

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

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date entered

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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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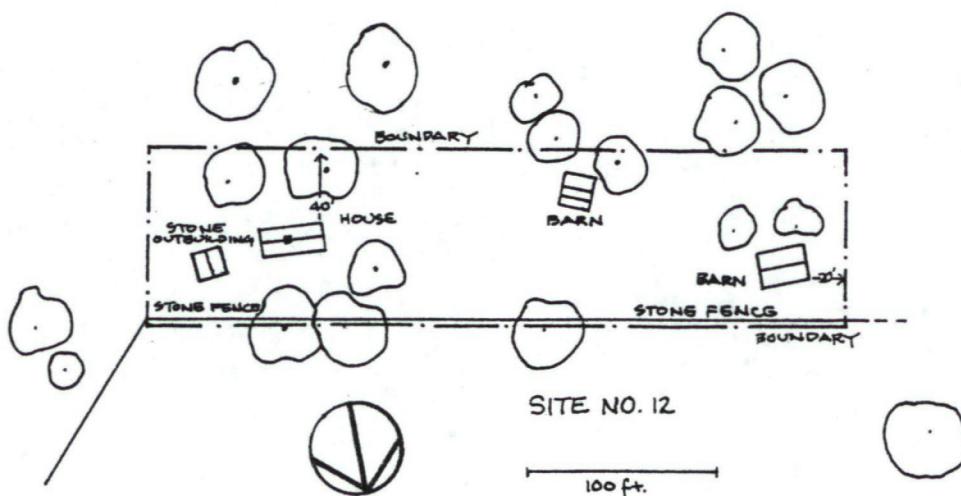
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AREA TO BE NOMINATED



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Page 3 of 4

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic GroupName Norwegian Settlement of Bosque County Thematic Resources
State Texas

Nomination/Type of Review

Entered in the
National Register

Date/Signature

21. Norway Mill

Keeper

7/22/83 Delores ByersEntered in the
National Register

Attest

22. Olson-Hanson Farm

Keeper

7/22/83 Delores ByersEntered in the
National Register

Attest

23. Olson, Joseph and Anna, Farm

Keeper

7/22/83 Delores ByersEntered in the
National Register

Attest

24. Olson-Nelson Farm

Keeper

7/22/83 Delores Byers

Attest

25. Our Savior's Lutheran Church

Substantive Review

Keeper

Return

Attest

26. Pederson, John, Farm

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

7/22/83 Delores Byers

Attest

27. Pierson, Ole and Ann, Farm

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

7/22/83 Delores Byers

Attest

28. Questad, Carl and Sedsel,
FarmEntered in the
National Register

Keeper

7/22/83 Delores Byers

Attest

29. Reeder-Omenson Farm

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

7/22/83 Delores Byers

Attest

30. Reiersen, Hans and Berthe,
HouseEntered in the
National Register

Keeper

7/22/83 Delores Byers

Attest

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

EVALUATION / RETURN SHE

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceOlson, Joseph and Anna, Farm (Norwegian
Settlement of Bosque County TR)
Bosque County
TEXASWorking No. JUN 9 1983Fed. Reg. Date: 2.7.84Date Due: 2/2/83-2/24/83Action: ☒ ACCEPT 7/22/83Entered in the ☐ RETURN
National Register ☐ REJECT

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. 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 date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed	

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 _____

USGS 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. 12, Joseph and Anna Olson Farm,
FM 182, 5 miles southwest of Clifton, Bosque
County, Texas

Photograph: July 1979, by Daniel Hardy

On file, Texas Historical Commission

View of front facade, looking north

Photo 21 of 72



The Norwegian Settlement of Bosque County

Site No. 12, Joseph and Anna Olson Farm,
FM 182, 5 miles southwest of Clifton, Bosque
County, Texas

Photograph: July 1979, by Daniel Hardy

On file, Texas Historical Commission

View of farm, looking southwest

Photo 22 of 72

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000849