

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

1. Name of Property

Historic Name: Klein Frankreich Rural Historic District
Other name: Amandus Stehling Farm/Ranch; George Franz Stehling Farm/Ranch; Feuge Farm/Ranch
Name of related multiple property listing: NA

2. Location

Street & number: 3723 to 5083 N. Highway 87; 103 to 260 Old Mason Road, Fredericksburg, TX 78624
City or town: Fredericksburg State: Texas County: Gillespie
Not for publication: [] Vicinity: [x]

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this
([x] nomination [] request for determination of eligibility) meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National
Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the
property ([x] meets [] does not meet) the National Register criteria.

I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following levels of significance:
[] national [] statewide [x] local

Applicable National Register Criteria: [x] A [] B [x] C [] D

Signature of certifying official / Title: mark wolfe State Historic Preservation Officer
Date: 5/19/23
Texas Historical Commission
State or Federal agency / bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property [] meets [] does not meet the National Register criteria.
Signature of commenting or other official Date
State or Federal agency / bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:
[] entered in the National Register
[] determined eligible for the National Register
[] determined not eligible for the National Register.
[] removed from the National Register
[] other, explain: _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Klein Frankreich Rural Historic District, Fredericksburg vicinity, Gillespie County, Texas

5. Classification

Ownership of Property: Private

Category of Property: District

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
36	23	buildings
1	0	sites
43	7	structures
1	0	objects
81	30	total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: NA

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions: AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: Agricultural Field, Animal Facility, Agricultural Outbuilding; DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling, Secondary Structure

Current Functions: AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: Agricultural Field, Animal Facility, Agricultural Outbuilding, Storage, Processing, Irrigation Facility; DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling, Secondary Structure; RECREATION/CULTURE: Outdoor Recreation

7. Description

Architectural Classification: LATE VICTORIAN: Folk Victorian; LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS: Craftsman; Ranch Style

Principal Exterior Materials: FOUNDATION: WOOD; CONCRETE; STONE: Limestone
WALLS: STONE; WOOD: Board and Batten, Weatherboard, Log; BRICK
ROOF: ASPHALT; METAL: Steel; WOOD: Shingle; Board
OTHER:

Narrative Description (see continuation sheets 10 through 74)

Klein Frankreich Rural Historic District, Fredericksburg vicinity, Gillespie County, Texas

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria: A, C

Criteria Considerations: NA

Areas of Significance: AGRICULTURE; ARCHITECTURE; ETHNIC HERITAGE: German (all local level)

Period of Significance: 1852-1976

Significant Dates: 1845, 1846, 1848, 1852

Significant Person (only if criterion b is marked): NA

Cultural Affiliation (only if criterion d is marked): NA

Architect/Builder: Christoph Theodor Feuge; Charles (aka Carl) Feuge

Narrative Statement of Significance (see continuation sheets 75-110)

9. Major Bibliographic References

Bibliography (see continuation sheets 111-115)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested. Part 1 approved on (date)
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office (*Texas Historical Commission, Austin*)
- Other state agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other -- Specify Repository:

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): NA

Klein Frankreich Rural Historic District, Fredericksburg vicinity, Gillespie County, Texas

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property: approximately 2807 acres

Coordinates:

- | | | |
|-----|------------|-------------|
| 1. | 30.342206° | -98.919602° |
| 2. | 30.357382° | -98.916006° |
| 3. | 30.360696° | -98.895649° |
| 4. | 30.350421° | -98.890039° |
| 5. | 30.333111° | -98.889278° |
| 6. | 30.327132° | -98.889266° |
| 7. | 30.321764° | -98.909532° |
| 8. | 30.314403° | -98.908934° |
| 9. | 30.312002° | -98.921788° |
| 10. | 30.318891° | -98.928498° |
| 11. | 30.322903° | -98.928403° |

Verbal Boundary Description: (see continuation sheets 116-120)

Boundary Justification: (see continuation sheet 116)

11. Form Prepared By

Name/title: Terri Myers, Historian; Kristen Brown, Architectural Historian
Organization: Preservation Central
Street & number: 823 Harris Avenue
City or Town: Austin State: TX Zip Code: 78705
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Date: April 18, 2022

Additional Documentation

Maps (see continuation sheets 12, 14, 120)

Additional items (see continuation sheets 121-139)

Photographs (see continuation sheets 140-197)

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Photograph Log

Klein Frankreich Rural Historic District

Fredericksburg vicinity, Gillespie County, Texas

All representative photos by Terri Myers, 2021-2022, with specific dates as noted.

