has uncovered pot shards probably connected with the early period of occupation. The house has been abandoned for about 75 years, and its archeological potential appears to be high.

SIGNIFICANCE

According to Tilden Pederson, this one-room stone house was constructed by Ole and Elizabeth Finstad sometime in the mid to late 19th century. Although it is presently in ruins, the historic artifacts observed on the surface of the site bespeaks the archeological significance of the site.

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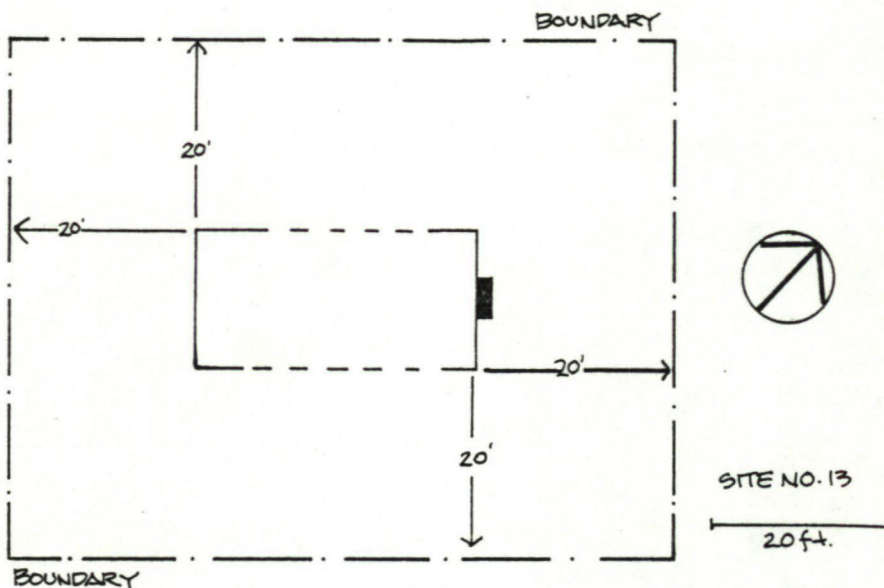
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SITE NO. 14

NAME	Wilson homesite
LOCATION	3 ⁹ / ₄ miles west of Clifton, Bosque County, Texas, on F. Wilson survey
OWNER	Henry Sanders Route 2 Clifton, Texas 76634
PRESENT USE	Ruins, agriculture
CATEGORY	Building, site
STATUS	Unoccupied
QUADRANGLE NAME	Sugarloaf Mountain, Texas
QUADRANGLE SCALE	1:24000
UTM REFERENCE	14/629830/3516500
ACREAGE	less than 1 acre
PHOTO REFERENCE NO.	24

DESCRIPTION

The Wilson homesite is located on level terrain at the southern end of Bee Rock Flats, in a remote location that makes it almost inaccessible by car. According to local residents, the structure burned around 1950; thus it now stands without a roof. The house was rectangular in plan, had a gabled roof, and faced west. Its plaster finish has deteriorated to such an extent that the limestone construction is visible, along with the original mud and clay mortar. Large stone lintels span each of the openings, but all of the original doors and window sashes are gone. The ends of the north and south walls are steeply pitched. An exterior stone chimney rises from the north end, and window openings on both floors flank either side of this chimney. On the south wall, a central doorway and a window opening pierce the ground level and an off-center doorway pierces the gable. An external stairway probably extended from the southwest corner of the house to this doorway, allowing access to a loft. A concrete wall and stone-lined underground cistern are located west of the house. Other significant features

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on the farm include the remains of a dug-out cellar, the foundations of two outbuildings, and what may be the graves of the settlers. A rich surface scatter of potshards and historic refuse was observed.

SIGNIFICANCE

This housesite, which has been abandoned since it burned about 1950, was apparently the home of either Fred or John Wilson. Its age is unknown, but its construction with mud and clay mortar seems to indicate an early date, possibly to the 1860s. Close inspection of the site revealed a quantity of crockery shards, wood fragments, and other historic objects that argue for its archeological potential.

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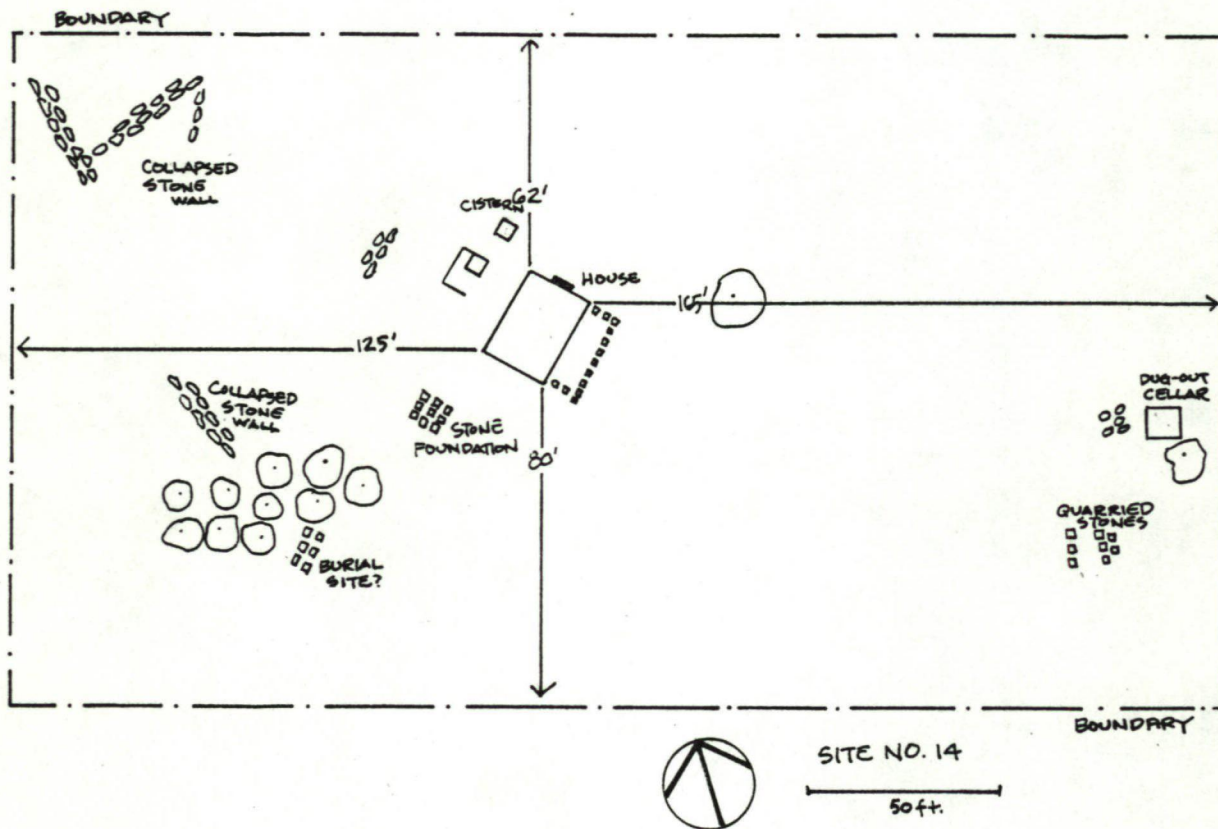
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SITE NO. 15

NAME Brogdon farm

LOCATION ~~7~~^{7½} miles west of Clifton, Bosque County,
Texas, on A. Kuykendall survey

OWNER Larry G. Brogdon
302 A Easy Avenue
Flour Bluff, Texas 78418

PRESENT USE Storage

CATEGORY Building

STATUS Unoccupied

QUADRANGLE NAME Sugarloaf Mountain, Texas

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCE 14/622920/3517440

ACREAGE less than 1 acre

PHOTO REFERENCE NO. 25

DESCRIPTION

The Brogdon farm, located between the Upper Settlement and the old townsite of Norse, includes a very small, one-story building of limestone construction that remains in fair condition. It stands just west of a tin-covered, wood-frame barn and a few feet south of an early 20th-century frame house. The plan of this one-room stone building is rectangular. The north and south elevations have solid stone walls, and a small window pierces the west elevation, which also has an off-set stone chimney. A large opening extends almost the entire length of the east wall. The most severe alterations include the repointing of the stonework with portland cement, the new concrete floor, and a standing-seam metal roof. The small barn, covered with sheet-metal siding, is not included within the nominated property.

SIGNIFICANCE

Little is known about the unusual stone structure presently owned by Mr. Larry Brogdon. Its extremely small size and interesting configuration, however, make it architecturally significant as a unique mid to late 19th-century stone building in the Norwegian community.

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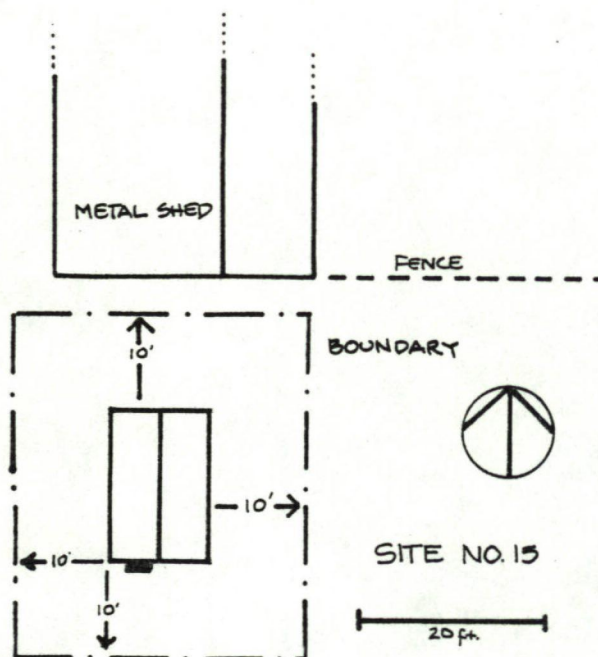
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SITE NO. 16

NAME

Hans and Berthe Reiersen house

LOCATION

10 $\frac{1}{2}$ miles southwest of Clifton, Bosque County,
Texas, on H. Reiersen survey

OWNER

R.W. Williams
4833 Crestwood
Waco, Texas 76710

PRESENT USE

Storage

CATEGORY

Building

STATUS

Unoccupied

QUADRANGLE NAME

Sugarloaf Mountain, Texas

QUADRANGLE SCALE

1:24000

UTM REFERENCE

14/618680/3513360

ACREAGE

less than 1 acre

PHOTO REFERENCE NO.

26

DESCRIPTION

The Hans and Berthe Reiersen house is a small stone structure in good condition that stands north of an unpaved county road, near the base of Gary Mountain. Its plan is rectangular and its walls are limestone. The entrance, which is spanned by a large stone lintel, is located off-center on the front, or south, facade. Small window openings pierce each floor of the east and west end walls. The original doors and window sashes have been removed. A later stone lean-to, which extends across the rear wall, has a brick interior chimney that rises from the east end of the shed roof. This roof, as well as that over the original stone section, still exhibits its original cedar shingles. The only other changes in the original design are the small frame additions on both the front and west facades. Presently in stable condition, the structure is used for storage. A cistern is located behind the house and contributes to the historic

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character of the property. A 1920s residence in bungalow style is located about 40 feet east of the stone house, but is not included within the nominated property.

SIGNIFICANCE

This small stone house presumably was constructed by Hans and Berthe Reiersen shortly after their arrival in Bosque County in 1871 and 1872, respectively. It is of significance, because it has been altered very little since the turn of the century, and still retains its wood-shingle roof and many of its original wooden fixtures. This building is unoccupied, and has been used for storage since 1911.

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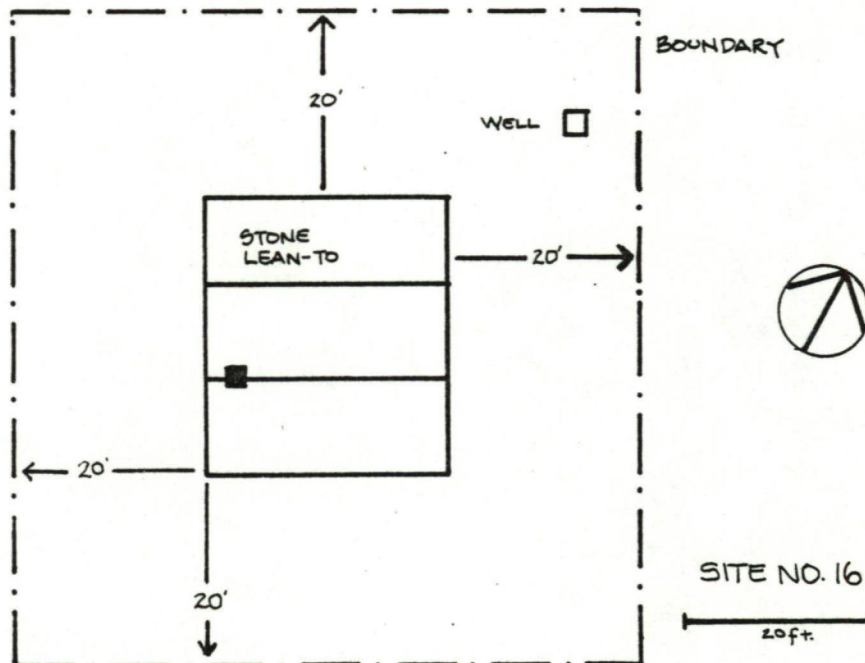
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SITE NO. 17

NAME Olson-Hanson farm

LOCATION FM 219, ^{on FM 219} 5 miles southwest of Clifton, Bosque
County, Texas, on G. Brown survey

OWNERS R.E. Henderson, Jr. and D.M. McTaggart
c/o R.E. Henderson, Jr.
7224 Westover
Waco, Texas 76710

PRESENT USE Private residence

CATEGORY Building

STATUS Unoccupied

QUADRANGLE NAME Hurst Springs, Texas

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCE 14/627520/3512940

ACREAGE about 2 acres

PHOTO REFERENCE NO. 27

DESCRIPTION

The Olson-Hansen farm is located about one mile northeast of the intersection of FM 219 and FM 189, and its prominent siting upon a hill overlooking the Gary Creek valley makes it easily visible from FM 219. Presently in good condition, the house is used occasionally as a week-end residence by its current owners. This one-and-a-half-story structure has a rectangular plan and exhibits a stucco veneer that covers limestone walls. The three-bay front faces south and has a centrally positioned, double-door entrance. A shed-roof porch with chamfered wooden columns projects over this entry. A central dormer-like gable with a single window and clapboards gives the front facade an appearance much like that of the Bekken (no. 27) and Schultz houses (no. 26). The outer bays of the front elevation, as well as the ground-level

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of the east and west facades, have double-hung windows with two-over-two lights and wooden sashes. Interior brick chimneys extend above each end of the gable roof, now covered with composition shingles. Two wood-frame barns, a small shed, and a cistern are also located on the property. All contribute to the historic character of the farm.

SIGNIFICANCE

Little is known of the early history of this farmhouse. Tax records at the county courthouse reveal that Lars Olson, one of the earliest of the Norwegian pioneers, owned this land in 1880, but he probably acquired it much earlier. In 1891 Andrew Hanson obtained possession of this property. Today it stands as a good example of a late 19th-century Norwegian farm in the area.

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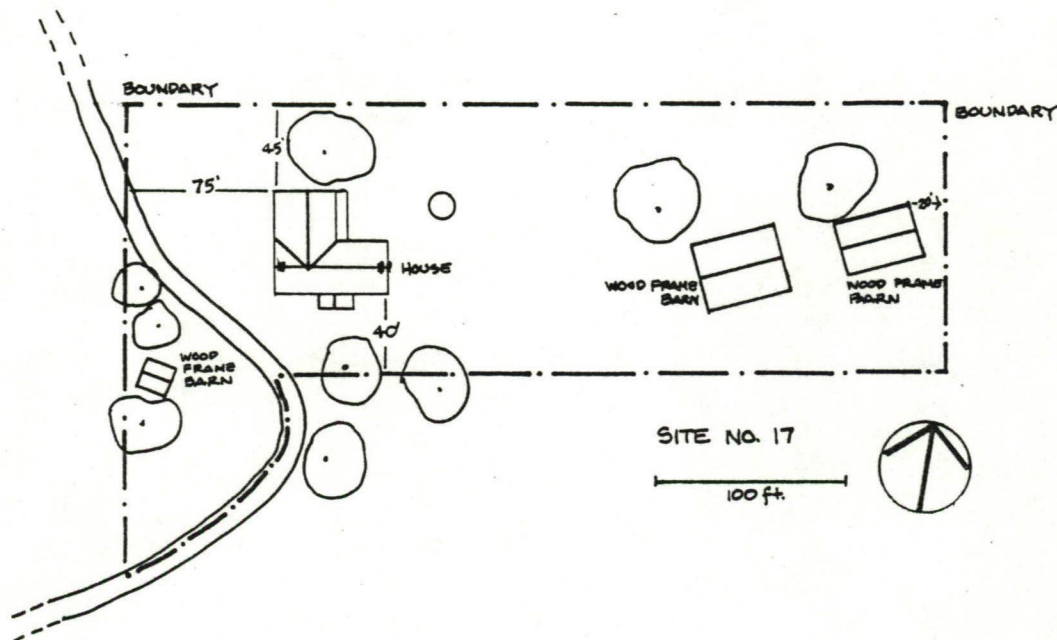
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SITE NO. 18

NAME Hoff-Ulland farm

LOCATION 5 $\frac{1}{4}$ miles southwest of Clifton, Bosque County,
Texas, on S. Durnett survey

OWNER A.B. Ulland
107 N. Avenue
Clifton, Texas 76634

PRESENT USE Private residence, agriculture

CATEGORY Building

STATUS Unoccupied

QUADRANGLE NAME Hurst Springs, Texas

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCE 14/629420/3510500

ACREAGE less than 1 acre

PHOTO REFERENCE NO. 28

DESCRIPTION

Located about five miles southwest of Clifton, the Hoff-Ulland farm stands on relatively level terrain about one mile north of Neils Creek. The house is unoccupied and is in a fair state of repair. The first house was a two-story stone structure that was built in 1881. Little is known of its appearance, but the present design retains its original gabled roof and double-hung windows with six-over-six lights. In 1912 a much larger stone structure was built to the north of the first residence, and joined to the older portion by wood-frame construction. Facing north, the present front is symmetrical and features a two-tiered porch with a balcony. The second-floor porch is the smaller of the two. A single-door entry with sidelights opens onto the ground level, while French doors provide access to the second-story balcony, which lies beneath a prominent gable. Double-hung windows with one-over-one lights pierce the stuccoed walls. Exterior stone and brick chimneys on the east and west ends of the house extend above the gables and add to the overall symmetry of the facade. The ends of the front gable and of the two end gables of the main addition are covered by wooden shingles applied in a saw-toothed pattern. The entire roof is presently covered by composition shingles.

