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National Park Service

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SITE NO. 3

NAME Eric and Martha Linberg farm

LOCATION 6 miles west of Clifton, Bosque County, Texas,
on the O. Ween survey

OWNER Sam E. Deeley
Route 1
Valley Mills, Texas 76634

PRESENT USE Agriculture

CATEGORY Building, site

STATUS Unoccupied

REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS Family Land Heritage Program
1974
General Land Office
Austin, Texas

QUADRANGLE NAME Sugarloaf Mountain, Texas

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCE 14/625220/3517180

ACREAGE about 2½ acres

PHOTO REFERENCE NO. 9, 10

DESCRIPTION

The Eric and Martha Linberg farm, sited prominently on a bluff that overlooks the Meridian Creek valley, is located about one mile southwest of Round Mountain. The farm complex has been abandoned in recent years, but the land is still being cultivated. The house was used by the Linberg family as a barn between 1913, when the nearby bungalow was completed, and 1976, when the stone house was struck by a tornado. Because of this tornado, as well as another one which hit the house around the turn-of-the-century, the original configuration of the residence is difficult to determine. It was, however, a split-level house with a one-room cellar that was dug out of the southside of the hill.

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The only known historic photograph of the house shows only the east (front) elevation. Similar in composition to the five-bay arrangement of the Ringness house (no. 4), the front had a gabled porch over the entrance. A massive stone barn stands on the north side of the hill about 200 feet from the house. It, too, is a split-level structure. The barn is still in use and remains in excellent condition, although it has recently been repointed with portland cement. Other outbuildings that contribute to the historic character of the farm include two small sheds. The bungalow and a garage are not included in the nominated property.

SIGNIFICANCE

According to Alvin and Ibrey Linberg, this large stone house was begun by their grandfather, Eric Linberg, in 1861. Four years later he married Martha Ringness, and the house was presumably enlarged as the family grew. Though this structure has been badly damaged by a recent tornado, enough remains to reveal something of the skill of its builder, Linberg, who was one of three early masons in the settlement. His son, Martin, who served as Postmaster and ran the General Store in Norse at the end of the last century, lived here with his family after 1901. A large stone barn, which stands to the west of this house, is also of outstanding architectural note.

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AREA TO BE NOMINATED