Photo 1: Contributing Building

Carl Feuge House, aka "1901 House," (Resource 2a), quarried limestone house with Folk Victorian porch posts and trim. Photo taken March 10, 2022, camera facing northwest.

Photo 2: Stone Inscription on Contributing Building

Incised date on lintel above door, "1901 House" (Resource 2a). Photo taken March 10, 2022.

Photo 3: Contributing Building

Christoph Feuge (Jr.) House (Resource 2e), 1 ½ story limestone block and remnant house, c. 1870. Photo taken March 10, 2022, camera facing southeast.

Photo 4: Contributing Building

Smokehouse (Resource 2f), limestone block and remnant with vent, c. 1870, Feuge Farm. Photo taken March 25, 2021, camera facing southeast.

Photo 5: Contributing Building

Log Barn (Resource 2d), V-notch timbers, c. 1860; frame shed addition c. 1900, Feuge Farm. Photo taken March 10, 2022, camera facing northwest.

Photo 6: Contributing Building

Multi-purpose (hay, vehicle, equipment) Frame Barn (Resource 2i), c. 1900, Feuge Farm. Photo taken March 10, 2022, camera facing northwest.

Photo 7: Contributing Building

Stone Storm/Root Cellar (Resource 2j), c. 1900, Feuge Farm. Photo taken March 10, 2022, camera facing northwest.

Photo 8: Contributing Structure

Goat Pen/Stone Wall, as shelter against cold north wind (Resource 2h), c. 1900, Feuge Farm. Photo taken March 10, 2022, camera facing east.

Photo 9: Contributing Building/Structure

Wash House, aka "Hot Water House," with stone fireplace/hearth and cast iron basin for boiling water (Resource 2k), built 1902, Feuge Farm. Photo taken March 10, 2022, camera facing north.

Photo 10: Contributing Building

Pole Barn supported by timbers (Resource 2g), c. 1930, Feuge Farm. Photo taken March 25, 2021, camera facing north.

Photo 11: Contributing Structures

Well House and Water Tanks, c. 1920s (foreground) and View of Feuge Barnyard, Photo taken March 10, 2022, camera facing south/southeast toward barnyard.

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Photo 12: Contributing Building and Structure

Two-story Limestone House (Resource 3a), built 1889 for Joseph Stehling Sr., and Windmill, George Franz Stehling Farm. Photo taken March 11, 2022, camera facing northwest.

Photo 13: Contributing Building

Joseph Stehling Sr. House (Resource 3a), primary façade, built 1889, George Franz Stehling Farm. Photo taken March 11, 2022, camera facing west.

Photo 14: Contributing Building

Stone Barn c. 1889, with stone and frame additions (Resource 3c), George Franz Stehling Farm. Photo taken March 11, 2022, camera facing north/northwest.

Photo 15: Contributing Building/Structure

Stone Fence/Sheep Pen (Resource 3e), c. 1890, George Franz Stehling Farm. Photo taken March 11, 2022, camera facing north.

Photo 16: Contributing Building

Stone Barn converted to guest house (Resource 3b), c. 1890, George Franz Stehling Farm. Photo taken March 11, 2022, camera facing southwest.

Photo 17: Contributing Building

Stone Barn converted to guest house with wood siding on primary façade (Resource 3c), c. 1890, George Franz Stehling Farm. Photo taken March 11, 2022, camera facing southeast.