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A frame barn, with horizontal siding and stone-lined cellars, is the most significant outbuilding on the farm. Other structures included in the nomination are an above-ground cistern, a frame corn crib, and two modern storage sheds with metal siding.

SIGNIFICANCE

This house was constructed in 1881 by Mikkell and Johanna Hoff and is presently owned by their granddaughter, Lila Pauline and her husband, A. B. (Bert) Ulland. In 1912 a major addition was built onto the front of this structure, making it one of the largest houses in the settlement. The house is deemed significant, for it reveals the changes in the architectural tastes of second-generation Norwegians.

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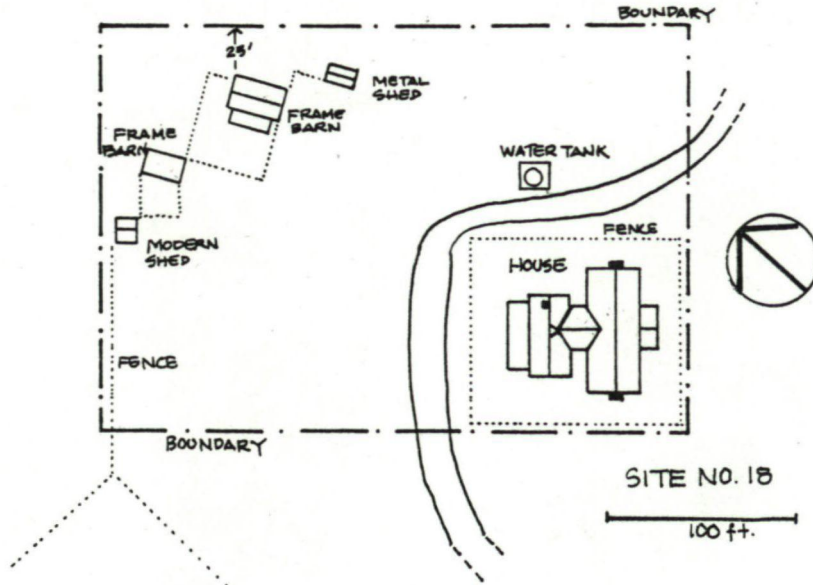
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SITE NO. 19

NAME Adolf and Christine Godager homesite

LOCATION S.H. 22, 11 $\frac{1}{4}$ miles northwest of Clifton, Bosque County, Texas, on J.L. Wilson survey

OWNER Tom G. Parks
Route 2
Clifton, Texas 76634

PRESENT USE Ruins

CATEGORY Building, site

STATUS Unoccupied

QUADRANGLE NAME Cranfills Gap, Texas

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCE 14/616930/3521200

ACREAGE less than 1 acre

PHOTO REFERENCE NO. 29, 30

DESCRIPTION

The Adolf and Christine Godager homesite stands abandoned on a gently rolling prairie approximately six miles northeast of Cranfills Gap. Located about a half mile southeast of State Highway 22, it is in ruins and has been unoccupied, according to local historian Rebecca Radde, since the late 19th century. With its front facing south, this residence is a one-room log structure with a stone lean-to that extends from the rear. Although the roof is no longer in place, the walls remain relatively intact, and are constructed of irregular logs hewn on their inner and outer faces. The large gaps between these members are filled with stone chinking once covered with plaster, as at the Erickson cabin (no. 20). The corners of the cabin are V-notched. The cantilevered eaves on both ends of the house, made possible by the projecting plate logs, are its most distinctive feature. When the stone lean-to was added to the rear, the cantilevered eaves were incorporated into it. This lean-to, which represents a typical Norwegian way of expanding the one-room log cabins, still retains the plaster covering over its stone walls. A stone-lined, underground cistern is located a few feet north of the house.

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SIGNIFICANCE

The Godager Cabin, which is said to have been constructed in 1872, is architecturally significant because of its resemblance to the Norwegian Laftehus. This site was supposedly abandoned in the 19th century, and has remained moderately undisturbed ever since. Thus archeological investigation could likely contribute to an understanding of the earliest phase of Norwegian settlement.

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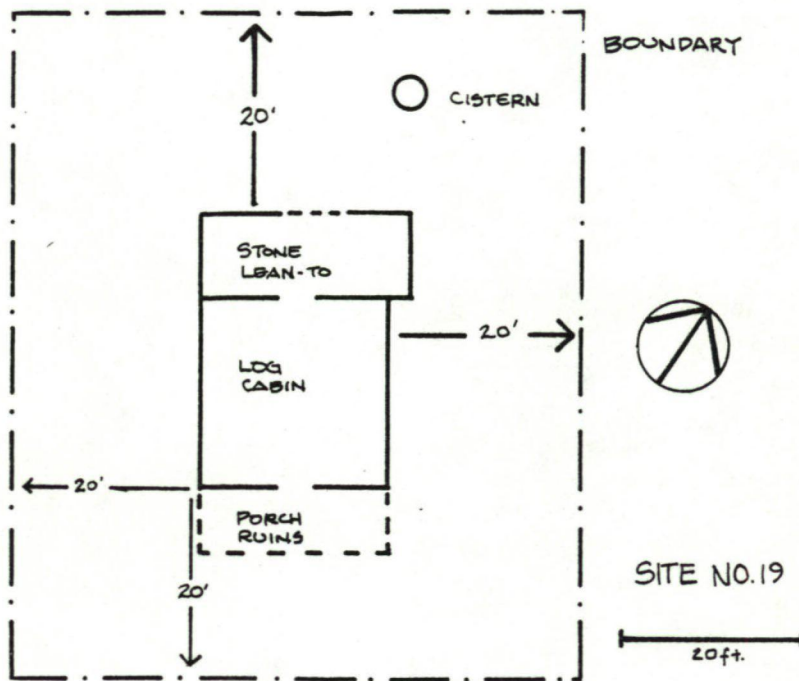
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SITE NO. 20

NAME

Even and Petrine Erickson farm

LOCATION

9 miles northwest of Clifton, Bosque County,
Texas, on E. Erickson survey

OWNER

Selma Paulson
P.O. Box 364
Meridian, Texas 76665

PRESENT USE

Storage, agriculture

CATEGORY

Buildings/site

STATUS

Unoccupied

QUADRANGLE NAME

Sugarloaf Mountain, Texas

QUADRANGLE SCALE

1:24000

UTM REFERENCE

14/623920/3526700

ACREAGE

less than 1 acre

PHOTO REFERENCE NO. 31, 32

DESCRIPTION

The Even and Petrine Erickson farm is the northernmost property included in the nomination. It is located near Bee Creek, about a half mile south of State Highway 22. Of log and stone construction, the house remains virtually unaltered and is in fair, but stable, condition. The one-room log cabin is the oldest part of the structure. Its irregular logs were hewn flat on their inside and outside faces, and the irregular spaces between them were filled with stone chinking that was plastered over. A variety of notching techniques was used at the corners, including saddle-notching, V-notching, and half-dovetail notching. A slightly offset doorway pierces the front, or south, facade. The west wall has a centrally located door, but the east facade, which is covered with board-and-batten wood siding, has two window openings on the ground level. The gable roof has a corrugated metal covering. A small stone lean-to is attached to the rear elevation of the cabin, and its walls have been plastered over.

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A tall stone chimney rises from this addition. Other structures on the old farm include a log barn, a log corn crib, a stone-lined cistern, hand-dug well, and sections of a stone fence, all of which stand within the nominated property and contribute to the historic character of the farm. Somewhat overgrown with vegetation, the grounds of the complex contain a large number of old agricultural implements. To the east side of the stone fence, an early 20th century frame house and an old mobile home serve as the present residences, but neither is included within the property to be nominated.

SIGNIFICANCE

According to the Paulson family, who presently occupy this farm, the Erickson Cabin was erected in 1874. This is corroborated, approximately, by the 1876 date assigned to the Erickson patent for this land, for to acquire a patent a person must have occupied a piece of land at least three years previous to the grant. The cabin, which is the only completely intact structure of its kind in this nomination, is accompanied on its site by a log corncrib and barn. Both these structures also appear to date to the 1870s. In addition, there is also a hand-dug well, cistern, and frame outbuilding on the property, which make it one of the most complete pioneer farmsteads in the settlement, and one worthy of archeological investigation.

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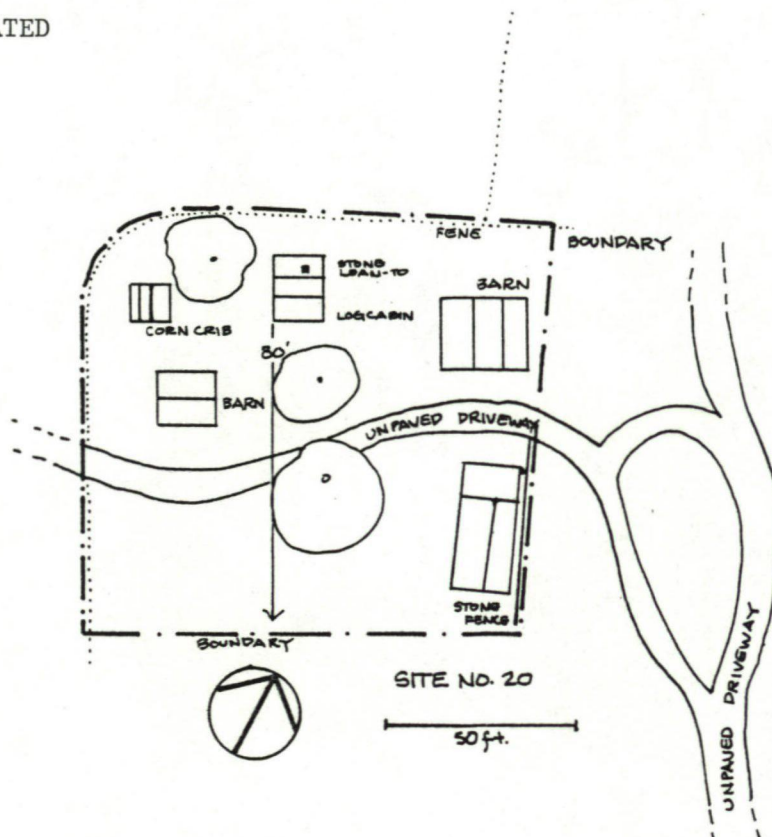
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SITE NO. 21

NAME

James Jens and Martha Jenson house

LOCATION

FM 2136, 5 miles northwest of Clifton, ^{FM} 2136
Bosque County, Texas, on J. Oldham survey

OWNER

J.W. Jenson
Route 2 Box 140
Clifton, Texas 76634

PRESENT USE

Private residence

CATEGORY

Building

STATUS

Unoccupied

REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

Family Land Heritage Program
1976
General Land Office
Austin, Texas

QUADRANGLE NAME

Sugarloaf Mountain, Texas

QUADRANGLE SCALE

1:24000

UTM REFERENCE

14/628000/3521470

ACREAGE

less than 1 acre

PHOTO REFERENCE NO.

33

DESCRIPTION

The James Jens and Martha Jenson house is located about five miles northwest of Clifton, about a half mile northeast of the intersection of FM 2136 and Bee Creek. This two-story, wood-frame residence stands on a hill and commands a panoramic view of the upper Meridian Creek valley to the south. Although presently unoccupied it remains in good condition. It has a T-shaped plan and rests upon a foundation of stone rubble. The home was originally covered with board-and-batten siding, although

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clapboards were later applied over some walls. A one-story porch, with turned wood posts, extends across the front facade. Above this porch, small four-light windows provide light for the loft. The remaining windows are double hung with four-over-four lights. The corrugated-metal roof has two gables which meet at right angles, with a corbeled brick chimney that rises near their point of intersection. An underground cistern was dug a few feet to the north of the house.

SIGNIFICANCE

The James Jens and Martha Jenson house is believed to be the oldest frame residence within the Norwegian Settlement. According to its present owner, it was erected in 1876. This house is one of only two 19th-century residences within the Norwegian area that are of board-and-batten construction.

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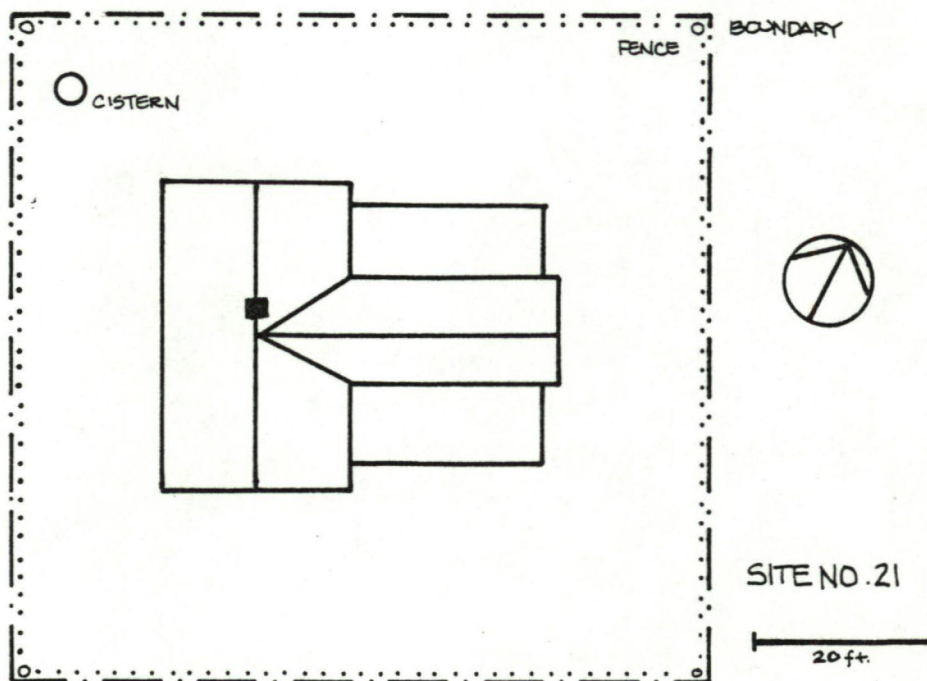
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SITE NO. 22

NAME

John and Mary Colwick farm

LOCATION

8 3/4 miles southwest of Clifton, Bosque
County, Texas, on H. Mailand survey

OWNERS

Mary Orbeck
403 S. Avenue J
Clifton, Texas 76634Rex Colwick
1006 S. Montgomery
Starksville, Mississippi 39759

PRESENT USE

Private residence

CATEGORY

Buildings

STATUS

Occupied

QUADRANGLE NAME

Hurst Spring, Texas

QUADRANGLE SCALE

1:24000

UTM REFERENCE

14/623440/3508870

ACREAGE

about 2 acres

PHOTO REFERENCE NO.

34

DESCRIPTION

Located atop a hill that overlooks the Neils Creek valley, the John and Mary Colwick farm includes a one-and-a-half-story frame house with a modified T-shaped plan. It is still used as a residence and is in good condition. The front faces east and has a double-door entrance with narrow sidelights and transom. A one-story porch, which was screened in about 1937, extends across the setback section of the front. This shed-roof porch replaced an earlier one that, according to the historic photos of the present owners, had turned wooden posts with jig-cut brackets and balusters. Most of the original windows with four-over-four lights have been replaced with those having two-over-two lights. A cross-gabled roof with composition shingles caps the house. The north facade features an off-center, gable-like dormer which was an early addition. A rear porch that was added about 1915 encloses the entrance to the partial basement.

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An underground, stone-lined cistern is located a few feet southwest of the house. The frame barn, standing northwest of the house, was built about the same time as the residence, and has been covered with corrugated-metal siding. It contributes to the historic character of the farm. The cedar stake fence, which surrounds the barn, remains in good condition and is typical of the Norwegian farms of Bosque County.

SIGNIFICANCE

The John and Mary Colwick farm is one of the oldest frame houses within the Norwegian settlement. Its present owners, who are direct descendents of the Colwicks, state that it was built in 1889 by Norwegian carpenter Johan Nordahl. It is believed to be the first of at least six structures erected by this skilled craftsman. When completed, it was the scene of a community-wide celebration, as reported in the August 9, 1889, issue of The Alliance Sun, a Meridian newspaper.

