

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

**National Register of Historic Places
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SITE NO. 22

NAME John and Mary Colwick farm

LOCATION 8-3/4 miles southwest of Clifton, Bosque
County, Texas, on H. Mailand survey

OWNERS Mary Orbeck Rex Colwick
403 S. Avenue J 1006 S. Montgomery
Clifton, Texas 76634 Starksville, Mississippi 39759

PRESENT USE Private residence

CATEGORY Buildings

STATUS Occupied

QUADRANGLE NAME Hurst Spring, Texas

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCE 14/623440/3508870

ACREAGE about 2 acres

PHOTO REFERENCE NO. 34

DESCRIPTION

Located atop a hill that overlooks the Neils Creek valley, the John and Mary Colwick farm includes a one-and-a-half-story frame house with a modified T-shaped plan. It is still used as a residence and is in good condition. The front faces east and has a double-door entrance with narrow sidelights and transom. A one-story porch, which was screened in about 1937, extends across the setback section of the front. This shed-roof porch replaced an earlier one that, according to the historic photos of the present owners, had turned wooden posts with jig-cut brackets and balusters. Most of the original windows with four-over-four lights have been replaced with those having two-over-two lights. A cross-gabled roof with composition shingles caps the house. The north facade features an off-center, gable-like dormer which was an early addition. A rear porch that was added about 1915 encloses the entrance to the partial basement.

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An underground, stone-lined cistern is located a few feet southwest of the house. The frame barn, standing northwest of the house, was built about the same time as the residence, and has been covered with corrugated-metal siding. It contributes to the historic character of the farm. The cedar stake fence, which surrounds the barn, remains in good condition and is typical of the Norwegian farms of Bosque County.

SIGNIFICANCE

The John and Mary Colwick farm is one of the oldest frame houses within the Norwegian settlement. Its present owners, who are direct descendents of the Colwicks, state that it was built in 1889 by Norwegian carpenter Johan Nordahl. It is believed to be the first of at least six structures erected by this skilled craftsman. When completed, it was the scene of a community-wide celebration, as reported in the August 9, 1889, issue of The Alliance Sun, a Meridian newspaper.

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AREA TO BE NOMINATED