Photo 18: Contributing Structure

Stone Water Tank (Resource 3d), c. 1889, George Franz Stehling Farm. Photo taken March 11, 2022, camera facing northwest.

Photo 19: Contributing Building

John Stehling Stone House with historic intersecting wing (Resource 6a), c. 1890, Amandus Stehling Farm. Photo taken March 12, 2022, camera facing south/southwest.

Photo 20: Contributing Building/Structure

Tank House and Water Tank (Resource 6b), also used to hang smoked meats, c. 1881, Amandus Stehling Farm. Photo taken March 12, 2022, camera facing northeast.

Photo 21: Contributing Structure

Hand-dug, stone-lined Well (Resource 6d) c. 1860, Amandus Stehling Farm. Photo taken March 25, 2021.

Photo 22: Contributing Building

“Dogtrot” Kitchen/Blacksmith Shop/Wash House (Resource 6c), c. 1881, Amandus Stehling Farm. Photo taken March 12, 2022, camera facing east.

Photo 23: Contributing Building

Stone and Frame Livestock Shed (Resource 6f), c. 1860/1928, Amandus Stehling Farm. Photo taken, March 25, 2021, camera facing southeast.

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Photo 24: Contributing Object

Gas Pump in Barnyard (Resource 6q), 1930, Amandus Stehling Farm. Photo taken March 25, 2021, camera facing west.

Photo 25: Contributing Structure

Stone Fence on Amandus Stehling Farm (Resource 5c), c. 1860. Photo taken March 12, 2022, camera facing north.

Photo 26: Contributing Building

Paul Stehling House (Resource 13a), built 1921, Paul Stehling/Amandus Stehling Farm. Photo taken March 12, 2022, camera facing northeast.

Photo 27: Contributing Buildings

Garage and Sheds (Resource 13b), c. 1935, on Paul Stehling/Amandus Stehling Farm. Photo taken March 12, 2022, camera facing northwest.

Photo 28: Contributing Buildings

Barns (Resource 13c, 1972, on left; 13d, c. 1921), Paul Stehling/Amandus Stehling Farm. Photo taken, March 12, 2022, camera facing north.

Photo 29: Contributing Site

Ruins of Thiele House (Resource 14e), c. 1852, on land later acquired by Amandus Stehling. Photo taken March 25, 2021, camera facing northeast.

Photo 30: Contributing Structure

WPA Bridge on Old Mason Road (Resource 7a), c. 1935, Paul Stehling/Amandus Stehling Farm. Photo taken March 12, 2022, camera facing east/southeast.

Photo 31: Contributing Building

Hunting Cabin (Resource 7d), 1965, on Amandus Stehling land east of N Highway 87. Photo taken March 10, 2022, camera facing east.

Photo 32: Contributing Structure.

Concrete Dam (Resource 10a), c. 1937, hand-mixed and poured by Stehling brothers. Photo taken March 25, 2021, camera facing east.

Photo 33: Contributing Structure

Reservoir behind dam (Resource 10a), c. 1937, Amandus Stehling land east of N Highway 87. Photo taken March 25, 2021, camera facing east.

Photo 34: Contributing Structures

Family Picnic area above Dam and Reservoir, est. 1930s, east of N Highway. Photo taken March 10, 2022, camera facing northwest.

Photo 35: Contributing Structure

Developed Spring with stone-lined pools, metal pipe on Paul Stehling/Amandus Stehling pastures east of N Highway 87. Photo taken March 10, 2022.

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Photo 36: Contributing Structure

Livestock Trough concrete basin; water piped from developed spring, 1930s, Paul Stehling/Amandus Stehling pasture east of N Highway 87. Photo taken March 10, 2022.

Photo 37: Contextual View

Low-Water Crossing over Barons Creek on Christoph Feuge Farm. Photo taken March 10, 2022, camera facing northwest.

Photo 38: Contextual View

Amandus/John/Richard Stehling Farmstead, est. 1852; Resources shown date to 1870s-1890s. Photo taken March 11, 2022, from N Highway 87, camera facing northwest.