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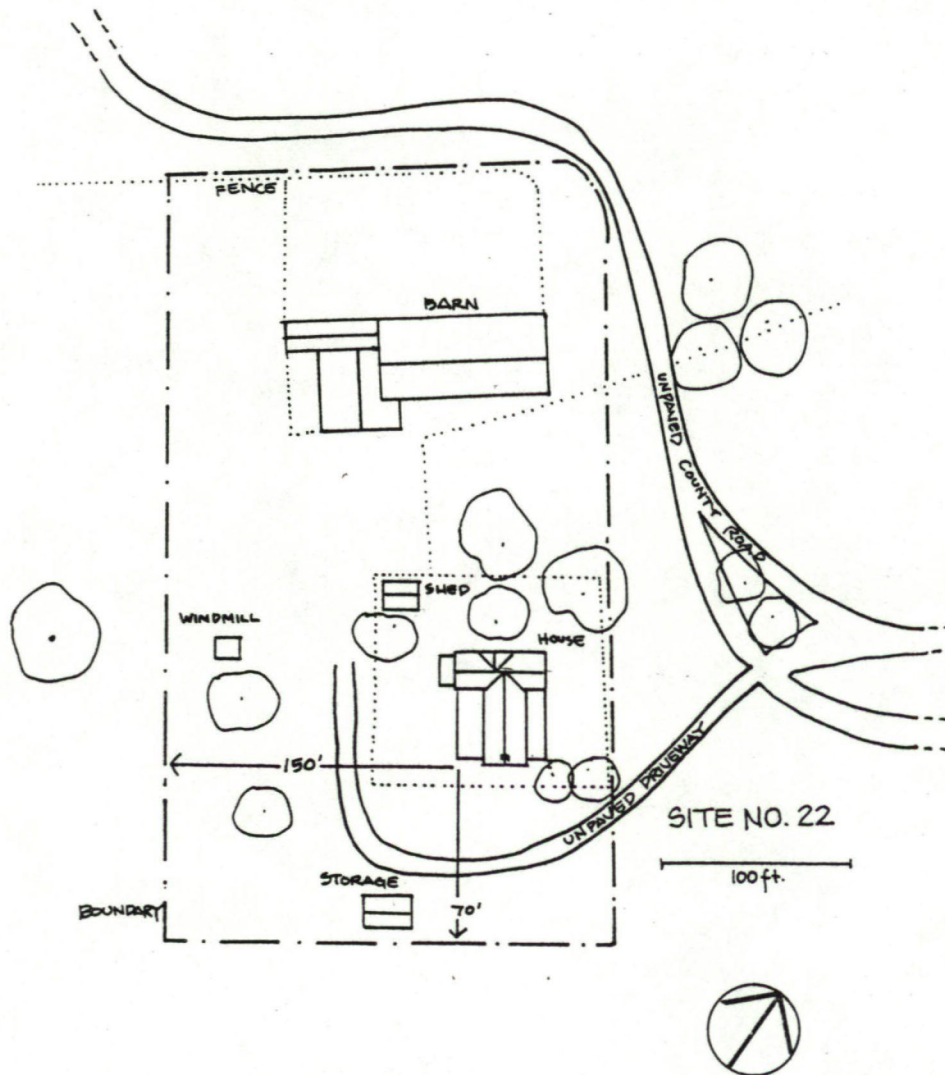
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SITE NO. 23

NAME

Tom and Martha Rogstad farm

LOCATION

11½ miles west of Clifton, Bosque County,
Texas, on W. Gary survey

OWNERS

Charles B. Richards, Jr. and Dudley C. Haas
Box 785
Waco, Texas 76703

PRESENT USE

Private residence, agriculture

CATEGORY

Buildings

STATUS

Unoccupied

QUADRANGLE NAME

Cranfills Gap, Texas

QUADRANGLE SCALE

1:24000

UTM REFERENCE

14/615760/3515150

ACREAGE

about 3½ acres

PHOTO REFERENCE NO.

35

DESCRIPTION

The Tom and Martha Rogstad farm includes a one-and-a-half-story frame house that is similar to the Colwick house (no. 22). It stands on level terrain at the top of Rogstad Mountain. Presently unoccupied, it is in only fair condition. The house is virtually unaltered, and retains its integrity to a remarkable degree. The plan of the house is T-shaped, although a small addition has been built onto the rear. A shed-roof porch, with turned wooden posts and jig-cut wooden brackets, extends across the front, or east, elevation. Windows with both two-over-two and four-over-four-lights pierce the walls. A small and square window with four lights is found above the porch roof, centered over the single front door. A composition-shingle roof with intersecting gables shelters the structure, and a corbeled brick interior chimney rises

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from the east gable end. A one-room stone structure, which is believed to have been used as a smokehouse, stands a few feet north of the house. Other outbuildings that contribute to the historic character of the farm include two barns, one of board-and-batten construction, and the other with metal covering.

SIGNIFICANCE

Located on one of the oldest farmsteads within the entire Norwegian Settlement, the Tom and Martha Rogstad farm remains virtually unaltered since its completion in 1893. It represents one of the most outstanding late 19th-century farm houses in the area. According to one of their grandchildren, it was built by the Norwegian carpenter, Johan Nordahl, after an 1892 fire destroyed the old stone house of Berger and Ann Rogstad. The foundation of this structure is said to still exist on the property.

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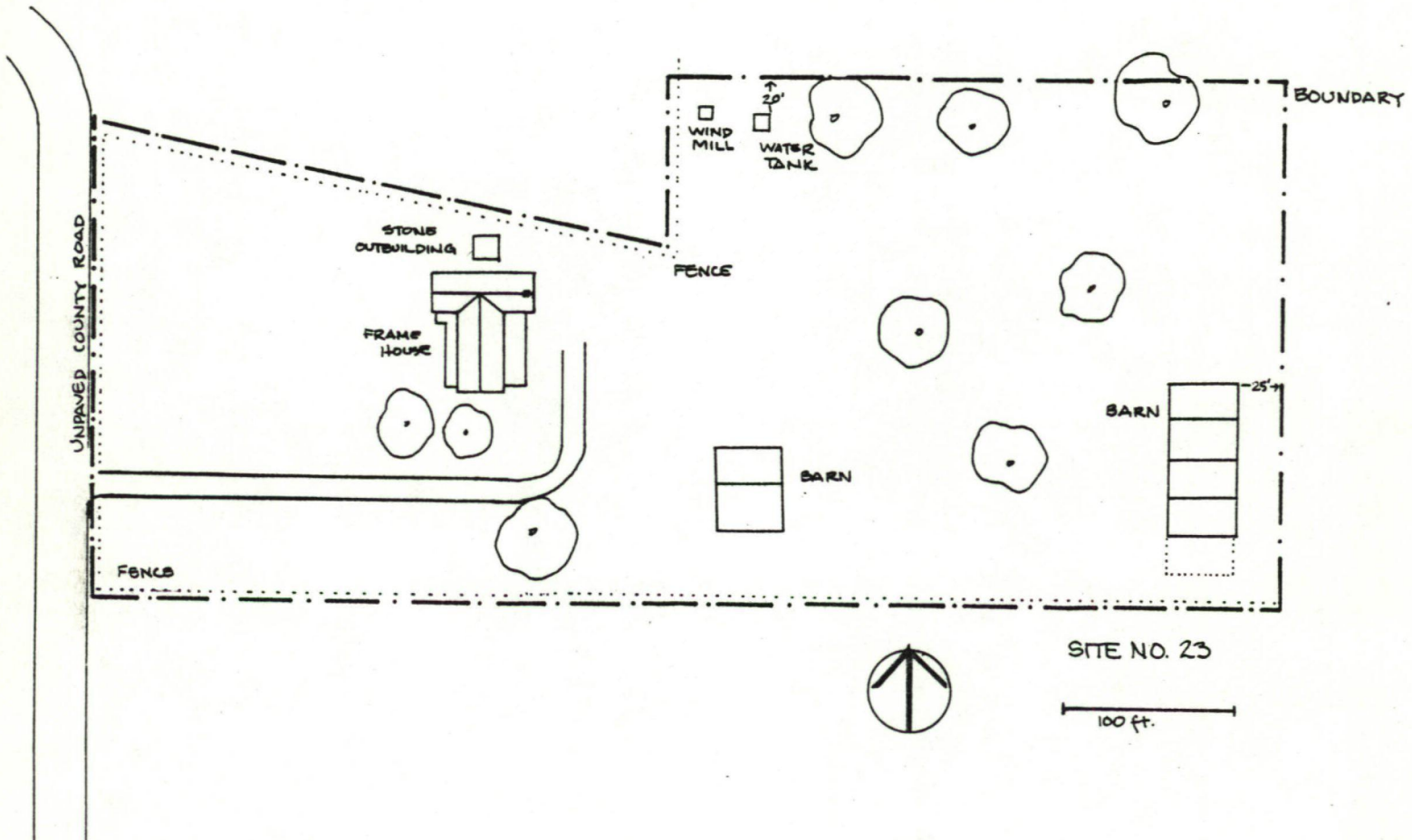
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SITE NO. 24

NAME

John Pederson farm

LOCATION

FM 219, 9 miles southwest of Clifton, Bosque
County, Texas, on J. Houston survey

OWNER

Tilden Pederson
Route 2
Clifton, Texas 76634

PRESENT USE

Private residence, agriculture

CATEGORY

Buildings

STATUS

Occupied

QUADRANGLE NAME

Hurst Springs, Texas

QUADRANGLE SCALE

1:24000

UTM REFERENCE

14/615780/3522520

ACREAGE

about 3 acres

PHOTO REFERENCE NO.

36, 37

DESCRIPTION

The John Pederson farm is located on the gently rolling land of the Neils Creek valley, about nine miles west of Clifton. It is in good condition, and retains much of its historic integrity. The original plan of the house was T-shaped but, with the addition in 1913 of a one-and-a-half-story wing onto the east side of the house, the plan was changed to its present cross-shaped configuration. Originally, it was very similar in plan and appearance to the Colwick (no. 22) and Rogstad (no. 23) houses. The front, which faces south toward FM 219, features a one-story porch with Doric columns linked at the top by a frieze of turned spindles. Two front entrances flank each side of the projecting central section. The windows are double hung with two-

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over-two lights. The gabled roof, covered by composition shingles, shows three prominent gables on the front elevation, and is pierced by two chimneys of corbeled brick. Lightning rods occur on the ridges. Several small additions have been built on the rear, or west, side of the house. The complex includes several outbuildings, but the most significant is a frame barn which stands northwest of the house. This structure is of board-and-batten construction, and has an arcade of round-arch openings on the east end of the south elevation. The other outbuildings also contribute to the historic character of the farm.

SIGNIFICANCE

Tilden Pederson, who is the present owner of this farm, states that the house was erected in 1891 and 1892 for his father, John Pederson. It was constructed by Johan Nordahl, who built several other frame houses in the area. The Pederson house is noteworthy for its dormer-like gables, whose ends are flush with the underlying walls, and for its one-story porch and simple plan.

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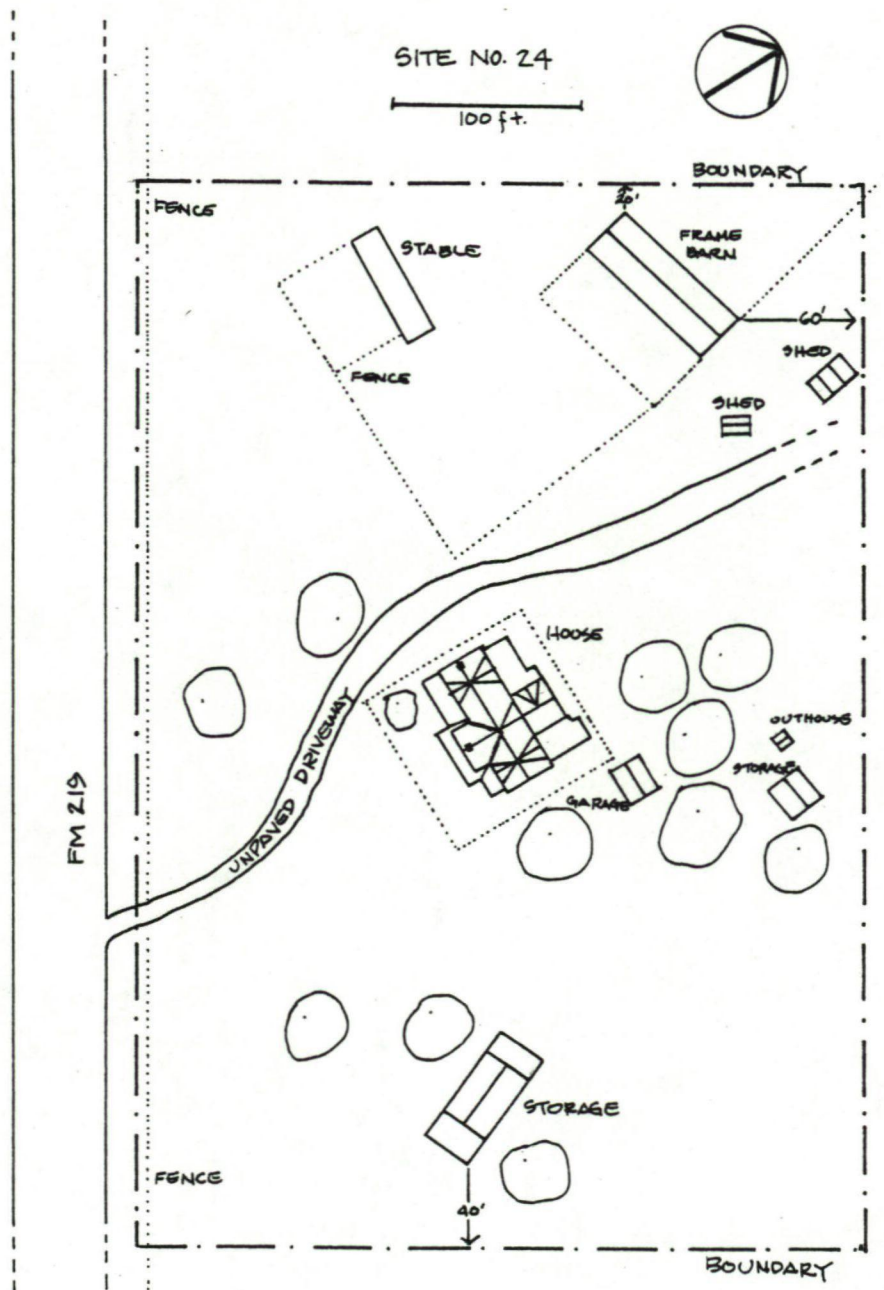
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SITE NO. 25

NAME

Peder Dahl farm

LOCATION

FM 219, 2 3/4 miles southwest of Clifton
Bosque County, Texas, on G. Hail survey

OWNER

E.M. Colwick
Route 2
Clifton, Texas 76634

PRESENT USE

Private residence

CATEGORY

Buildings

STATUS

Occupied

REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

Family Land Heritage Program
1974
General Land Office
Austin, Texas

QUADRANGLE NAME

Clifton, Texas

QUADRANGLE SCALE

1:24000

UTM REFERENCE

14/631990/3513740

ACREAGE

about 2 3/4 acres

PHOTO REFERENCE NO.

38

DESCRIPTION

The Peder Dahl farm stands atop a hill which overlooks the Neils Creek valley. Located about a quarter mile southeast of FM 219, the house is in good condition, and only minor alterations affect its integrity. The original plan of the house was T-shaped, although, small additions onto the north and south sides of the rear ell have changed this somewhat. The front faces east and, with its steep central gable, features

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a symmetrical facade that is similar to that of the Bekken (no. 27) and Schultz houses (no. 26). With shingled siding, this central gable has a jig-cut wooden bargeboard at the apex, which is composed of a king post with braces and cut-out wooden brackets. A single doorway pierces this gable and opens onto a small porch balcony added in 1947. Sidelights and transoms frame the ground-level main entrance. The windows are double hung with two-over-two lights. The steeply pitched, cross-gabled roof is covered with composition shingles and pierced by an internal brick chimney at each side.

SIGNIFICANCE

In 1893 Johan Nordahl built this frame residence for Peder Dahl, who was the son of one of the earliest Norwegian settlers of Bosque County. The present house, which is prominently sited atop a hill, is one of the most noteworthy and intact late 19th-century farmhouses in the area.

