

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

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SITE NO. 4

NAME

Jens and Kari Ringness farm

LOCATION

on FM 219  
~~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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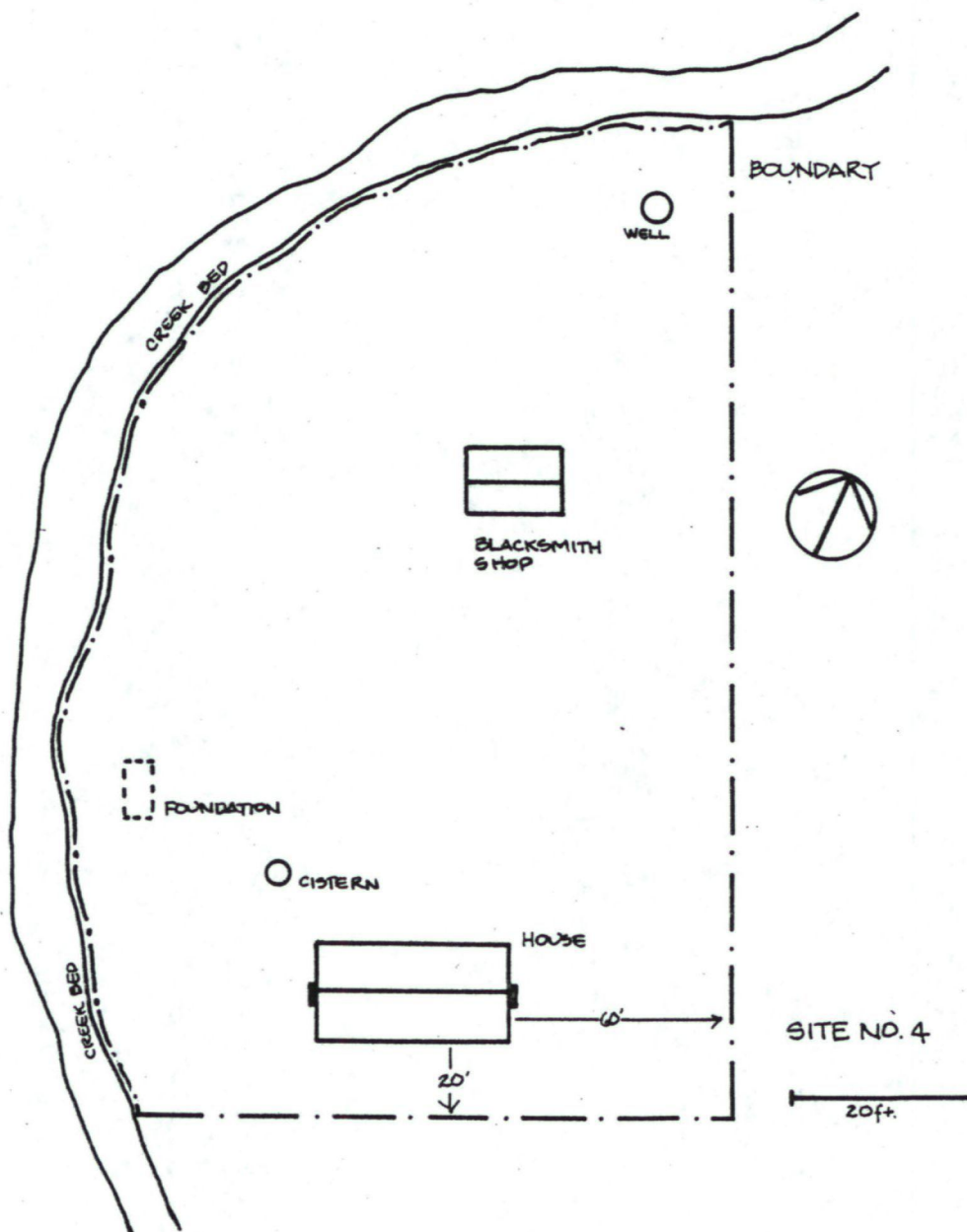
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AREA TO BE NOMINATED



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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

- |         |   |                                     |            |                              |
|---------|---|-------------------------------------|------------|------------------------------|
| 197 31. | Ringness, Jens and Kari,<br>Farm            | Entered in the<br>National Register | for Keeper | 7/22/83 <i>Delores Byers</i> |
|         |   |                                     | Attest     |                              |
| 32.     | Rogstad, Tom and Martha,<br>Farm            | Entered in the<br>National Register | for Keeper | 7/22/83 <i>Delores Byers</i> |
|         |   |                                     | Attest     |                              |
| 33.     | Schultz, Tobias and<br>Wilhelmine, Farm     | Entered in the<br>National Register | for Keeper | 7/22/83 <i>Delores Byers</i> |
|         |   |                                     | Attest     |                              |
| 34.     | Shelfstad, Gunarus and<br>Ingerborg, House  | Entered in the<br>National Register | for Keeper | 7/22/83 <i>Delores Byers</i> |
|         |   |                                     | Attest     |                              |
| 201 35. | Upper Settlement Rural<br>Historic District | Substantive Review                  | Keeper     | <i>Bob Grosvenor</i> 7/22/83 |
|         |   |                                     | Attest     |                              |
| 202 36. | Wilson Homesite                             | Entered in the<br>National Register | for Keeper | 7/22/83 <i>Delores Byers</i> |
|         |   |                                     | Attest     |                              |
| 37.     |   |                                     | Keeper     |                              |
|         |   |                                     | Attest     |                              |
| 38.     |   |                                     | Keeper     |                              |
|         |   |                                     | Attest     |                              |
| 39.     |   |                                     | Keeper     |                              |
|         |   |                                     | Attest     |                              |
| 40.     |   |                                     | Keeper     |                              |
|         |   |                                     | Attest     |                              |



## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

EVALUATION / RETURN SHEET

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceRingness, Jens and Kari, Farm (Norwegian  
Settlement of Bosque County TR)  
Bosque County  
TEXASWorking No. JUN 9 1983Fed. Reg. Date: 2.2.84Date 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. 4, Jens and Kari Ringness Farm,  
FM 219, 8 miles southwest of Clifton, Bosque  
County, Texas

Photograph: October 1982, by Ken Breisch

On file, Texas Historical Commission

View of farm, looking northeast

Photo 11 of 72





The Norwegian Settlement of Bosque County

Site No. 4, Jens and Kari Ringness Farm,  
FM 219, 8 miles southwest of Clifton, Bosque  
County, Texas

Photograph: March 1979, by Daniel Hardy

On file, Texas Historical Commission

View of house, looking north

Photo 12 of 72







The Norwegian Settlement of Bosque County

Site No. 4, Jens and Kari Ringness Farm,  
FM 219, 8 miles southwest of Clifton, Bosque  
County, Texas

Photograph: March 1979, by Daniel Hardy

On file, Texas Historical Commission

View of blacksmith shop, looking northwest

Photo 13 of 72



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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000849