Photo 39: Contextual View

Sheep grazing in pasture on Amandus Stehling Farm. Photo taken from Old Mason Road, camera facing northeast.

Photo 40: Contextual View

Multi-purpose (hay, horse, vehicle) Barn (Resource 6g) and shed in Amandus/John/Richard Stehling barnyard: stone basement c. 1870, frame upper stories c. 1935. Photo taken March 2021, from domestic yard, camera facing north/northeast.

Photo 41: Contextual View

Early domestic and agricultural cluster (log barn c. 1860; limestone house c. 1870), on Feuge Farm. Photo taken March 10, 2022, camera facing south/southeast.

Photo 42: Contextual View

Domestic Cluster. 1 ½ story stone house (Resource 2e); stone smokehouse with vehicle shed addition (Resource 2f), both c. 1870. Photo taken from barnyard March 25, 2021, camera facing north.

Photo 43: Contextual View

Second generation Feuge domestic cluster: 1 ½ story stone house, stone smokehouse, and stone fence (Resources 2e, 2f, and 2c), 1870. Photo taken March 25, 2021, camera facing south.

Photo 44: Contextual View. Building Cluster. Two stone barns; stone house (Resources 3c, 3b, & 3a), c. 1889, Joseph Stehling Sr./George Franz Stehling Farm. Photo taken March 11, 2022, camera facing west.

Photo 45: Noncontributing Building

Modern carport and stone wall, Amandus Stehling Farm. Photo taken March 25, 2021, camera facing northwest.

Photo 46: Noncontributing Building

Historic age grain barn converted to guest house (Resource 6j), Amandus Stehling Farm. Photo taken March 11, 2022, camera facing north.

Photo 47: Noncontributing Building

Modern house (Resource 5a), Amandus Stehling Farm. Photo taken March 12, 2022, camera facing northwest.

Photo 48: Noncontributing Building

Modern house (Resource 9a), Amandus Stehling land east of N Highway 87. Photo taken March 10, 2022, camera facing southeast.

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Photo 49: Noncontributing Building

Modern workshop (Resource 5b), Amandus Stehling Farm. Photo taken March 12, 2022, camera facing west.

Photo 50: Excluded from District

Boot Ranch Estates, upscale “ranchette” community on adjacent property east of district. Photo taken from Amandus Stehling pasture, March 10, 2022, camera facing southeast.

Photo 51: Excluded from District

DAV (Disabled American Veterans) Center. East side of N. Highway 87, southeast of district. Photo taken March 11, 2022, camera facing east.

Photo 52: Building Materials and Construction Methods

V-notched rough-hewn logs chinked with stones, c. 1860; type associated with German immigrant settlers in Texas Hill Country. Photo taken March 10, 2022, camera facing north.

Photo 53: Building Materials and Construction Methods.

1 ½ story Christoph Feuge Jr. House began as log house; c. 1870 lower logs replaced with large stone foundation; upper walls shaped and remnant stone with chiseled corners. Shed-roofed addition of stone block/remnant. Photo taken March 25, 2021, camera facing southeast.

Photo 54: Building Materials and Construction Methods

Christoph Feuge (Jr.) House, c. 1870, window detail. Cut stone lintels with row of small stones as chinking. Photo taken March 10, 2022.

Photo 55: Building Materials and Construction Methods

Stone remnants fitted to fill gaps in ad hoc fashion. Photo taken March 10, 2022.

Photo 56: Building Materials and Construction Methods.

Carl Feuge “1901 House.” Feuge, a skilled stonemason, built his 2-story stone house next to his father’s 1 ½ story stone house. Craftsmanship is evident in its finely chiseled, tightly fitted stone blocks, and razor-sharp edges. Photo taken March 10, 2022.

Photo 57: Building Materials and Construction Methods

Original barn burned in 1930s, but the stone foundation and some of the stone basement walls survived (left side). New walls built with remnant stone. Photo taken March 25, 2021, camera facing west.