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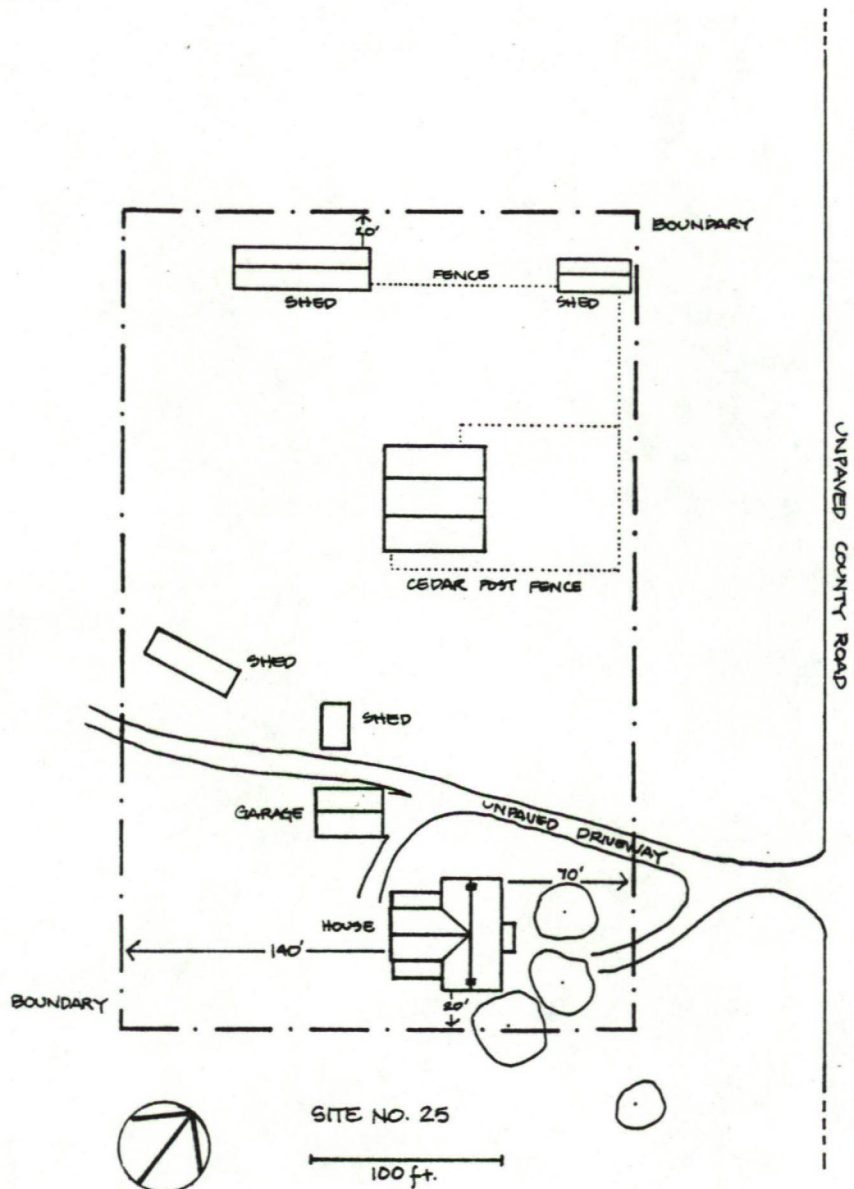
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SITE NO. 26

NAME Tobias and Wilhelmine Schultz farm

LOCATION 10 miles southwest of Clifton, Bosque County,
Texas, on W. Winkler survey

OWNER Fred Braun
Box 866
Southlake, Texas 76092

PRESENT USE Private residence, agriculture

CATEGORY Buildings

STATUS Unoccupied

QUADRANGLE NAME Hurst Springs, Texas

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCE 14/618880/3512930

ACREAGE about 3 acres

PHOTO REFERENCE NO. 39

DESCRIPTION

Situated atop a gently rolling hill, the Tobias and Wilhelmine Schultz farm is in good condition and includes a complex of structures retaining much of their historic integrity. A one-and-a-half-story, wood-frame structure with a T-shaped plan, the house serves as a residence today. With its symmetrical composition and central gable, the front (south) facade strongly resembles that of the Bekken (no. 27) and Dahl houses (no. 25). A one-story porch with balcony extends over the single-door front entrance and is decorated with a broad band of diamond-shaped shingles across the top. The porch is supported by turned posts. The jig-cut wooden balusters of this balcony are in poor condition. Double-hung windows have two-over-two lights with vertical muntins. A one-

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story addition extends across the rear of the house and is the only significant exterior alteration. Wooden shingles in poor condition cover the intersecting gables, and interior brick chimneys rise out of the west and north gable ends. A number of outbuildings stand behind the house and include a stuccoed stone smokehouse, frame barn, and several small sheds. All these structures contribute to the historic character of the farm.

SIGNIFICANCE

This house is believed to have been built for Tobias and Wilhelmine Schultz. According to tax records, they owned this land by 1893. The date of the frame house is not known, but judging from similarly styled houses whose completion dates are well documented, it was probably built about 1895. Since that time it has remained virtually unaltered and, along with its associated outbuildings, provides one of the best and most intact examples of a late 19th-century farm in the area.

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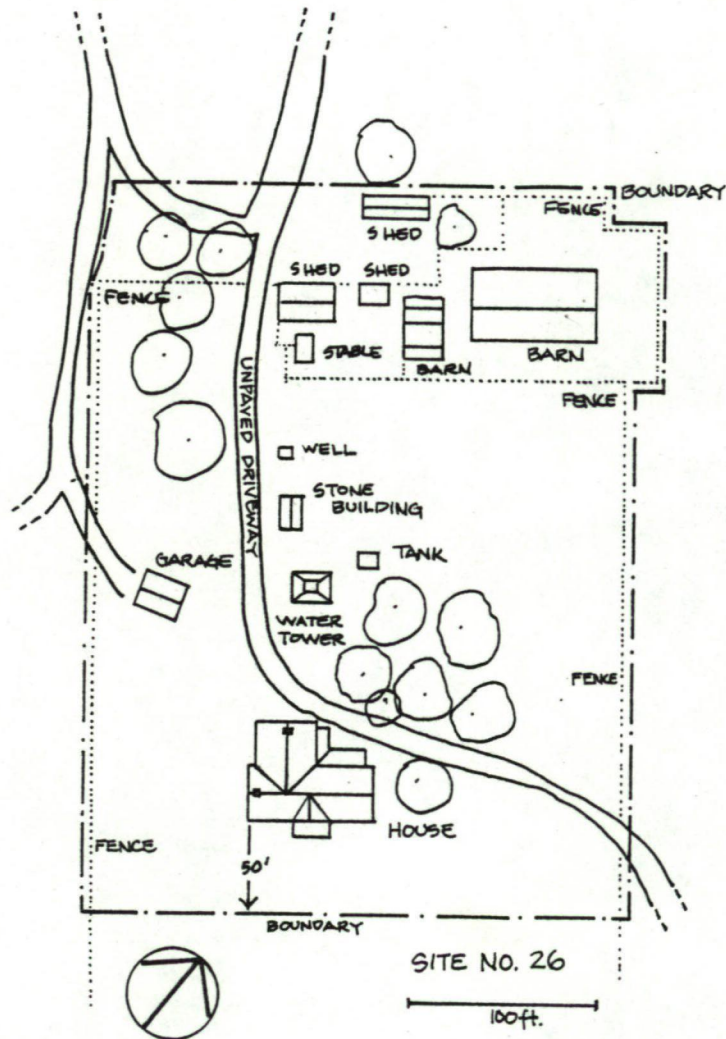
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SITE NO. 27

NAME

J.H. Bekken house

LOCATION

~~2½~~ miles northwest of Clifton, Bosque County,
Texas, on J. McFarland survey

OWNER

Almer Bekken
Route 2
Clifton, Texas 76634

PRESENT USE

Private residence

CATEGORY

Building

STATUS

Occupied

QUADRANGLE NAME

Clifton, Texas

QUADRANGLE SCALE

1:24000

UTM REFERENCE

14/631270/3518530

ACREAGE

less than 1 acre

PHOTO REFERENCE NO.

40, 41

DESCRIPTION

The J.H. Bekken house stands on level land near the base of Bee Rock Flats. Of frame construction, and covered with shiplapped novelty siding, this one-and-a-half-story structure retains much of its integrity and remains in fair condition. Its front, which faces east, exhibits a symmetrical composition much like that of the Peder Dahl house (no. 25). Its most distinctive feature is a steeply pitched gable which rises above the central bay opening. A small, one-story porch which retains much of its original detailing marks the house's main entryway. Slender, chamfered wood posts support this porch, and are bordered by elaborate jig-cut brackets. The first-floor exhibits flat, jig-cut balusters, while the uncovered second-floor balusters are of simpler design. The cross-gabled roof is covered with composition shingles and pierced, near the center, by a large plastered chimney. According to its present owner, the rear "L" contains a one-room log cabin that was built in 1873 and served as a residence until the present structure was completed in 1895. This is the only building of the old farm that survives.

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SIGNIFICANCE

J.H. Bekken is believed to be one of a large number of Norweigan immigrants who came to Bosque County in the early 1870s. According to his grandson, Bekken erected a one-room cabin on this site in 1873. He built the present house in 1895 and incorporated the log cabin into the rear "L." Since that time this residence has remained virtually unaltered, and is one of the best illustrations of the symmetrical frame house popular during the late 19th century in this part of the county.

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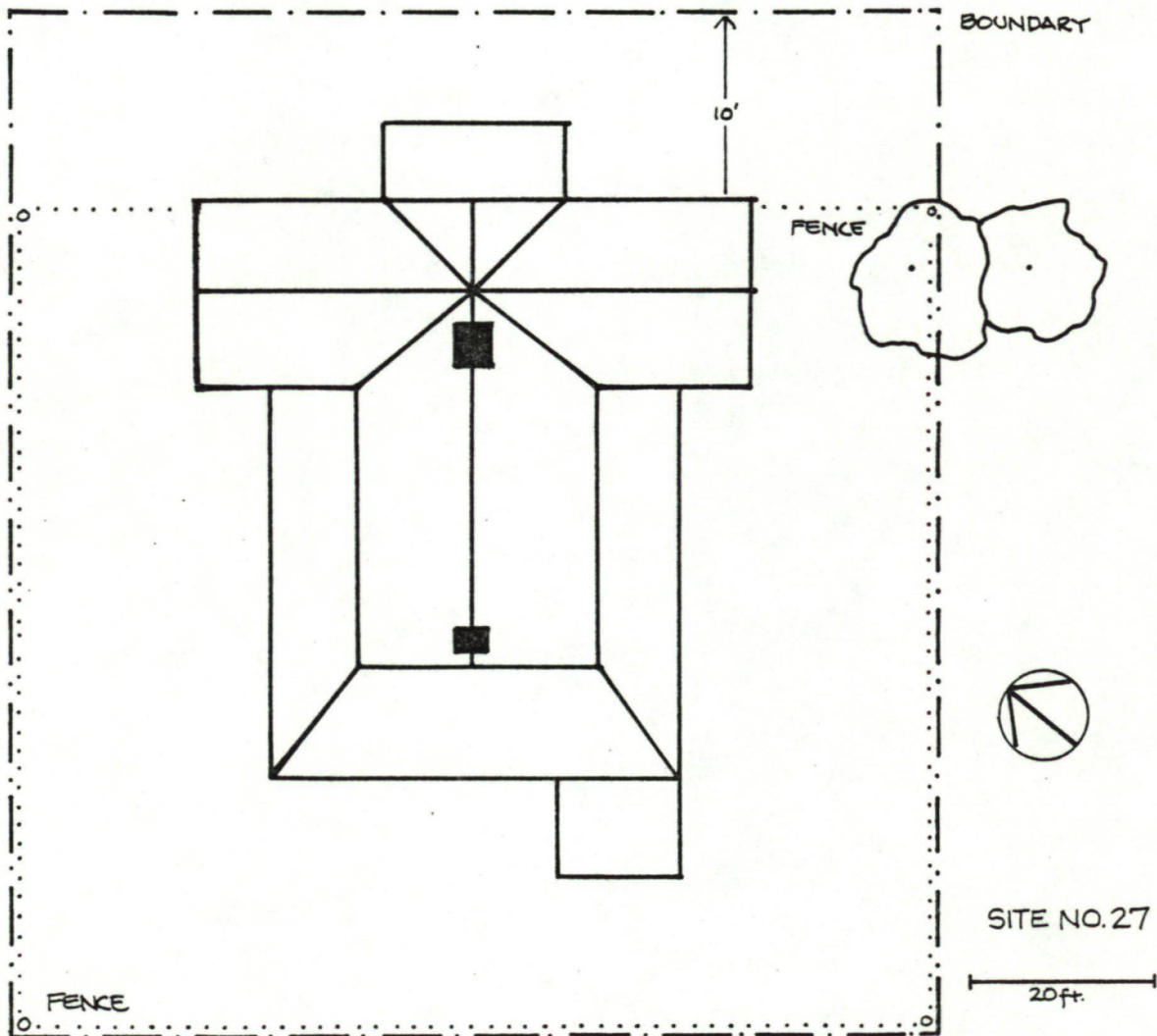
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SITE NO. 28

NAME

Ellingson farm

LOCATION

~~8~~ miles west of Clifton, Bosque County, Texas,
on B. Ellingson survey

OWNER

Milford Murphree
Star Route 1
Cranfills Gap, Texas 76634

PRESENT USE

Storage

CATEGORY

Buildings

STATUS

Unoccupied

QUADRANGLE NAME

Sugarloaf Mountain, Texas

QUADRANGLE SCALE

1:24000

UTM REFERENCE

14/622030/3516420

ACREAGE

less than 1 acre

PHOTO REFERENCE NO.

43

DESCRIPTION

The Ellingson farm is located near Rattlesnake Mountain, west of the Upper Settlement Rural Historic District. It includes two residential structures that remain in good condition. The Bernard Ellingson house is a one-and-a-half-story, wood-frame structure with an L-shaped plan. A shed-roof porch, with chamfered wood columns, extends across the front, or south, facade. The house has double-hung windows with one-over-one lights. The intersecting-gable roof is covered with standing seam metal, and a small shed-roof addition extends on the west side. The house is sheathed in ship-lapped novelty siding.

The Jacob Ellingson house, which is also located on the property, is built of quarried limestone with mud mortar. A massive exterior chimney of stone projects from

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the north side. The lone opening on the front (east) facade is a recessed single-door entrance. A standing-seam metal roof covers this one-room structure. A small corrugated-tin outbuilding stands a few feet to the north of the stone house, but does not contribute to the historic character of the property.

SIGNIFICANCE

The Ellingson farm includes what is believed to be the last stone house erected by a Norwegian pioneer. According to its present owner, it was built about 1900 for Jacob Ellingson. His brother, Bernard, lived in the nearby frame house, which was erected about 1893. This structure is significant because it is typical of the frame farmhouses built by the Norwegians during the late 19th century.

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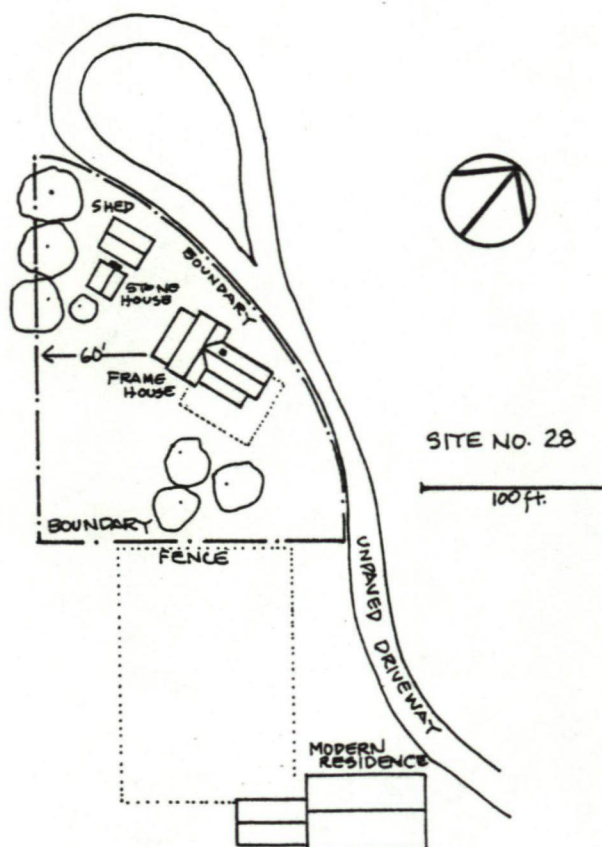
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SITE NO. 29

NAME

A.H. Lahlum house

LOCATION

~~7 1/2~~ miles southwest of Clifton, Bosque County,
Texas, on U. Boswell survey

OWNER

Alton Aars
Route 2
Clifton, Texas 76634

PRESENT USE

Storage

CATEGORY

Building

STATUS

Unoccupied

QUADRANGLE NAME

Hurst Springs, Texas

QUADRANGLE SCALE

1:24000

UTM REFERENCE

14/626120/3508360

ACREAGE

less than 1 acre

PHOTO REFERENCE NO. 44

DESCRIPTION

The August Lahlum house is a small one-story farmhouse of board-and-batten construction. The structure was relocated to its present position on the west bank of Neils Creek in 1893, when a new house was erected on its first site. Its original plan was T-shaped, but the addition of a second section on to the back, or western side, of the building in 1893 produced an H-shaped configuration. Small shed-roof porches extend over the single-door entrances of the east and south elevations. The lower, central portion of the roof is pierced by a single brick chimney. This roof of intersecting gables is now covered by deteriorated composition shingles. The windows are double hung with four-over-four lights. Presently used for storage, the structure remains in fair condition.

SIGNIFICANCE

The A.H. Lahlum house is a rare example of a late 19th-century residence in the area that features board-and-batten construction. Its present owner states that it was moved in 1893 to its present location about one-third mile south of the original site. The date of construction is not known, but it was probably erected in the 1880s and is one of the oldest frame houses in the Norwegian settlement.

