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SITE NO. 12

NAME Joseph and Anna Olson farm

LOCATION FM 182, 5 miles southwest of Clifton, Bosque County, Texas, on J. Olson survey

OWNER R.E. Henderson, Jr. and D.M. McTaggart
c/o Henderson
7224 Westover Road
Waco, Texas 76710

PRESENT USE Vacant, agriculture

CATEGORY Building

STATUS Unoccupied

QUADRANGLE NAME Sugarloaf Mountain, Texas

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCE 14/626920/3513770

ACREAGE less than 1 acre

PHOTO REFERENCE NO. 21, 22

DESCRIPTION

The Olson farm is located on gently rolling land near the base of Norse Hill, and stands about one mile north of FM 219. The farm, although presently unoccupied, remains in good condition and retains its historic integrity to a remarkable degree. The house is a two-story stone and wood-frame structure which faces south. The ground level is of limestone construction, while the top floor is of wood. A single-door entrance and double-hung windows with six-over-six lights have been arranged in an asymmetrical composition at the ground-floor level, with two more irregularly spaced windows above. A simple, one-story porch extends across the full length of this facade. A stone engraved with "1872" appears above the front doorway. Each end of the house has a single window at ground level and two narrower, symmetrically set windows above. The upper floor of the

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rear elevation is composed of an unpierced frame wall, while the lower, stone story is broken with two alternating doors and windows. A gable roof of corrugated metal now covers this structure. A corbeled brick chimney rises near the mid-point of the ridge line of this roof.

A detached stone smokehouse, with a stone lean-to and cellar, stands east of the house. To the north, a stone fence meanders around the property and remains in excellent condition. Other outbuildings include two wood-frame barns that rest upon stone foundations and contribute to the historic character of the property. The old Olson log cabin, which once stood near the main house, was moved to Valley Mills, but recently has been obtained by Dale and Mary Orbeck, who are storing it at their Clifton home.

SIGNIFICANCE

Although Joseph and Anna Olson arrived in Bosque County in 1858, their home, according to a date inscribed over the door, was not built until 1872. Its combination of stone and wood-frame construction is unique among the Norwegian residential buildings in the county, and may reflect a Scandinavian building tradition. The upper floor of this house served for many years as the home for Jacob Olson's collections of prehistoric relics, natural history objects and Norwegian pioneer memorabilia. Many of these things were later transferred to the present Bosque County Museum.

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AREA TO BE NOMINATED