Photo 58: Building Materials and Construction Methods.

Farmers removed stone from crop fields and used it to build walls and animal pens throughout the district. Many display a high degree of skill and artistry in construction and design. Photo taken March 12, 2022, camera facing northeast.

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC

Klein Frankreich Rural Historic District, Fredericksburg vicinity, Gillespie County, Texas

Description

The Klein Frankreich Rural Historic District is a 2807-acre agricultural landscape in central Gillespie County, about four miles northwest of Fredericksburg, the county seat, in the heart of the west-central Texas Hill Country. The district possesses a high level of historic and architectural integrity from its numerous and well-preserved cultural resources (buildings, structures, objects, and sites), associated with the first German immigrants to settle in the area in the late 1840s and early 1850s, and maintained and adapted to related uses by their descendants through 1976, when Richard Stehling, the last of the fulltime farmer/ranchers passed away. Five generations descended from the original German settlers, Christoph and Christine Feuge, Amandus and Barbara Stehling, and George Franz and Margaretta Stehling, still own and occupy their family farm and ranch land. Resources within the district include the three building clusters established by the original pioneer families, and several newer homesteads established by their grandchildren and great-grandchildren on parcels carved out of those homesteads. Distinct clusters include: the Feuge farmstead established in 1847 or 1848, with the oldest extant resources built in the 1850s, the George Franz Stehling farmstead, established in 1852, and the Amandus Stehling farmstead, also established in 1852 with the oldest extant resource – a hand-dug well – dating to c. 1860, and increased to include other adjacent land, including ruins of a stone house built by Adolph Thiele c. 1852. Later historic-age building clusters include those established by Amandus' grandson, Paul Stehling, in the early 1920s, and by Paul's son, Ted Stehling, in 1974. Each of these building clusters contains one or more historic dwellings; the earliest clusters also contain barns, corrals, smokehouses, smith works, and other resources associated with agrarian lifeways. Agricultural features spread across the adjacent parcels, such as pastures, stock ponds, stone fences, water tanks, windmills, and dams, contribute significantly to the overall character and feeling of the rural historic landscape as it was developed by the early twentieth century. The gently rolling to hilly terrain is dotted with live oak knolls, limestone outcroppings, wooded hills and bluffs, and small creeks, which are accessed by a network of packed-earth ranch roads. Later, non-historic homesites also established by descendants contain contemporary style houses and modern outbuildings, like garages, but they are compatible with the historic setting in size, scale, massing, and stone construction. Together the adjoining properties have a high level of condition and integrity and convey a vivid impression of the traditional Texas Hill Country landscape from the period of significance, 1852-1976. The district contains 111 individual resources, of which 81 resources are contributing and 30 are non-contributing, either because they have been significantly altered or are of non-historic age.

Methodology

Members of the Feuge and Stehling families invited Texas Historical Commission staff to their ranches to discuss potential listing in the National Register. Staff were impressed with the proposed district's historic resources and rural landscape and encouraged the families to move forward with designation. Randy Stehling, a fifth-generation descendant of the original settlers, photographed all extant cultural resources - both historic and non-historic - and mapped them on parcels maps for submittal to the THC. He sent a documentation packet to the staff for a Preliminary Determination of Eligibility. The families then contracted with Preservation Central, an Austin, Texas based historic preservation consulting firm to prepare a nomination for a rural historic district. Members of the Stehling and Feuge families supplied the consultant with research materials that they had collected including historic photographs of family members and farm buildings, newspaper articles, and early deed records. The consultant supplemented their documentation with additional study in local repositories including the Pioneer Museum and the Gillespie County Historical Society Museum in Fredericksburg.