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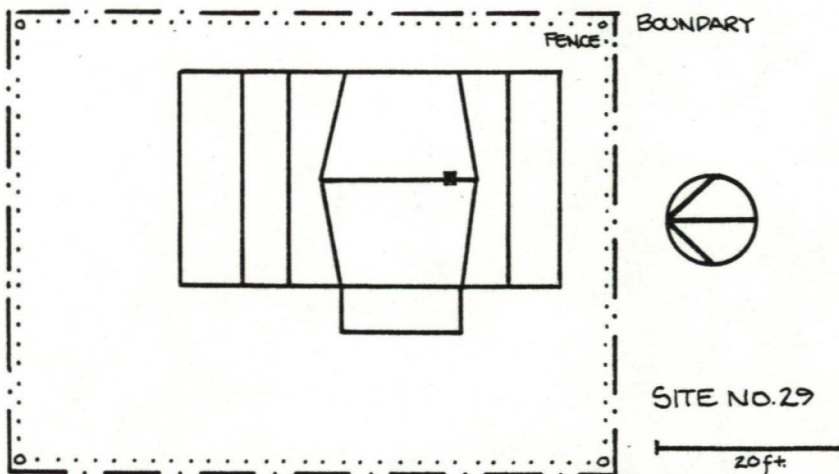
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SITE NO. 30

NAME	Brandhagen houses
LOCATION	FM 182, ^{5 1/2} miles west of Clifton, Bosque County, Texas, on A. Kuykendall survey
OWNER	Mr. and Mrs. W.A. Wagner 107 Avenue J Clifton, Texas 76634
PRESENT USE	Private residence, ruins
CATEGORY	Buildings, site
STATUS	Occupied, unoccupied
QUADRANGLE NAME	Sugarloaf Mountain, Texas
QUADRANGLE SCALE	1:24000
UTM REFERENCE	14/625740/3515670
ACREAGE	less than 1 acre
PHOTO REFERENCE NO.	45, 46

DESCRIPTION

Strategically sited on a bluff that is about one mile north of the old townsite of Norse, the Brandhagen farm includes two residential structures and their associated out-buildings. With an asymmetrical plan, the present residence was built in two phases. The original house, erected in 1883, has a broken-pitch gable roof that is covered with wooden shingles. A substantial addition was built in 1912. This section, rising one-and-a-half stories, was essentially a completely new house. It has a T-shaped plan and adjoins the original house on its north (new) wall. Like the older house, this wing is of wood-frame construction. Its symmetrical front faces south. A one-story porch with chamfered columns extends across the main facade. Above this porch, two dormer-like gables rise from the wood-shingled roof. Each of the gables has paired,

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double-hung windows as well as siding in a herringbone pattern at the apex. With few exceptions, the windows are double hung with two-over-two lights and vertical muntins. Interior brick chimneys rise from the cross-gabled roof. The east facade is also symmetrically arranged, and has two dormer-like gables. Minor shed additions of frame construction have been built onto the rear side of the house. The entire house is in good condition. An early 20th-century, wood-frame garage with hipped roof, as well as two wood-frame barns with gabled roofs are also included within the nominated property, and contribute to its historic character.

The ruin of an earlier residence, built about 1873, is located about 250 feet south of the present house. Of limestone construction, this structure retains very little of its original detailing. The presence of a tree within the stone walls indicates that the gabled roof has been missing for many years. This structure appears to have been used as a barn after the 1883 house was completed.

SIGNIFICANCE

The first residence on this farm was built about 1873 for Nils Brandhagen, who was a teacher at the Turkey Creek School. According to the present owner of the farm, Brandhagen built a new house just up the hill from his old place in 1883. In 1912 he, along with his brother-in-law John Olson, erected the wood-frame residence which adjoins the older frame house. This farm is particularly noteworthy because it preserves three examples of vernacular architecture within the Norwegian settlement.

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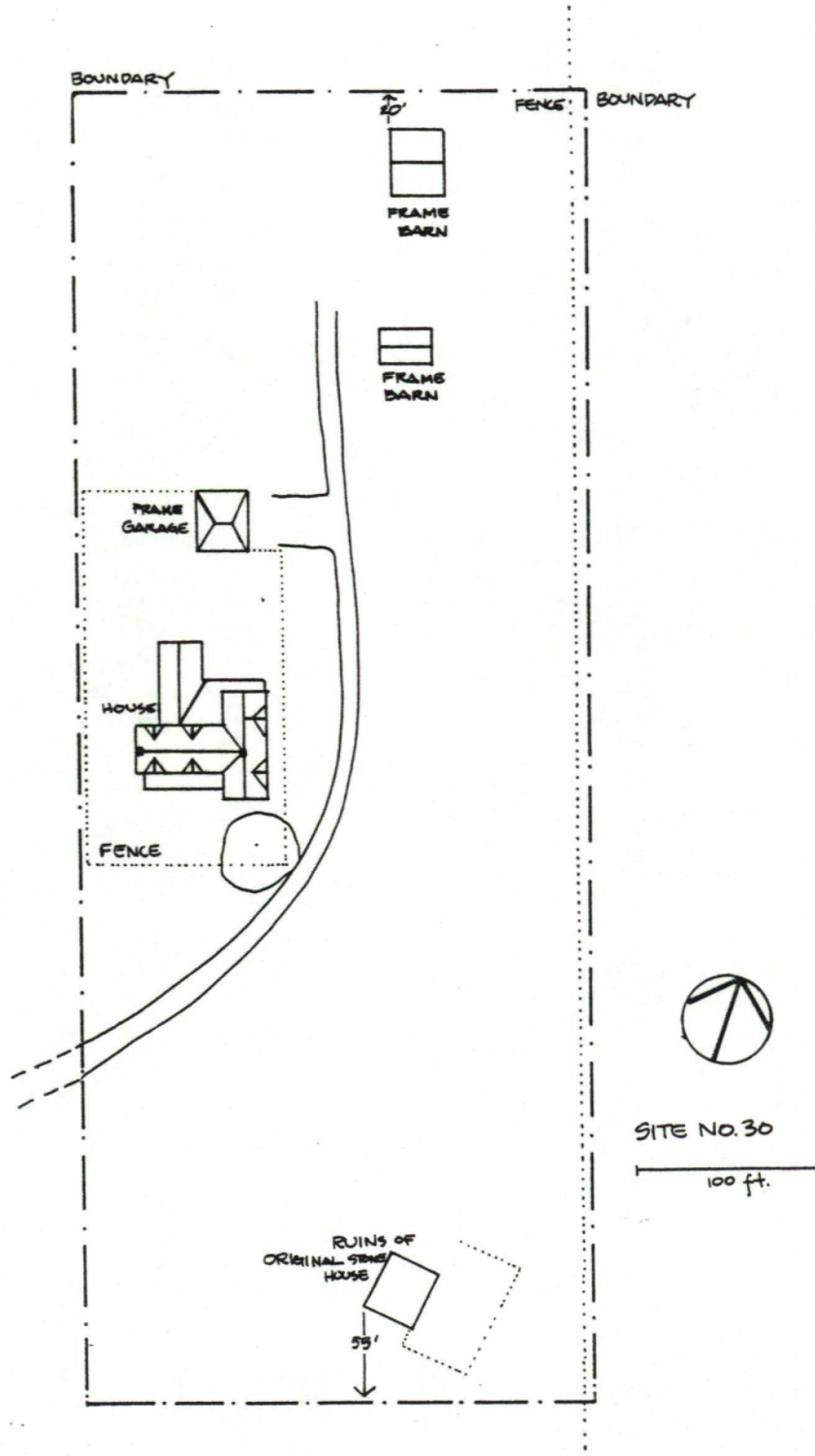
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SITE NO. 31

NAME Bronstad house

LOCATION ~~4 1/2~~⁹ miles southwest of Clifton, Bosque County,
Texas, on J. Brown survey

OWNER Joe V. Guinn
Route 2 Box 36 A
Clifton, Texas 76634

PRESENT USE Private residence, agriculture

CATEGORY Building

STATUS Occupied

QUADRANGLE NAME Sugarloaf Mountain, Texas

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCE 14/628580/3514560

ACREAGE less than 1 acre

PHOTO REFERENCE 47

DESCRIPTION

The Bronstad house is a two-story residence that stands on relatively level terrain near Turkey Creek, about one half mile west of FM 219. Of wood-frame construction, with walls sheathed in shiplapped novelty siding, this house is in good condition and shows relatively few modern alterations. Its present plan is L-shaped, although the rear wing is an early addition. The symmetrical front faces southeast, and displays three dormer-like gables crowned with metal ridge cresting. The double-door entrance opens onto a small one-story porch that is supported by turned-wood columns with brackets. The posts are joined by a railing with simply turned balusters. All of the windows are double hung, usually with four-over-four lights. Interior brick chimneys extend upward at each end of the front, adding to the symmetry of the facade. The cross-gabled roof is covered with composition shingles. The house is the only structure on this property to be nominated.

SIGNIFICANCE

Little is known of the history of this house, but tax records at the county courthouse indicate that this property was owned by Ole Bronstad during the late 19th century. Because of its similarity to other frame house in the area, the residence is believed to have been erected in the 1890's. Retaining much of its integrity, it provides a good example of the symmetrical frame house popular throughout the area around 1900.

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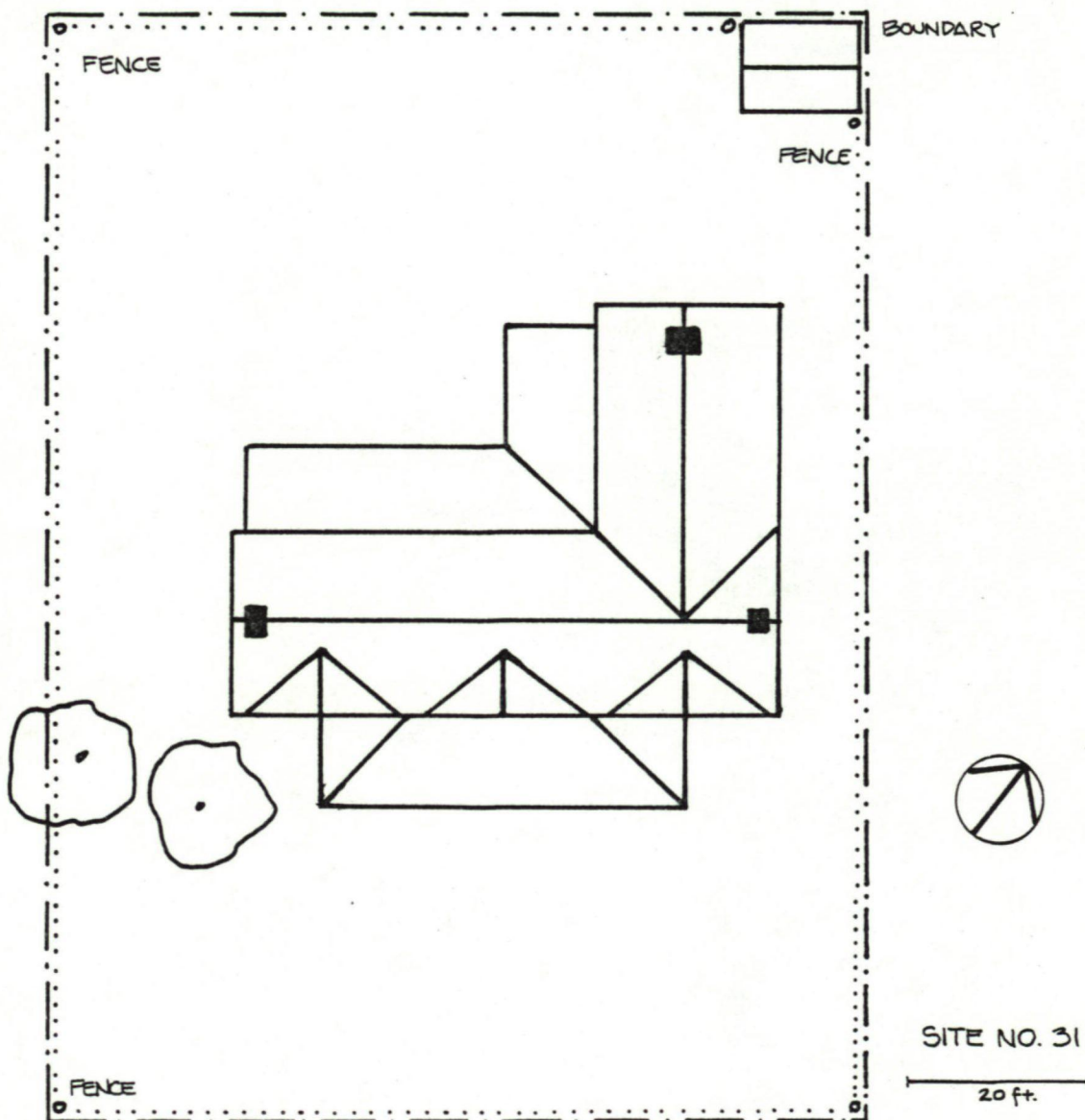
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SITE NO. 32

NAME

(Martin) Larson house

LOCATION

11½ miles southwest of Clifton, Bosque
County, Texas, on A. Kuykendall survey

OWNER

Mildred Patterson
Clifton, Texas 76634

PRESENT USE

Private residence

CATEGORY

Building

STATUS

Occupied

QUADRANGLE NAME

German Valley, Texas

QUADRANGLE SCALE

1:24000

UTM REFERENCE

14/617270/3511680

ACREAGE

less than 1 acre

PHOTO REFERENCE NO.

48

DESCRIPTION

The Martin Larson house stands on gently rolling land just east of the Boggy Branch of Neils Creek. This one-and-a-half-story, wood-frame structure remains virtually unaltered and is in good condition. Its plan is asymmetrical, in the form of a "T." The front, or north, facade has a one-story porch with turned wooden posts, jig-cut brackets, and a frieze of turned spindles. A single doorway opens onto the porch, and the windows are double hung with two-over-two lights and vertical muntins. At the east end of the front, a steeply pitched, dormer-like gable rises from the roof and has a single window with two-over-two lights. The cross-gabled roof is covered by wooden shingles and pierced by two corbeled brick chimneys. A small shed-roof addition was built in the 1940s on the rear (south) elevation.

SIGNIFICANCE

The present owner, who is a descendant of the original occupant, states that the frame house was built in 1904 for Martin Larson. Since that time it has remained virtually unchanged, and retains its historic integrity to a remarkable degree.

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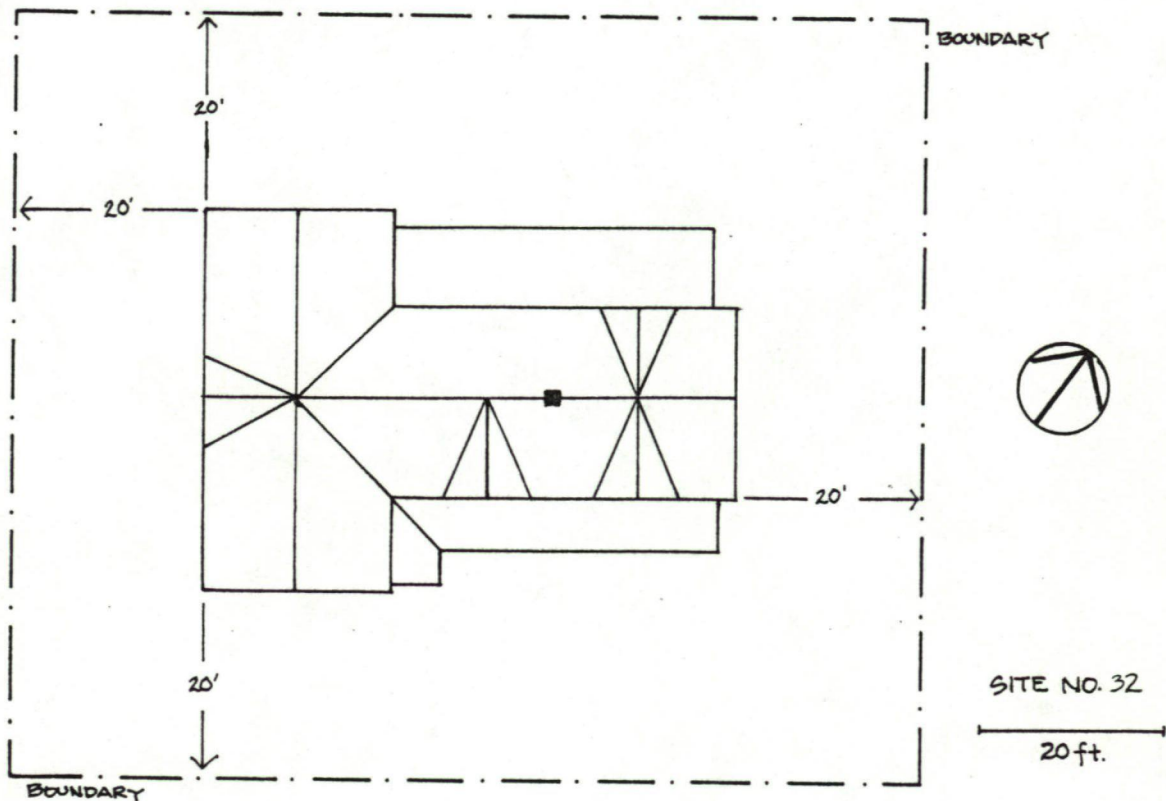
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SITE NOS. 36 through 49

NAME

Upper Settlement Rural Historic District

LOCATION

A 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ -square-mile area within the upper Meridian
Creek valley, just east of Cranfills Gap, Texas

PRESENT USE

Private residences, agriculture, vacant, religion

CATEGORY

District

STATUS

Occupied, unoccupied

REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

Johnson-Bertelsen farm (site no. 37)
Recorded Texas Historic Landmark
1979
Texas Historical Commission
Austin, Texas

J. Lasson and Oline Reiersen farm (site no. 45)
Family Land Heritage Program
1974
General Land Office
Austin, Texas

QUADRANGLE NAMES

Cranfills Gap, Texas
Sugarloaf Mountain, Texas

QUADRANGLE SCALE

1:24000

UTM REFERENCE POINTS

A.	14/618340/3518770	G.	14/618360/3516985
B.	14/619980/3518550	H.	14/618070/3516000
C.	14/621000/3518060	I.	14/614620/3515420
D.	14/621490/3517240	J.	14/612590/3515990
E.	14/621340/3516420	K.	14/612300/3516510
F.	14/619620/3516420	L.	14/612820/3516960

ACREAGE

Approximately 2880 acres

PHOTO REFERENCE NO.

