

United States Department of the Interior
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SITE NO. 7

NAME Gunarus and Ingerborg, Shefstad, house

LOCATION S.H.-6, just north of city limits of Clifton,
Bosque County, Texas, on L. Armstrong survey

OWNER John L. Jenson
Route 1
Clifton, Texas 76634

PRESENT USE Storage, vacant

CATEGORY Building

STATUS Unoccupied

QUADRANGLE NAME Clifton, Texas

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCE 14/633780/3518460

ACREAGE less than 1 acre

PHOTO REFERENCE NO. 16

DESCRIPTION

Located just north of the present city limits of Clifton, the Gunarus and Ingerborg Shefstad house is a one-and-a-half-story stone residence unoccupied since the 1950s. It remains in delapidated, but relatively stable, condition, and few alterations affect its integrity. In plan it is of the symmetrical type and very similar to the Arneson (no. 39) or the Keddel Grimland (no. 10) houses. Unlike them, however, the front, or south, facade is composed of three bays with only one window on either side of the central doorway. A flat arch bridges this center opening, while segmental arches span the outer bays. The main entrance has been extensively altered, but it probably first contained a double doorway. Two square holes in the walls above this doorway indicate the possible location of a porch. The rear wall also exhibits a three-bay composition, and has a flat archway over the broad, central opening. The outer bays, however, have stone lintels. An exterior stone chimney rises from the east gable end, while the gable roof is covered with sheets of corrugated metal. The interior is in poor condition and is used for storage. No buildings associated with the house remain standing, and a search of the immediate area revealed no foundations.

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SIGNIFICANCE

Gunarus Shefstad apparently arrived in Bosque County sometime in the 1860s, and purchased the land upon which the Shefstad house now stands in 1868. This home presumably was erected shortly after that date. It is the only structure in this nomination that lies outside of the main Norwegian settlement area and is a good example of the symmetrical type of stone house. In addition to his occupation as a farmer, Shefstad was also a carpenter and cabinet-maker, and in 1876, he was hired to help build Our Savior's Lutheran Church.

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AREA TO BE NOMINATED