The consultant also conducted taped interviews with five members of the Feuge and Stehling families who either live in or own property in the district, and met with Cheri Rothermel, who owns and occupies the George Franz Stehling homestead in the district. All interviewees shared historic photographs and archival documents with the consultant. These oral histories gave the consultant additional information on the pioneer settlers as well as memories of their own experiences growing up in the district in the 1930s, 1940s, and 1950s. Their personal recollections were especially valuable because no individual non-population agricultural census records were enumerated in the twentieth century. The consultant studied all available agricultural census records, starting with Christoph Feuge in 1850, and continuing throughout the nineteenth

Klein Frankreich Rural Historic District, Fredericksburg vicinity, Gillespie County, Texas

century with the Feuges and Stehlings for the years 1860, 1870, and 1880. One of the interviewees, Carolyn Stehling Gross, also shared a bound volume that she had compiled with deed and title information on district properties dating from the earliest real estate transactions through the historic period; she also loaned the consultant a historic survey map of Gillespie County depicting the original or early grantees. Another interviewee, Lucille Stehling Pape, is a historian in her own right who has authored several books on the Stehlings and the Klein Frankreich community, including *The Incredible Journey of the Stehling Brothers: Amandus Stehling and George Franz Stehling, 1845*. Mrs. Pape gave copies of her books, along with articles and other documents related to the project, to the consultant.

The consultant conducted field investigations throughout the district accompanied by community members, Charles Blackwell, Herb Stehling, Randy Stehling, Ted Stehling, and Lucille Stehling Pape. She augmented Randy Stehling's photographs with images of typical, representative landscapes, and details of distinctive, rare, or character-defining architectural elements. She used photographs and maps to write brief architectural descriptions of the landscape, building clusters, and individual resources within the district. Maps created by architect and property owner in the district, Randy Stehling, and edited and expanded by the consultant, show four different parcels, the proposed boundaries of the district, and the locations of each cultural resource. Each individual resource is labeled according to one of a series of maps that cover the entire district; site numbers are keyed to the maps and photographs.

The consultant examined the eleven landscape characteristics outlined in National Register Bulletin 30 for evidence of human use.¹ She determined that Klein Frankreich meets the Secretary of the Interior's qualifications for designation as a rural historic landscape district because it possesses the eleven landscape characteristic of such a district including a significant concentration of buildings, structures, objects and sites associated with rural lifeways, and a continuity of land use, vegetation, buildings and structures, roads and waterways, and natural features, dating from the period of significance, 1852-1976.

To identify contributing and non-contributing resources within the district, the consultant used National Register Bulletin 16a, which states that a contributing resource "was present during the period of significance, relates to the documented significance of the property, and possesses historic integrity or is capable of yielding important information about the period." A non-contributing resource is defined as one that "was not present during the period of significance or does not relate to the documented significance of the property" or that no longer possesses integrity "due to alterations, disturbances, additions, or other changes." National Register Bulletin 15 defines integrity as "the ability of a property to convey its significance" through seven aspects – location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. Following this guidance, all resources built during the 1852-1976 period of significance were first assumed to be contributing resources, then were analyzed to determine if they relate to the significance of the overall district and possess enough integrity to convey that significance. Historic-period resources that relate to the district's significance and possess good integrity are considered contributing resources. Historic-period resources that do not relate to the district's significance or that possess poor integrity due to alteration are considered non-contributing resources. Resources built after 1976 are also non-contributing.