54 THROUGH 72

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OWNERS

Site No.	Property Name/Description	Owner Name and Mailing Address
36	Christen and Johanne Hansen Farm	Walter Hansen 410 S. Avenue K Clifton, Texas 76634
37	Johnson-Bertelson Farm	Dr. Thomas R. Williams 707 Park Street Gatesville, Texas 76528
38	Hans J. and Petra Hanson Farm	Mrs. C.L. Roberts Star Route 2 Clifton, Texas 76634
39	Olson-Arneson Farm	William C. Scroggin and I. Jon Brumley Southland Royalty Co. 1000 Fort Worth Club Tower Fort Worth, Texas 76109
40	Old St. Olaf's Lutheran Church	Congregation of St. Olaf's Lutheran Church c/o Pastor of St. Olaf's Church Cranfills Gap, Texas 76634
41	Otto and Elene Swensen Farm	Dr. Sheridan and Susan Gibler 3217 Spanish Oak Fort Worth, Texas
42	Bersvend E. and Kari Swenson Farm	A.J. Reiersen c/o Curtis Reiersen 5739 Lakemont Waco, Texas 76710
43	A.O. and Olia Alfei Farm	A.J. Reiersen c/o Curtis Reiersen 5739 Lakemont Waco, Texas 76710

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Site No.	Property Name/Description	Owner Name and Mailing Address
44	Peder and Trine Pederson Farm	A.J. Reiersen c/o Curtis Reiersen 5739 Lakemont Waco, Texas 76710
45	O.J. Reiersen Farm	A.J. Reiersen (see above)
46	J.L. and Oline Reiersen Farm	A.J. Reiersen (see above)
47	Amund and Carlin Ilseng Farm	Paul Hoiland 2204 Healey Dallas, Texas 75228
48	Salve and Caroline Knudson Farm	Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Robinson Route 2 Clifton, Texas 76634
49	Knud and Carmeal Knudson Farm	Rose and Billy Gene Green General Delivery Quemado, New Mexico 87829
Not Applicable (N/A)	Non-contributing house on the A.S. Olson tract of land	Walter Popejoy 913 Bonham Grand Prairie, Texas 75050
N/A	Non-contributing house on the L.H. Norderhoug tract of land	Dr. Donald V. Plattner 322 B East Street Grand Prairie, Texas 75050
N/A	Land in the M.P. Jensen Survey, Abstract No. 954	Neal Gardner Route 2 Clifton, Texas 76634

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Site No.	Property Name/Description	Owner Name and Mailing Address
N/A	Land in the Peder Pederson	W.O. Hanson Route 2, Box 34 Meridian, Texas 76665
N/A	Land south of the paved county road in the J.S. Knudson survey, Abstract No. 1150	L.E. Robertson 1536 Proctor Waco, Texas 76708
N/A	.83 acre of land in the K. Knudson survey, Abstract No. 446	William C. Koons 2060 Main Place Dallas, Texas 75250
N/A	Land in the Mrs. B.M. Foss survey, Abstract No. 1102 and land in the B. Rogstad survey, Abstract No. 1114	Milton Linberg Star Route Cranfills Gap, Texas 76634

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Verbal Boundary Description

Beginning at a point located on the southside of an unpaved county road, which connects State Highway 22 and FM 182 and the west boundary of the William M. Smith survey (Abstract No. 769; this and all other patents are filed in the Bosque County Courthouse in Meridian), proceed south along the west property line of the William M. Smith survey until reaching the southwest corner of the Smith survey. Thence east along the south property line of the Smith survey until reaching the 1000-ft. contour line on the Jensen Mountain as indicated on the United States Geological Survey Map (U.S.G.S.) entitled Cranfills Gap, Texas. Thence east along the 1000-ft. contour line on this map, continuing on the U.S.G.S. map entitled Sugarloaf Mountain, Texas, until reaching a point of intersection of this contour line with the south property line of the Knud Knudson survey (Abstract No. 446). Thence east along the south property line of the K. Knudson survey until reaching the southeast corner of the Knudson survey. Thence north along the east property line of the K. Knudson survey until reaching the south side of the previously mentioned county road. Thence west approximately 4.1 miles along the south side of this road until reaching the east side of an unpaved driveway which leads to Old St. Olaf's Church. Thence north on this driveway until reaching the southeast corner of the cemetery. Thence north along the east property line until reaching the northeast corner of the cemetery. Thence west along the property line until reaching the northwest corner of the cemetery. Thence south along the property line until reaching the south side of the paved county road. Thence west along the south side of the road until reaching the point of beginning.

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Description

The boundaries of the Upper Settlement Rural Historic District encompass a 19th-century community that has retained much of its historic character and integrity. As its name connotes, this district is located in a rural setting where much of the land was originally used for farmstead, and is so used today. Within its confines are located 16 sites, 14 of which are classified as contributing properties. These include Old St. Olaf's Church (no. 40) as well as an excellent historical cross-section of 19th-century Norwegian farmhouses and associated outbuildings. Although some of these farmhouses have been abandoned or slightly altered, the overall integrity of their forms and their relationship to the countryside greatly contribute to an understanding of Norwegian pioneer life in Texas in the last half of the 19th century.

Set within the upper Meridian Creek valley, between Jenson and Rogstad Mountains and the creek itself, the Upper Settlement District remains physically separate and distinct from the surrounding area which consists of more level terrain. It is an area of gently rolling hills that has been used for agricultural purposes since it was first settled in the 19th century. In recent years, some land which was originally farmed has been turned to cattle raising, and there has been some encroachment of cedar trees along fence lines and the right-of-way of the county road. This road generally follows the path of Meridian Creek, and has served as the Upper Settlement's major thoroughfare since the 19th century. It was only recently paved. In addition, two unpaved county roads run north-south through passes in the hills, and link the area to the Gary Creek valley. The cedar-post telephone poles that line these roads were erected by the Norse Telephone Company in the early part of this century.

Although all of these features are important, it is ultimately the high concentration of man-made structures which is the critical factor in the establishment of the district. Old St. Olaf's Church, for example, is one of the most prominent landmarks in the entire valley, although farms constitute the bulk of the area's historic resources. Taken together, they represent a thorough cross section of the different architectural styles and periods of the Norwegian settlement. Furthermore, the ensemble of farms gathered around the Bersvend and Kari Swenson homestead are the best-preserved example of an early Norwegian farm community in the county.

Definitions of Contributing and Non-Contributing Elements

Contributing: Contributing properties are those which add to the historic character and integrity of the district, and are the district's most significant historic resources. The built environment is the most important element for this category, and includes

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structures which are over 50 years old which retain much of their historic fabric. All of these contributing structures display features and detailing that are characteristic of the Norwegian settlement area as a whole. Such criteria as association, feeling, design quality, workmanship, scale, proportions, and state of preservation provide the basis for evaluating each property. Of the 16 major structures within the district (excluding outbuildings in counting individual sites), 14 are regarded as contributing. Although these buildings range in date from the early 1860s to the 1910s, a majority were built in the 1870s and 1880s. Historic architectural sites comprise the majority of contributing properties, but several historic archeological sites, such as the Alfei (no. 43) and the Pederson (no. 44) farms, also contribute to the historic character of the district.

Although substantial additions have changed the original appearance of some of these houses, such additions were usually made over 50 years ago, and are characteristic of the architectural evolution of the area. The Knud and Carmeal Knudson farm (no. 49), for example, has a late 19th-century, wood-frame addition that more than doubled the floor space and greatly changed the configuration of the original stone house. Because it is more than 50 years old, and because it conforms in style to the Norwegian vernacular tradition, this addition is considered to contribute to the historic character of the property. Thus the entire house is regarded as contributing.

Only two structures have been altered in recent years, and the extent to which these alterations have affected the integrity of the structures is minimal. Therefore, both have been classified as contributing. These houses are located on the Otto and Elene Swenson (no. 41) and the Johnson-Bertelsen (no. 37) farms.

Although the integrity and concentration of architectural sites are vital for the district, the natural environment is another important factor that should not be overlooked. The geographical and typographical features of the district remain virtually unaltered since the late 19th century and greatly enhance the district's sense of cohesiveness. This land retains its open and rural character with a low density of settlement, and it has continued to be used for agricultural purposes since the middle of the 19th century. In addition, man-made objects like the old cedar telephone poles that run along many of the roads comprise additional contributing elements.

Non-contributing: Non-contributing structures are those which detract from the historic character of the district and are regarded as intrusive. Only two of the 16 major buildings within the district are thus classified: the Popejoy farm on the A.S. Olson survey and the Plattner farm on the L.H. Norderhoug survey. Although the age of

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the structures is sufficient for inclusion herein, especially the Plattner house which was built in the early 20th century, neither structure reflects the styles or aesthetic qualities which characterize the contributing properties. They also do not possess features that clearly distinguish them as vernacular Norwegian structures. The ruins of a one-room stone building are located near the Plattner house and indicate some historic archeological potential for the property. Another non-contributing structure within the district is a small mobile home located near on the Ilseng farm (no. 47). This mobile home greatly detracts from the property's visual and historic integrity, but its effect is minimized because it could easily be moved from the farm in the future.

Inventory of Structures

The following inventory of all structures within the district includes the National Register site number, historic name, approximate date of construction and dates of alterations, the category ("contributing" or "non-contributing"), photograph numbers, and a brief discussion of the physical condition.

No. 36. Christen and Johanne Hansen farm (circa 1893), contributing, photo no. 54. This one-and-a-half-story, wood-frame residence is located at the far western edge of the district. The paved county road which serves as the north district boundary cuts through the farm, but the house and barns are within the district. The house is strategically sited on a bluff which overlooks the upper Meridian Creek valley, although the front facade turns away from the valley and looks southwest toward Cranfills Gap. The front is of a symmetrical five-bay composition with a centrally located, single-door entry. A steeply pitched gable extension rises above the entrance and is characteristic of other contemporary frame houses in the Norwegian settlement in Bosque County. Most of the original window sashes have been removed, but those that remain have two-over-two lights set in a sash with a vertical muntin. The original L-shaped plan of the house was changed with the addition of a rear wing about 1947, producing the present U-shaped plan. Because the house has been abandoned and converted into a barn, the interior is in very poor condition. The house is in deteriorated condition overall, and the wooden shingles on the gabled roof have all but disappeared. The outbuildings, which contribute to the historic character of the farm, include one barn of saddle-notched log construction, with board-and-batten siding, and another frame barn covered with clapboards.

No. 37. Johnson-Bertelsen farm (1887/1908/1978), contributing, photo no. 55. The Johnson-Bertelsen house is a stone and wood-frame residence that was heavily remodeled in 1978. The original house was a one-and-a-half-story stone structure built in 1887 which resembled the Otto and Elene Swenson house (no. 42). A wood-frame wing was added in about 1908, and the resulting T-shaped plan was altered again in the most recent renovation. At that time (1978), a garage and connecting hallway were added

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to the southwest corner of the house, and the 1903 entry-porch was enclosed. A new porch and entry-way were also added on the east side of the house, which since 1908 had been the rear elevation. Despite these changes the house still retains enough of its historical character to be classified as contributing. A small, clapboard outbuilding stands to the east of this house, and was covered with board-and-batten siding during the 1978 remodeling.

No. 38. Hans J. and Petra Hanson farm (c. 1870/c. 1900/ 1966), contributing, photo nos. 56, 57. Although in poor but stable condition, the Hanson farm is a good example of a late 19th-century Norwegian pioneer homestead. The original residence (c. 1870) was a one-and-a-half-story stone house with a rectangular plan of the asymmetrical type. Later additions to the stone core include a turn-of-the-century wood-frame "L" and a small shed-roof wing, built in 1966. A large barn of limestone and board-and-batten construction stands near the house, and is surrounded by a 19th-century cedar-post fence. A second, collapsed stone fence is also included on the property.

No. 39. Olson-Arneson farm (c. 1870), contributing, photo no. 58. The Olson-Arneson farm includes a one-and-a-half-story stone house, and commands a majestic view of Old St. Olaf's Church (no. 40). With a rectangular, three-part plan, and an exterior stone chimney at each side, this house bears a striking resemblance to other symmetrical stone houses such as the Ringness (no. 4) and the Keddel and Liv Grimland (no. 9) residences. A stucco finish in excellent repair covers the limestone construction. The five-bay facade features a small porch that extends over the main entryway. Supported by Bungalow-style columns, this porch has alternating rows of toothed wooden shingles in the gable end. Despite the addition of a multiroom brick wing at the rear, and the installation of modern sash windows, the house retains much of its historic integrity. A small, one-room outbuilding of limestone construction stands near the house.

No. 40. Old St. Olaf's Church (1886-1890s), contributing, photo nos. 59, 60. Situated on a hill near the geographic center of the Upper Meridian Creek valley, Old St. Olaf's Church is a large, stuccoed stone building that remains in excellent condition and exhibits some of the most outstanding stone masonry in the entire Norwegian settlement. The plan of the church is rectangular. A wooden-frame bell tower with shingle siding and a steeply pitched, octagonal spire extends upward from the east end of the building. A round arch with hood molding spans the main entrance beneath this tower. Six windows with round arches pierce each of the side elevations, and are capped with stone hood moldings. They are composed of four-over-four lights, with fixed tracery above a transom bar. Stone quoins reinforce the four corners of the edifice, whose roof is covered with wooden shingles and pierced by a chimney toward the rear. Like the exterior, the interior remains virtually unaltered and still retains its original

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altar, gas-burning lamps, and oil-burning furnace. The pews feature handpainted wood graining, and the barrel-vault ceiling is faced by beaded boards. The cemetery, which is located immediately north of the structure, is an integral part of the church and is included within the district.

No. 41. Otto and Elene Swenson farm (c. 1870), contributing, photo no. 61. The one-and-a-half-story stone residence stands at the base of Rogstad Mountain, between the Olson-Arneson farm and the Pederson farm. A small, tree-lined creek runs immediately east of the house and flows north toward Meridian Creek. The plan of the house is rectangular. The western section of the house rises one-and-a-half stories in height, with a one-story "L" of a later construction date at the rear. The west end is similar in detailing and massing to the Johnson-Bertelson house (no. 37), and features an interior stone chimney that rises from the south gable end. A second-story loft extends from the opposite (north) gable end but remains open on the ground level. All original windows have been replaced with aluminum sash windows, and the limestone walls have been re-pointed with portland cement. Despite the alterations, the house maintains just enough of its historic character and integrity to be classified as contributing. Collapsed stone fences also can be found on the property.

No. 42. The Bersvend and Kari Swenson farm (early 1860s/c. 1900), contributing, photo nos. 62, 63, 64. The Bersvend and Kari Swenson farm is one of the most outstanding examples of a pioneer Norwegian farm complex in Bosque County. Prominently sited on the northside of Rogstad Mountain, it includes a stone and wood-frame residence, a stone barn, a detached dug-out cellar, collapsed stone fences, and the ruins of another stone outbuilding. The house is in poor condition and has been unoccupied since the 1950s. The oldest section of the house is of stone and was probably built in the early 1860s. The plan is asymmetrical, and is very similar to that of the Pierson house (no. 2). The stuccoed exterior veneer has begun to peel from the stone walls, exposing the ashlar limestone below. A single tie-rod provides structural support at the west end. The three-bay main facade, with its asymmetrical fenestration, faces south toward the mountains. Around the turn-of-the-century, the house was substantially remodeled and expanded. On the stone part of the home, the gable end of the west facade, with its exterior stone chimney, clearly shows that the pitch of the gable was made steeper to accommodate a new roof and dormers. A partially enclosed breezeway connects the stone house with the later, two-story, wood-frame addition which gives a T-shaped plan to the whole. A one-and-a-half-story stone barn, with a broken-pitch gabled roof, stands to the east of the main house. Just to the north is a barrel-vaulted cellar that has been dug into the side of the hill. Its entrance is capped with a fine segmental arch. The nearby water well, stone troughs, and the ruins of a frame outbuilding are associated with a light surface scatter of glass, ceramics, and metal tools.

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No. 43. A.O. and Olia Alfei farm (c. 1880), contributing, photo no. 65. The Old Alfei farm stands in a pasture just southeast of the Bersvend and Kari Swenson place. The Alfei house stands in ruins with no roof, and only a part of its stone walls remain intact. The original plan was rectangular, with a later one-room addition attached at the northeast corner. The house was built of rough-cut limestone, and retains much of its exterior stucco veneer as well as the plaster covering on the interior walls. The original fenestration is difficult to determine, but door openings are evident in the north and east walls. A hand-hewn wooden lintel still spans the north doorway. The west wall is the best preserved and reveals that the house once had a gable roof. Little of the interior remains intact, but some of the wooden ceiling beams and the hearth, with its segmentally arched fireplace, have survived. A one-room outbuilding of limestone construction is located to the west of the house, and a stone cistern has been found to the southeast. Despite the deteriorated condition of this site, it is important because its archeological potential appears to be strong. The entire area has remained undisturbed for decades and a rich surface scatter of potshards, fragments of wood, and other historical debris has been observed. For this reason, the Alfei Site has been deemed contributing.

