

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

**National Register of Historic Places
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SITE NO. 27

NAME J.H. Bekken house

LOCATION 2 1/2 miles northwest of Clifton, Bosque County, Texas, on J. McFarland survey

OWNER Almer Bekken
Route 2
Clifton, Texas 76634

PRESENT USE Private residence

CATEGORY Building

STATUS Occupied

QUADRANGLE NAME Clifton, Texas

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCE 14/631270/3518530

ACREAGE less than 1 acre

PHOTO REFERENCE NO. 40, 41

DESCRIPTION

The J.H. Bekken house stands on level land near the base of Bee Rock Flats. Of frame construction, and covered with shiplapped novelty siding, this one-and-a-half-story structure retains much of its integrity and remains in fair condition. Its front, which faces east, exhibits a symmetrical composition much like that of the Peder Dahl house (no. 25). Its most distinctive feature is a steeply pitched gable which rises above the central bay opening. A small, one-story porch which retains much of its original detailing marks the house's main entryway. Slender, chamfered wood posts support this porch, and are bordered by elaborate jig-cut brackets. The first-floor exhibits flat, jig-cut balusters, while the uncovered second-floor balusters are of simpler design. The cross-gabled roof is covered with composition shingles and pierced, near the center, by a large plastered chimney. According to its present owner, the rear "L" contains a one-room log cabin that was built in 1873 and served as a residence until the present structure was completed in 1895. This is the only building of the old farm that survives.

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SIGNIFICANCE

J.H. Bekken is believed to be one of a large number of Norweigan immigrants who came to Bosque County in the early 1870s. According to his grandson, Bekken erected a one-room cabin on this site in 1873. He built the present house in 1895 and incorporated the log cabin into the rear "L." Since that time this residence has remained virtually unaltered, and is one of the best illustrations of the symmetrical frame house popular during the late 19th century in this part of the county.

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AREA TO BE NOMINATED

