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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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AREA TO BE NOMINATED