No. 44. Peder and Trine Pederson farm (circa 1877), contributing, photo no. 66. The Pederson farm features the ruins of a log cabin and an adjacent, but separate, stone house. This log cabin, one of the few extant examples of a log structure within the entire Norwegian Settlement, rests upon a raised stone foundation. The hewn logs are finely crafted and have full-dovetail corner notching. Fenestration of the house is difficult to determine because of its present state of repair, but single openings pierce the north, south, and west walls. A one-room stone house was built about ten feet northeast of the log cabin, and it, too, stands in ruins. Although the entire roof is missing, some of the wooden beams still survive. The fenestration of the front follows an ABA rhythm, with a single doorway in the center. Large stone lintels span each of the openings. A small stone chimney rises from the gable end of the northeast wall. It was used as an outlet for a stove. Both the log cabin and stone house appear to have been joined at one time by a breezeway and porch. An early 20th-century frame house, with a square-shaped plan and hip roof, stands nearby. The concrete foundations of two other outbuildings still remain visible to the northwest of the log cabin, and numerous potshards and historical objects, such as hand-forged hinges, have been observed at the site.

No. 45. Ole J. Reiersen farm (1912), contributing, photo no. 67. The Ole J. Reiersen farm has one of the few purely frame residences within the district. Built in 1912, this two-story house is one of the last structures erected in Bosque County that follows the tradition of the asymmetrical-type frame house, such as the Colwick house

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(no. 22). It remains in good condition, with very few alterations. The plan of the house is T-shaped. A one-story porch, with turned wooden posts and decorative brackets, extends across the front facade. Double-hung windows with one-over-one lights pierce the clapboard-sided walls. The only major exterior alteration is a lean-to addition on the rear elevation. A board-and-batten barn also stands on this farm, as do several early 20th-century outbuildings.

No. 46. J. Lasson and Oline Reiersen farm (circa 1865), contributing, photo nos. 68, 69. The Reiersen house is situated at the base of Rogstad Mountain, just west of a small stream that flows toward Meridian Creek. Of limestone construction, it is another intact example of an early, pioneer Norwegian farmhouse. Its plan is rectangular in shape. The west facade exhibits a four-bay composition with two central doorways that open into separate rooms. The outer bays have wood sashes with six-over-six lights. A stone chimney is built onto the north wall. The two-bay east elevation has a shed-roof porch that extends the entire length of this facade. Although presently used as a barn, the structure retains its basic interior plan. A stone wall with a central door divides the interior space into equal rooms. An underground cistern and the remains of a dug-out cellar are located nearby, with a light surface scatter of household remains visible on the ground.

No. 47. Amund and Carlin Ilseng farm (circa 1877), contributing, photo no. 70. The Ilseng house, located near the east bank of a small stream that flows near the J. Lasson Reiersen house (no. 46), is one of only a handful of log-built residences that still stand within the area of the Norwegian settlement. Despite its present poor condition, the log house retains much of its integrity. This small house is crudely constructed. Unhewn logs with "V" corner notching can be seen on the east side of the house. The other walls, however, are covered with board-and-batten siding. A stone chimney rises from the west gable end, while a covered exterior stairway, which provides access to the loft, appears on the east side of the house. This stairway is important for it may be the only survivor of this kind of upstairs entranceway once common on early Norwegian homes. Of stone construction, the attached lean-to is an early addition. The ruins of a one-room stone structure are located about 25 feet south of the house.

No. 48. Salve and Caroline Knudson farm (circa 1875), contributing, photo no. 71. The Salve and Caroline Knudson house stands in a plowed field just south of the paved county road. Presently unoccupied, it is in fair condition and retains much of its integrity. This one-and-a-half-story residence is of the asymmetrical type of stone house, although later additions have slightly modified its original configuration. The south elevation, which originally served as the front, now has a partially enclosed porch that obscures the original fenestration. This wall, however, is pierced by a door and

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windows. The west elevation features an exterior chimney, while the opposite end has an interior chimney. One of the most distinctive elements of this structure appears on the north facade, where the long stone wall is interrupted by only one opening. A gabled porch, which was built before 1948, projects from the west end of this elevation, over the single door. Two mounds of quarried stone are located near a creekbed to the east of the house, and are assumed to represent razed outbuildings.

No. 49. Knud and Carmeal Knudson farm (c. 1875/c. 1900), contributing, photo no. 72. The Knud and Carmeal Knudson farm is easily visible by car from its location just south of the county road. It is presently unoccupied but remains in good condition. The one-and-a-half-story stone section is the oldest part of the residence, and its plan is of the asymmetrical type of stone house. A large stone chimney is built on the west wall, and double-hung windows with six-over-six lights flank either side of this chimney. High in the gable end, six-light casement windows appear on each side of the chimney. The north wall has two double-hung windows that are similar to those of the west end. Later frame additions to the east and south walls obscure the other openings of the original stone house. A single doorway opens onto a breezeway that connects the east wooden-frame addition to the stone block. This addition, which was probably built around the turn-of-the-century, exhibits a scale and fenestration similar to that of the original house and, therefore, is an important aspect of the structure's architectural evolution. A small stone building and two frame barn's also are located on the farm, and contribute to the historic character of the property.

Popejoy farm (c. 1940), non-contributing, no photo. Located between the Hans J. Hanson (no. 38) and the Olson-Arneson (no. 39) farms, this one-story, wood-frame house displays none of the characteristics which distinguish the contributing properties within the district.

Plattner farm (c. 1910), non-contributing, no photo. This farm is located on the L.H. Norderhoug tract of land between the Ilseng (no. 47) and the Salve Knudson (no. 48) farms. Although this frame structure is over fifty years old, it does not reflect those features that characterize the contributing structures. The ruins of a one-room stone structure, as well as the foundation of another building, are located on the property. A visit to these sites found several crockery shards and other historical artifacts, indicating that the property may have archeological potential. Because the archeological resources have not been evaluated, however, and because the wood-frame house visually dominates the property, the farm is classified as non-contributing at this time.

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Significance

With Old St. Olaf's Lutheran Church as its focal point, the Upper Settlement Rural Historic District encompasses approximately 2900 acres of land and includes a cohesive grouping of middle to late 19th-century Norwegian farmsteads that are concentrated along the south side of the upper Meridian Creek valley. The boundaries outline an elongated area that extends from a point about one mile east of Cranfills Gap to the eastern border of the Knud Knudson land patent, a distance of about four miles. Because the creek and hills of the valley physically isolate this area from adjacent territory, the upper settlement region has developed somewhat independently from other parts of the Norwegian community. To a remarkable degree, this area retains its 19th-century, rural sense of time and place, and relatively few intrusive elements detract from its historic character. Since virtually every type of farmhouse built by the Norwegian immigrants can be seen within the Upper Settlement, the district represents a textbook history of this distinctive vernacular architecture. The district also contains a number of ruins that, because of their abandonment many years ago and their relatively undisturbed nature, possess archeological potential.

Little is known of the early (pre-1865) history of the Upper Settlement, but one of the first Norwegian families known to have homesteaded in the upper Meridian Creek valley were Bersvend and Kari Swenson. After arriving in Bosque County in 1857, the Swensons applied for a 160-acre land grant from the state in 1860, and established their farm on the north side of Rogstad Mountain just beneath the Berger and Martha Rogstad place. Here they erected a one-and-a-half-story stone house (no. 42) that was sited on a bluff overlooking the valley. Information from the General Land Office and the 1860 Census would seem to indicate that the Swensons erected this house during the early 1860s. This structure, which was substantially remodeled around 1900, is one of the oldest surviving residences in the entire Norwegian settlement area.

J. Lasson and Oline Reiersen were another of the early families to settle in the upper Meridian Creek valley. They came to Bosque County in 1860 and, like the Swensons, applied for a 160-acre land grant that year. The Reiersens selected land adjacent to, but down the mountain from, the Swenson farm, where they erected a one-story stone house (no. 46) near a small stream which flows north toward Meridian Creek.

General Land Office records reveal that Canute Olson and E.R. Skeinland (or Skimland) also received patents for land within the valley in the early 1860s. The history of both of these properties, their owners, and of the stone house that presently stands on each of these parcels of land is at best sketchy. Research suggests that the structures, referred to herein as the Olson-Arneson (no. 39) and Hans J. and Petra

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Hanson (no. 38) houses, were built around 1870 and, therefore, do not represent the first group of settlers. This conclusion needs verification.

Continued settlement of the area was disrupted during the early 1860s, and the second wave of immigrants arrived in Bosque County after the Civil War. Several of the new immigrants decided to homestead in the Meridian Creek valley. A list of these families, the date each received their land patents (i.e., the date they had fulfilled the three-year homestead requirement), and the appropriate site number follow:

Otto and Elene Swenson	1871	41
Salve and Caroline Knudson	1871	48
Knud and Carmeal Knudson	1871	49
Andre and Engeborg Johnson	1875	37
A.O. and Olia Alfei	1877	43
Amund and Carlin Ilseng	1877	47
Peder and Trine Pederson	1877	44

Most of these families built easy-to-construct log cabins or dug-outs soon after their arrival to Bosque County, as was the common practice among all the Norwegian pioneers. Unfortunately, most of these temporary shelters have been destroyed. Yet two log cabins, one on the Ilseng farm (no. 47) and another in ruins on the Pederson farm (no. 44), have survived.

During the 1870s and 1880s, the upper Meridian Creek valley experienced a gradual transformation as it began to develop into the distinct rural community often referred to as the Upper Settlement. Its economy was based exclusively upon agriculture, and the farms, many of which had been started in the late 1860s and 1870s, proved to be quite productive. As prosperity increased, most of the pioneers replaced their early cabins with more substantial living quarters. Stone was the most common construction material used for these, and many of the extant houses, such as those on the Salve and Caroline Knudson (no. 48) farm, the Knud and Carmeal Knudson farm (no. 49), and the Otto and Elene Swenson farm (no. 41), were erected during that phase of settlement. Although pioneer life was obviously demanding, the Norwegians believed education to be important for their children. Thus as early as 1877, they had already constructed a schoolhouse on the Reiersen homestead.

In 1885, because of their distance from Our Savior's Church in Norse, the members of the Upper Settlement lobbied for their own edifice. Upon approval of this idea,

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Andreas Mikkelson was chosen to design and supervise construction of this new church, which was named St. Olaf's in honor of the patron saint of Norway. Although completed in the early 1890s and consecrated in 1895, it remained in active use only until 1917, when a new church was erected by the congregation in Cranfills Gap. St. Olaf's, however, has continued to be well maintained and is still occasionally used for services. Besides its obvious religious significance for the community, St. Olaf's is architecturally important. The quality and sophistication of its stone masonry, for instance, are unsurpassed within the entire settlement area, and its prominent siting makes it one of the most visible landmarks in the valley.

The Upper Settlement continued to develop during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Although no new farms were established, since all of the land within the valley had been claimed, new improvements on several of the farms took place. Christen and Johanne Hansen purchased land on the William Smith survey in 1875 and erected a one-and-a-half-story frame house (no. 36) about 1893. The following year Bertel Bertelsen bought the old Johnson farm and built a frame addition onto its original stone house (no. 37). Around 1900, B.B. Swenson, son of Bersvend and Kari Swenson, likewise added a frame addition onto their old house (no. 42). In 1912, Ole J. Reiersen, with the help of carpenter Ole Anderson, built a two-story frame house (no. 45) near the Lasson Reiersen homestead. This frame residence was one of the last structures built of the late pioneer era of the Norwegian Settlement. Later houses, such as those on the Pederson farm (no. 44) and the Norderhouse farm, reflect the tastes of main-stream Anglo-American culture and stand as testimony to the assimilation of the Norwegians into the surrounding society.

Few changes have taken place within the Upper Settlement since the early 1900s. Farms within the district have remained active throughout most of this century although, in recent years, several of the farmhouses have been abandoned and the land converted into a pasture for cattle. Most of these farms, however, are still owned by descendants of the original settlers, and virtually no new construction, with the exception of the recent remodeling of the Johnson-Bertelsen and Otto Swenson farms, has taken place within the bounds of the district.

Justification of Boundaries

Information from three sources was used to determine the areal extent of the district. These include (1) the density of the sites as identified through fieldwork, (2) the physical environment and how it affected the development of the district, and (3) the documentary history for the Upper Settlement as a distinct community within the Norwegian area of Bosque County.

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The idea of establishing a rural historic district came from the data obtained through fieldwork. Although a large number of Norwegian structures had been identified throughout the entire settlement area, a particularly high concentration of sites was recorded in the region located along the south bank of the upper Meridian Creek valley, just east of Cranfills Gap. This same area also contained few modern buildings and, to a large extent, retained a very strong sense of the past. Most of the historic resources identified there exhibited design characteristics, materials, and workmanship typical of the vernacular architecture in the Norwegian Settlement. A follow-up survey of the Upper Settlement area identified and recorded all structures and land-use patterns in the potential district.

A second major consideration for the creation of this district was the area's physical environment, for geographical and topographical features clearly distinguished this area from adjacent territory and contribute to its sense of cohesiveness. Set along the south side of the upper Meridian Creek valley, the district is bounded on the north by an unnamed county road and to the south by the Jenson and Rogstad mountains. The county road, which connects FM 182 and State Highway 22, generally follows the path of Meridian Creek. Although the land between the creek and the road has retained its rural character, it contains no significant historic resources associated with the Norwegian Settlement, with the exception of Old St. Olaf's Church. The southern boundary is dependent on the Jenson and Rogstad mountains, and follows the 1000-ft. contour line of the 1979 U.S.G.S. maps. This topographical boundary provides a logical means for delineating the district, and also reflects the role played by these hills in originally defining the area of settlement and in shaping its development. When the U.S.G.S. maps were overlaid with state land-grant maps, it was found that the land claimed by Norwegians between 1860 and 1880 conformed to the foregoing topographical considerations remarkably well.

Sixteen structures remained within the boundaries, 14 of which contribute to the historic character of the district. These 14 structures also represent a cross-section of the 19th-century Norwegian settlement as a whole, and preserve a strong sense of the original close physical and cultural relationships which the farms had to one another. Traveling through this area of Bosque County is almost like taking a step back to another era.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

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date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

Page

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Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

dnr-11

Name Norwegian Settlement of Bosque County Thematic Resources
State Texas

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

- | | | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Bekken, J. H., House | Entered in the
National Register | Keeper <u>[Signature]</u> 7/22/83 | Attest <u>[Signature]</u> |
| 2. Brandhagen Houses | Entered in the
National Register | Keeper <u>[Signature]</u> 7/22/83 | Attest <u>[Signature]</u> |
| 3. Brogdon Farm | Entered in the
National Register | Keeper <u>[Signature]</u> 7/22/83 | Attest <u>[Signature]</u> |
| 4. Bronstad House | Entered in the
National Register | Keeper <u>[Signature]</u> 7/22/83 | Attest <u>[Signature]</u> |
| 5. Colwick, John and Mary, Farm | Substantive Review | Keeper <u>[Signature]</u> 7/22/83 | Attest <u>[Signature]</u> |
| 6. Dahl, Peder, Farm | Entered in the
National Register | Keeper <u>[Signature]</u> 7/22/83 | Attest <u>[Signature]</u> |
| 7. Ellingson Farm | Entered in the
National Register | Keeper <u>[Signature]</u> 7/22/83 | Attest <u>[Signature]</u> |
| 8. Erickson, Even and Petrine,
Farm | Entered in the
National Register | Keeper <u>[Signature]</u> 7/22/83 | Attest <u>[Signature]</u> |
| 9. Finstad, Ole and Elizabeth,
Homesite | Entered in the
National Register | Keeper <u>[Signature]</u> 7/22/83 | Attest <u>[Signature]</u> |
| 10. Godager, Adolf and
Christine, Homesite | Entered in the
National Register | Keeper <u>[Signature]</u> 7/22/83 | Attest <u>[Signature]</u> |

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

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received

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

Page 2 of 4

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

Name Norwegian Settlement of Bosque County Thematic Resources
State Texas

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

- | | | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|------------|------------------------------|
| 11. Grimland, Gunsten and Lofise, House | Entered in the
National Register | for Keeper | 7/22/83 <u>Delores Byers</u> |
| | | Attest | |
| 12. Grimland, Keddel and Liv, Farm | Entered in the
National Register | for Keeper | 7/22/83 <u>Delores Byers</u> |
| | | Attest | |
| 13. Hanson, Hans, Farm | Substantive Review | Keeper | <u>Return</u> |
| | | Attest | |
| 14. Hoff-Ulland Farm | Entered in the
National Register | for Keeper | 7/22/83 <u>Delores Byers</u> |
| | | Attest | |
| 15. Holen Farm | Substantive Review | Keeper | <u>Return</u> |
| | | Attest | |
| 16. Jenson, James Jens and Martha, House | Entered in the
National Register | for Keeper | 7/22/83 <u>Delores Byers</u> |
| | | Attest | |
| 17. Knudson, Christen and Johanne, Farm | Entered in the
National Register | for Keeper | 7/22/83 <u>Delores Byers</u> |
| | | Attest | |
| 18. Lahlum, A. H., House | Entered in the
National Register | for Keeper | 7/22/83 <u>Delores Byers</u> |
| | | Attest | |
| 19. Larson, Martin, House | Entered in the
National Register | for Keeper | 7/22/83 <u>Delores Byers</u> |
| | | Attest | |
| 20. Linberg, Eric and Martha, Farm | Entered in the
National Register | for Keeper | 7/22/83 <u>Delores Byers</u> |
| | | Attest | |

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

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received

date entered

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Item number

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Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

Name Norwegian Settlement of Bosque County Thematic Resources
State Texas

Nomination/Type of Review	Entered in the National Register	for Keeper	Date/Signature
117 21. Norway Mill	Entered in the National Register	for Keeper	7/22/83 <u>Delores Byers</u>
22. Olson-Hanson Farm	Entered in the National Register	for Keeper	7/22/83 <u>Delores Byers</u>
23. Olson, Joseph and Anna, Farm	Entered in the National Register	for Keeper	7/22/83 <u>Delores Byers</u>
24. Olson-Nelson Farm	Entered in the National Register	for Keeper	7/22/83 <u>Delores Byers</u>
19 25. Our Savior's Lutheran Church	Substantive Review	for Keeper	Return <u>S</u>
26. Pederson, John, Farm	Entered in the National Register	for Keeper	7/22/83 <u>Delores Byers</u>
27. Pierson, Ole and Ann, Farm	Entered in the National Register	for Keeper	7/22/83 <u>Delores Byers</u>
28. Questad, Carl and Sedsel, Farm	Entered in the National Register	for Keeper	7/22/83 <u>Delores Byers</u>
29. Reeder-Omenson Farm	Entered in the National Register	for Keeper	7/22/83 <u>Delores Byers</u>
30. Reiersen, Hans and Berthe, House	Entered in the National Register	for Keeper	7/22/83 <u>Delores Byers</u>

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National Park Service

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received

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Item number

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Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

Name Norwegian Settlement of Bosque County Thematic Resources
State Texas

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

191 31. Ringness, Jens and Kari,
Farm

Entered in the
National Register

for
Keeper

7/22/83 Alvin Byers

Attest

32. Rogstad, Tom and Martha,
Farm

Entered in the
National Register

for
Keeper

7/22/83 Alvin Byers

Attest

33. Schultz, Tobias and
Wilhelmine, Farm

Entered in the
National Register

for
Keeper

7/22/83 Alvin Byers

Attest

34. Shefstad, Gunarus and
Ingerborg, House

Entered in the
National Register

for
Keeper

7/22/83 Alvin Byers

Attest

201 35. Upper Settlement Rural
Historic District

Substantive Review

Keeper

Bob Groover 7/22/83

Attest

202 36. Wilson Homesite

Entered in the
National Register

for
Keeper

7/22/83 Alvin Byers

Attest

37.

