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SITE NO. 30

NAME Brandhagen houses
LOCATION FM 182, ²⁻5½ miles west of Clifton, Bosque
County, Texas, on A. Kuykendall survey
OWNER Mr. and Mrs. W.A. Wagner
107 Avenue J
Clifton, Texas 76634

PRESENT USE Private residence, ruins

CATEGORY Buildings, site

STATUS Occupied, unoccupied

QUADRANGLE NAME Sugarloaf Mountain, Texas

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCE 14/625740/3515670

ACREAGE less than 1 acre

PHOTO REFERENCE NO. 45, 46

DESCRIPTION

Strategically sited on a bluff that is about one mile north of the old townsite of Norse, the Brandhagen farm includes two residential structures and their associated out-buildings. With an asymmetrical plan, the present residence was built in two phases. The original house, erected in 1883, has a broken-pitch gable roof that is covered with wooden shingles. A substantial addition was built in 1912. This section, rising one-and-a-half stories, was essentially a completely new house. It has a T-shaped plan and adjoins the original house on its north (new) wall. Like the older house, this wing is of wood-frame construction. Its symmetrical front faces south. A one-story porch with chamfered columns extends across the main facade. Above this porch, two dormer-like gables rise from the wood-shingled roof. Each of the gables has paired,

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double-hung windows as well as siding in a herringbone pattern at the apex. With few exceptions, the windows are double hung with two-over-two lights and vertical muntins. Interior brick chimneys rise from the cross-gabled roof. The east facade is also symmetrically arranged, and has two dormer-like gables. Minor shed additions of frame construction have been built onto the rear side of the house. The entire house is in good condition. An early 20th-century, wood-frame garage with hipped roof, as well as two wood-frame barns with gabled roofs are also included within the nominated property, and contribute to its historic character.

The ruin of an earlier residence, built about 1873, is located about 250 feet south of the present house. Of limestone construction, this structure retains very little of its original detailing. The presence of a tree within the stone walls indicates that the gabled roof has been missing for many years. This structure appears to have been used as a barn after the 1883 house was completed.

SIGNIFICANCE

The first residence on this farm was built about 1873 for Nils Brandhagen, who was a teacher at the Turkey Creek School. According to the present owner of the farm, Brandhagen built a new house just up the hill from his old place in 1883. In 1912 he, along with his brother-in-law John Olson, erected the wood-frame residence which adjoins the older frame house. This farm is particularly noteworthy because it preserves three examples of vernacular architecture within the Norwegian settlement.

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AREA TO BE NOMINATED

