

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

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SITE NO. 27

NAME

J.H. Bekken house

LOCATION

~~2 1/2~~ 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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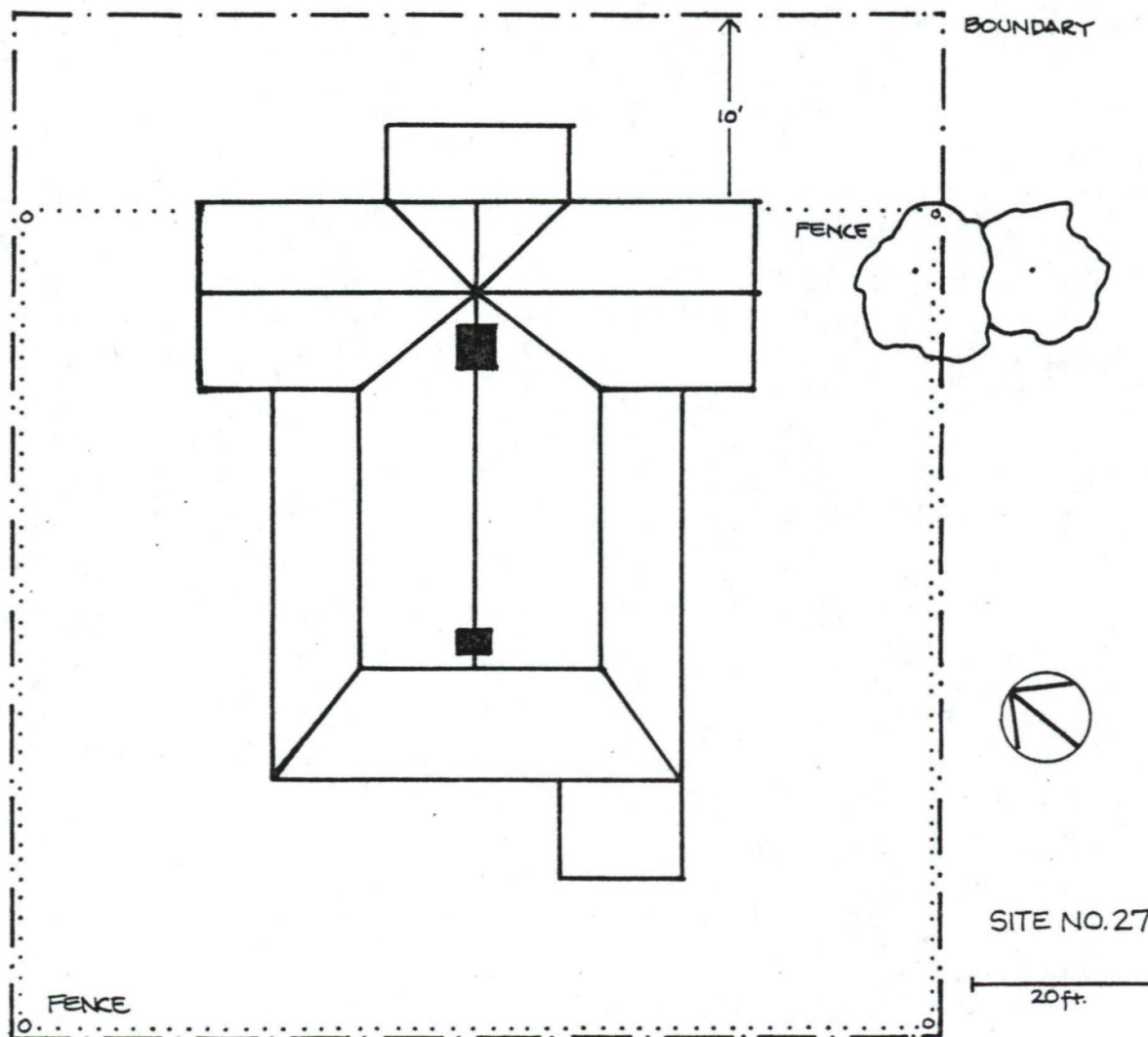
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AREA TO BE NOMINATED





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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<br>National Register | Keeper <u>7/22/83 Helmut Byers</u> | Attest _____ |
| 2. Brandhagen Houses                          | Entered in the<br>National Register | Keeper <u>7/22/83 Helmut Byers</u> | Attest _____ |
| 3. Brogdon Farm                               | Entered in the<br>National Register | Keeper <u>7/22/83 Helmut Byers</u> | Attest _____ |
| 4. Bronstad House                             | Entered in the<br>National Register | Keeper <u>7/22/83 Helmut Byers</u> | Attest _____ |
| 5. Colwick, John and Mary, Farm               | Substantive Review                  | Keeper <u>Ruth Groves 7/22/83</u>  | Attest _____ |
| 6. Dahl, Peder, Farm                          | Entered in the<br>National Register | Keeper <u>7/22/83 Helmut Byers</u> | Attest _____ |
| 7. Ellingson Farm                             | Entered in the<br>National Register | Keeper <u>7/22/83 Helmut Byers</u> | Attest _____ |
| 8. Erickson, Even and Petrine,<br>Farm        | Entered in the<br>National Register | Keeper <u>7/22/83 Helmut Byers</u> | Attest _____ |
| 9. Finstad, Ole and Elizabeth,<br>Homesite    | Entered in the<br>National Register | Keeper <u>7/22/83 Helmut Byers</u> | Attest _____ |
| 10. Godager, Adolf and<br>Christine, Homesite | Entered in the<br>National Register | Keeper <u>7/22/83 Helmut Byers</u> | Attest _____ |



# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

EVALUATION / RETURN SHE

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

Bekken, J.H., House (Norwegian Settlement of  
Bosque County TR)  
Bosque County  
TEXAS

Working No. JUN 9 1983  
Fed. Reg. Date: 2.7.84  
Date Due: 7/7/83 - 7/24/83  
Action: ☒ ACCEPT 7/22/83  
☐ RETURN  
☐ REJECT  
Entered in the National Register  
Federal Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ resubmission  
☐ nomination by person or local government  
☐ owner objection  
☐ appeal

Substantive Review: ☐ sample ☐ request ☐ appeal ☐ NR decision

Reviewer's comments: \_\_\_\_\_

Recom./Criteria \_\_\_\_\_  
Reviewer \_\_\_\_\_  
Discipline \_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_  
see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: ☐ technical corrections cited below  
☐ substantive reasons discussed below

## 1. Name

## 2. Location

## 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
	Public Acquisition	Accessible	

## 4. Owner of Property

## 5. Location of Legal Description

## 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☐ no

## 7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<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**

Acreage 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





The Norwegian Settlement of Bosque County

Site No. 27, J.H. Bekken House, 2½ miles  
northwest of Clifton, Bosque County, Texas

Photograph: July 1979, by Daniel Hardy

On file, Texas Historical Commission

View of front facade, looking west

Photo 40 of 72





The Norwegian Settlement of Bosque County

Site No. 27, J.H. Bekken House, 2½ miles  
northwest of Clifton, Bosque County, Texas  
Photograph: date unknown, photographer unknown  
On file, Texas Historical Commission  
View of front facade, looking northwest  
Photo 41 of 72



Please refer to the map in the  
Multiple Property Cover Sheet  
for this property

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000849