Keeper

Attest

38.

Keeper

Attest

39.

Keeper

Attest

40.

Keeper

Attest

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

EVALUATION / RETURN SHE

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Substantive Review

Norwegian Settlement of Bosque County TR
Bosque County
TEXASWorking No. JUN 9 1983
Fed. Reg. Date: _____
Date Due: 7/7/83 - 7/27/83
Action: ☒ ACCEPT 7/22/83
☐ RETURN _____
☐ REJECT _____
Federal Agency: _____☐ resubmission
☐ nomination by person or local government
☐ owner objection
☐ appealSubstantive Review: ☐ sample ☐ request ☐ appeal ☐ NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

*Excellent cover documentation*Recom. / Criteria Accept theme
Reviewer Groves
Discipline Historian
Date 7/22/83
☐ see continuation sheetNomination returned for: ☐ technical corrections cited below
☐ substantive reasons discussed below1. Name2. Location3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
	Public Acquisition	Accessible	

4. Owner of Property5. Location of Legal Description6. Representation in Existing SurveysHas this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☐ no7. Description

Condition	Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> moved
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed	<input type="checkbox"/> date

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

☐ summary paragraph
☐ completeness
☐ clarity
☐ alterations/integrity
☐ dates
☐ boundary selection

8. Significance

Period _____ Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates _____ Builder/Architect _____

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

- _____ summary paragraph
_____ completeness
_____ clarity
_____ applicable criteria
_____ justification of areas checked
_____ relating significance to the resource
_____ context
_____ relationship of integrity to significance
_____ justification of exception
_____ other

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acres of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

UMT References _____

Verbal boundary description and justification _____

11. Form Prepared By

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

_____ national _____ state _____ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature _____

Title _____ date _____

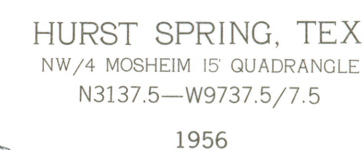
13. Other

- _____ Maps
_____ Photographs
_____ Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Signed _____ Date _____ Phone: 202 272-3504

Comments for any item may be continued on an attached sheet

7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)
NW/4 MOSHEIM 15' QUADRANGLE

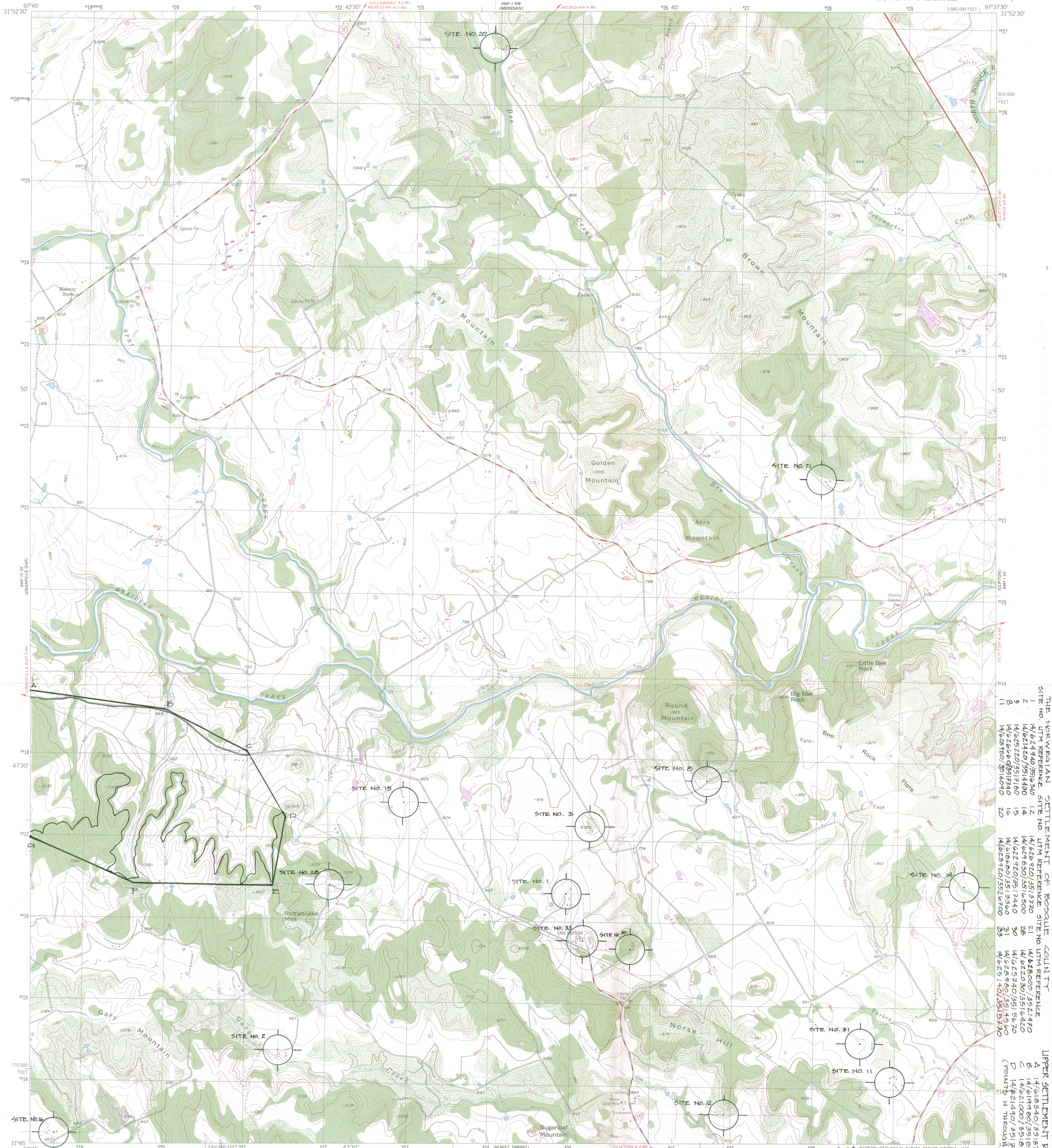
6447 IV SE
(PROJ. 1:62,500)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY



SUGARLOAF MOUNTAIN QUADRANGLE
TEXAS-BOSQUE CO.
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)
SW/4 CLIFTON 15 QUADRANGLE

6447 I SE
(PROJ. 1:62,500)



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS and USC&GS
Topography from aerial photographs by ER-55 plotter
Aerial photographs taken 1955. Field check 1956
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Texas coordinate system,
central zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid, zone 14
Revisions shown in purple and woodland compiled from
aerial photographs taken 1976 and other source data
This information not field checked. Map edited 1979

UTM GRID AND 1979 MAGNETIC NORTH
DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET

SCALE 1:24 000
1 1000 0 1000 2000 3000 4000 5000 6000 7000 FEET
1 KILOMETER
CONTOUR INTERVAL 20 FEET
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929

ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Heavy-duty ——— Light-duty ———
Medium-duty ——— Unimproved dirt ———
State Route

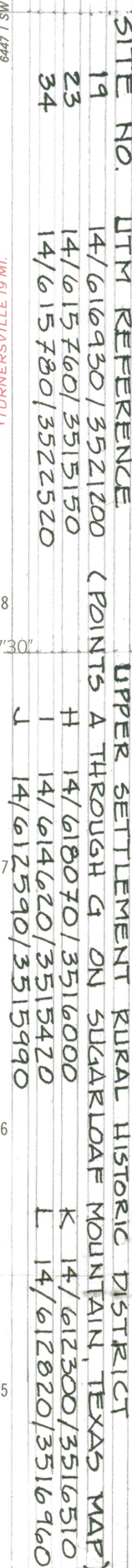
SUGARLOAF MOUNTAIN, TEX.
SW/4 CLIFTON 15 QUADRANGLE
N3145—W9737.5/7.5

1956
PHOTOREVISED 1979
AMS 6447 I SW—SERIES V882

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

3197-342

THE NORWEGIAN SETTLEMENT OF BOSQUE COUNTY
SITE NO. 1 14/624940/3516340 12 14/626710/3513770 21 14/628000/3511470
2 14/621420/3514400 14 14/629630/3516500 28 14/6252030/3516420
3 14/625220/3517180 15 14/622420/3517440 30 14/625240/3515630
8 14/626060/3517740 16 14/616800/3517360 31 14/628580/3514540
11 14/628180/3514090 20 14/623920/3526700 33 14/625140/3515770
UPPER SETTLEMENT RURAL HISTORIC DISTRICT
A 14/618340/3518750 E 14/621340/3516410
B 14/619180/3518750 F 14/619420/3516420
C 14/621000/3518500 G 14/619420/3516420
D 14/621000/3518500 H 14/618360/3516485
E 14/621470/3517260 I 14/618360/3516485
F 14/621470/3517260 J 14/618360/3516485
G 14/621470/3517260 K 14/618360/3516485
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X 14/621470/3517260 AB 14/618360/3516485
Y 14/621470/3517260 AC 14/618360/3516485
Z 14/621470/3517260 AD 14/618360/3516485
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CB 14/621470/3517260 CE 14/618360/3516485
CC 14/621470/3517260 CF 14/618360/3516485
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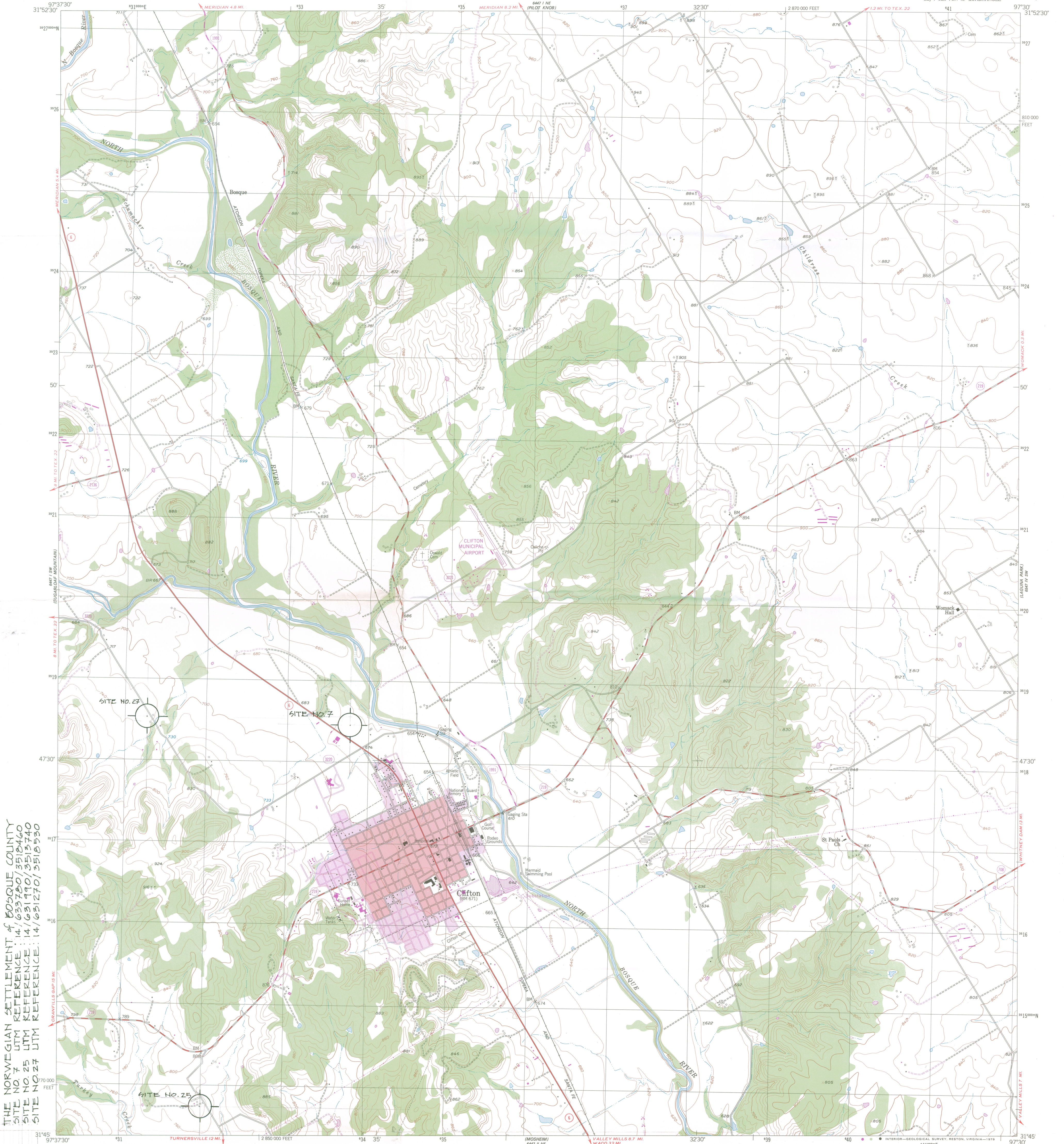


(HURST SPRING)
6447 II NW

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



THE NORWEGIAN SETTLEMENT OF BOSQUE COUNTY
SITE NO. 7 UTM REFERENCE: 14/633780/3518460
SITE NO. 25 UTM REFERENCE: 14/631990/3515740
SITE NO. 27 UTM REFERENCE: 14/631270/3518530



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS and USC&GS

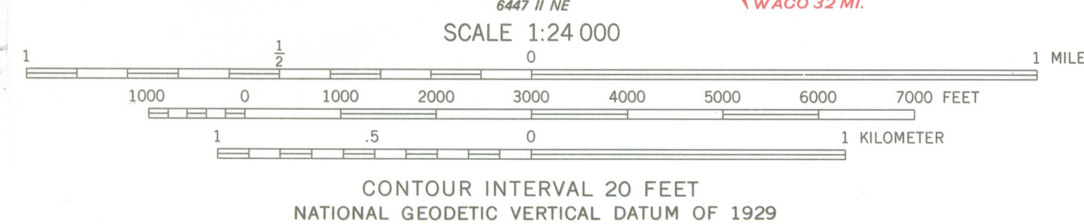
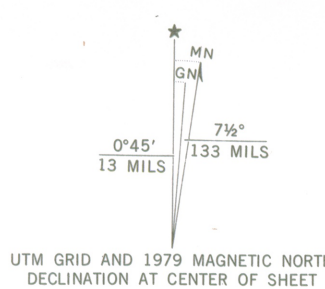
Topography from aerial photographs by ER-55 plotter
Aerial photographs taken 1955. Field check 1955

Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Texas coordinate system,
central zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid, zone 14

Red tint indicates area in which only
landmark buildings are shown

Revisions shown in purple and woodland compiled from
aerial photographs taken 1976 and other source data
This information not field checked. Map edited 1979

Purple tint indicates extension of urban areas



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ROAD CLASSIFICATION 1956
Heavy-duty ——— Light-duty ———
Medium-duty ——— Unimproved dirt ———
State Route ———

CLIFTON, TEX.
SE/4 CLIFTON 15' QUADRANGLE
N3145—W9730/7.5

1955
PHOTOREVISED 1979
AMS 6447 1 SE-SERIES V882