

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
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Continuation sheet

Item number all

Page 22

SITE NO. 8

NAME Olson-Nelson farm

LOCATION 4½ miles west of Clifton, Bosque County,
Texas, on E. Sessom survey

OWNER Orval O. Allen
8450 Westfield
Indianapolis, Indiana 46240

PRESENT USE Vacant, agriculture

CATEGORY Buildings

STATUS Unoccupied

QUADRANGLE NAME Sugarloaf Mountain, Texas

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCE 14/626660/3517740

ACREAGE about 2 acres

PHOTO REFERENCE NO. 17

DESCRIPTION

Overlooking the Meridian Creek valley, the Olson-Nelson farm is situated prominently about a mile south of Meridian Creek, near a pass between Round Mountain and Big Bee Rock. The farm, although presently unoccupied, is in good condition and retains much of its historic integrity. It includes a one-and-a-half-story residence of limestone construction, which conforms to the symmetrical stone-house type. The front, or south, facade has a five-bay composition with a central door. A markedly curved segmental arch with stone voussoirs spans this opening, while stone lintels cap the windows, which are all double hung with six-over-six lights. The east and west ends of the house are virtually identical and have exterior stone chimneys at the gable ends. They originally also had two loft windows, flanking each chimney in the attic story, but these have been

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received
date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number all

Page 23

filled in. A detached, one-story stone structure, which may have been the original kitchen, has been joined to the rear of the house to make a T-shaped overall plan. The entire structure is presently covered with a standing-seam metal roof. A small stone outbuilding with a cellar has been dug into the side of the hill just below the main house. This and the two wood-frame barns that stand nearby contribute to the historic character of the farm.

SIGNIFICANCE

This house was constructed by Ole and Antonette Olson, who apparently arrived in Bosque County in the 1850s. They probably built the house in the 1860s. It was later sold to O. D. (Dan) Nelson, who lived in it for many years. In plan, it is a good example of the symmetrical type of stone house with a kitchen attached at the rear to form a "T". It is majestically sited on a small hill near Round Mountain, along with several other stone and wood-frame structures. Its precise date of construction is unknown.

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date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number all

Page 24

AREA TO BE NOMINATED

