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National Park Service

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SITE NO. 21

NAME James Jens and Martha Jenson house

LOCATION FM 2136, 5 miles northwest of Clifton,  
Bosque County, Texas, on J. Oldham survey

OWNER J.W. Jenson  
Route 2 Box 140  
Clifton, Texas 76634

PRESENT USE Private residence

CATEGORY Building

STATUS Unoccupied

REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS Family Land Heritage Program  
1976  
General Land Office  
Austin, Texas

QUADRANGLE NAME Sugarloaf Mountain, Texas

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCE 14/628000/3521470

ACREAGE less than 1 acre

PHOTO REFERENCE NO. 33

DESCRIPTION

The James Jens and Martha Jenson house is located about five miles northwest of Clifton, about a half mile northeast of the intersection of FM 2136 and Bee Creek. This two-story, wood-frame residence stands on a hill and commands a panoramic view of the upper Meridian Creek valley to the south. Although presently unoccupied it remains in good condition. It has a T-shaped plan and rests upon a foundation of stone rubble. The home was originally covered with board-and-batten siding, although

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clapboards were later applied over some walls. A one-story porch, with turned wood posts, extends across the front facade. Above this porch, small four-light windows provide light for the loft. The remaining windows are double hung with four-over-four lights. The corrugated-metal roof has two gables which meet at right angles, with a corbeled brick chimney that rises near their point of intersection. An underground cistern was dug a few feet to the north of the house.

**SIGNIFICANCE**

The James Jens and Martha Jenson house is believed to be the oldest frame residence within the Norwegian Settlement. According to its present owner, it was erected in 1876. This house is one of only two 19th-century residences within the Norwegian area that are of board-and-batten construction.

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AREA TO BE NOMINATED

