

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 all

Page 1

SITE NO. 1

NAME

Carl and Sedsel Questad farm

LOCATION

~~6 miles~~⁹ 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 lime-stone 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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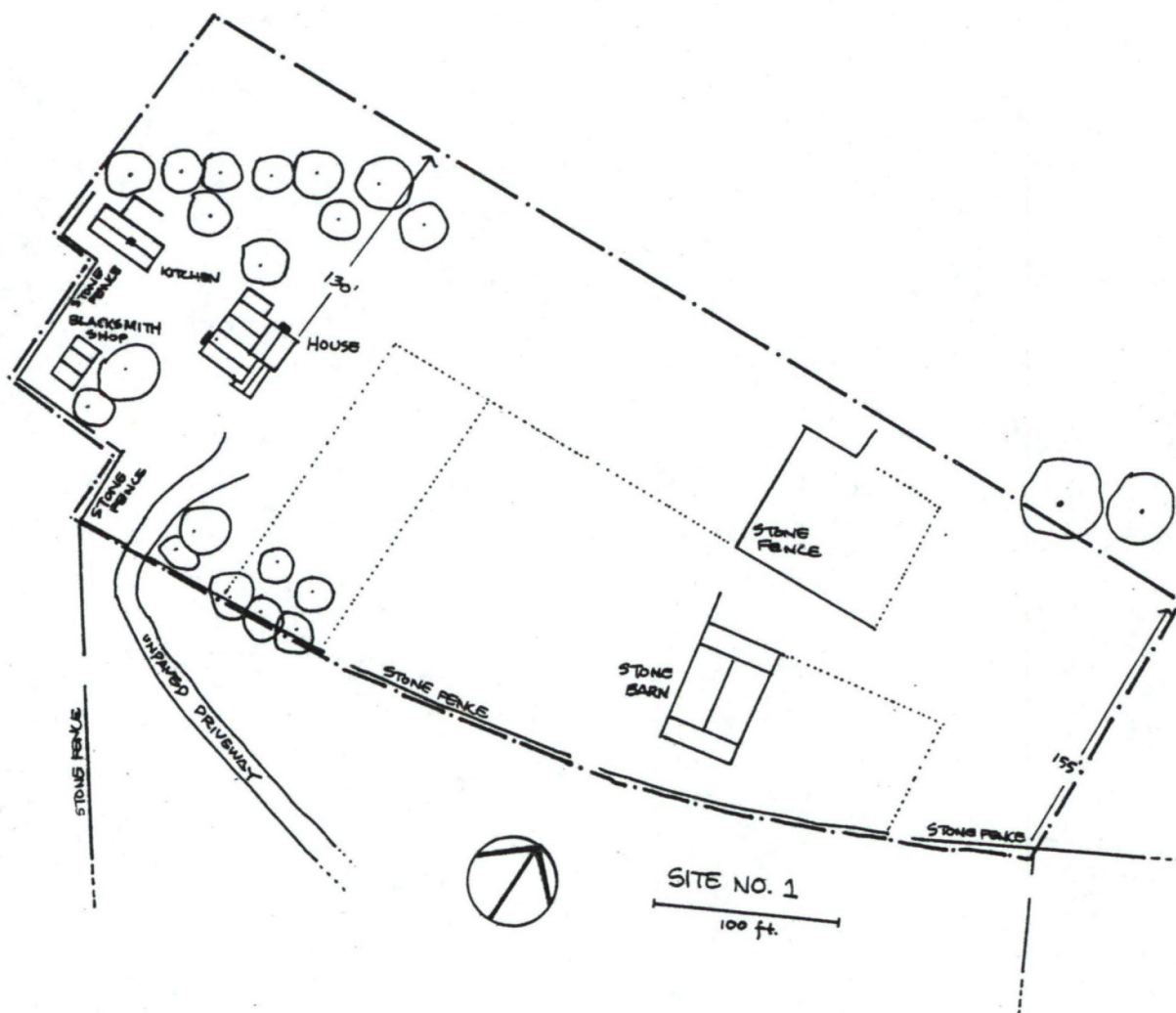
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AREA TO BE NOMINATED



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Page 3 of 4

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic GroupName Norwegian Settlement of Bosque County Thematic ResourcesState 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

Keeper

Return

Substantive Review

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 ServiceQuestad, Carl and Sedsel, Farm (Norwegian
Settlement of Bosque County TR)
Bosque County
TEXASWorking No. JUN 9 1983Fed. Reg. Date: 2.7.84Date Due: 7/7/83 - 7/24/83Action: ☒ ACCEPT 7/22/83Entered in the ☐ RETURNNational 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"/> unaltered
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed	<input type="checkbox"/> moved 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

Address 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. 1, Carl and Sedsel Questad Farm,
6 miles west of Clifton, Bosque County, Texas
Photograph: June 1979, by David Moore
On file, Texas Historical Commission
View of farm, looking south
Photo 1 of 72.



The Norwegian Settlement of Bosque County

Site No. 1, Carl and Sedsel Questad Farm,
6 miles west of Clifton, Bosque County, Texas

Photograph: June 1979, by David Moore

On file, Texas Historical Commission

View of Questad house, looking east

Photo 2 of 72



The Norwegian Settlement of Bosque County

Site No.1, Carl and Sedsel Questad Farm,
6 miles west of Clifton, Bosque County, Texas

Photograph: June 1979, by David Moore

On file, Texas Historical Commission

View of springhouse/kitchen, looking southeast

Photo 3 of 72



The Norwegian Settlement of Bosque County

Site No. 1, Carl and Sedsel Questad Farm,
6 miles west of Clifton, Bosque County, Texas
Photograph: June 1979, by David Moore
On file, Texas Historical Commission
View of blacksmith shop, looking northeast
Photo 4 of 72



The Norwegian Settlement of Bosque County

Site No. 1, Carl and Sedsel Questad Farm,
6 miles west of Clifton, Bosque County, Texas
Photograph: June 1979, by David Moore
On file, Texas Historical Commission
View of barn, looking southeast
Photo 5 of 72

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000849