Location and Setting

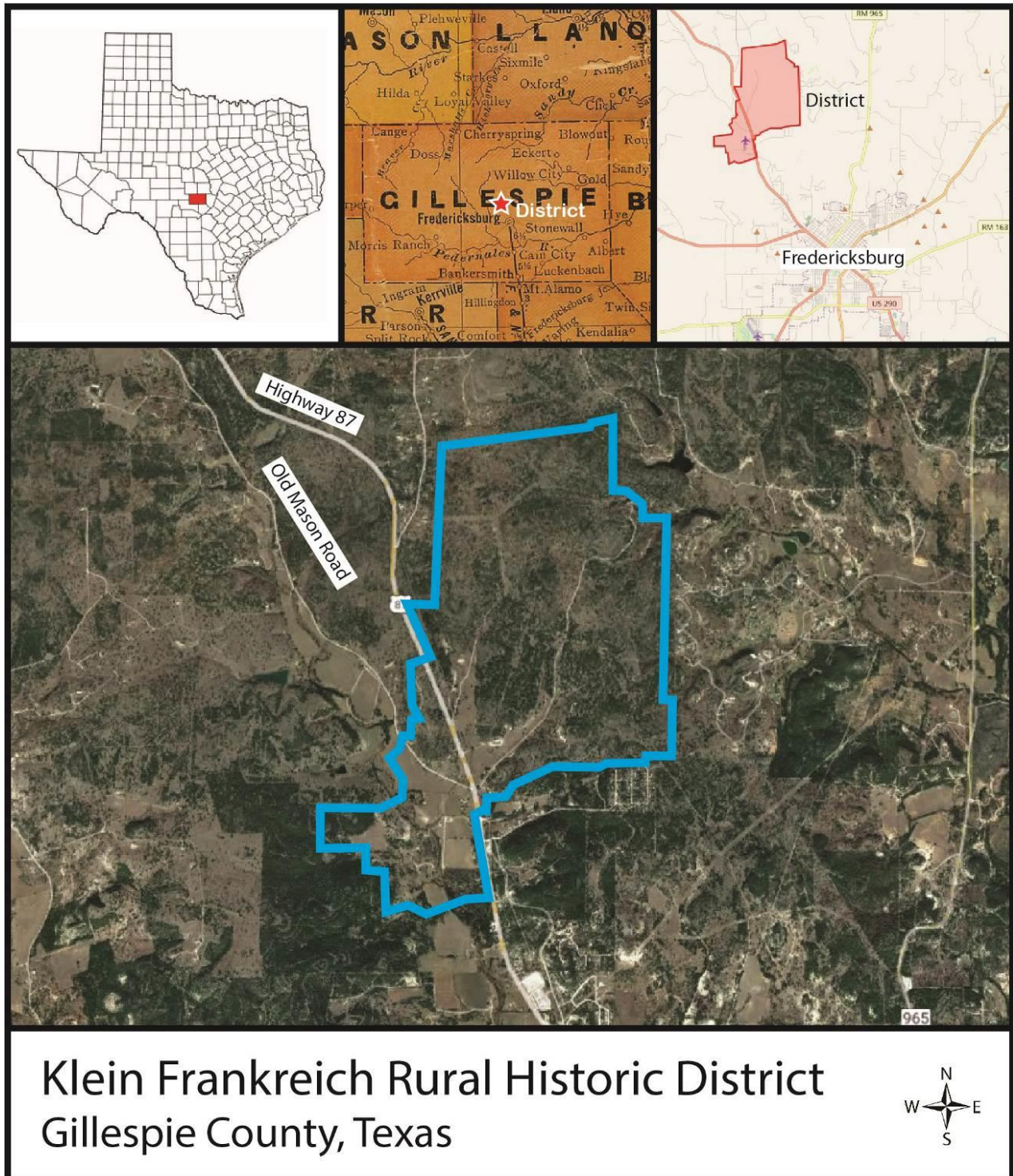
The Klein Frankreich Rural Historic District is located approximately 3.5 miles northwest of downtown Fredericksburg in the Central Texas Hill Country of Gillespie County (*see Location Map on following page*). The district is situated along U.S. Highway 87, which enters Fredericksburg from the south, runs northwest past the district, then proceeds north/northwest into Mason County and beyond. The historic district is comprised of four irregularly shaped parcels that

¹ Land use patterns and activities; patterns of spatial organization; response to the natural environment; cultural traditions; circulation networks; boundary demarcations; vegetation related to land use, buildings, structures, and objects; clusters; archeological sites; and small-scale elements. *NRHP Bulletin 30: Guidelines for Evaluating and Documenting Rural Historic Landscapes*, pages 4-6.

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together contain approximately 2,807 acres of rural farm and ranch land spanning both sides of U.S. 87. Old Mason Road also crosses the district. It begins at U.S. 87 inside the district boundaries and proceeds northwest.

Location Map



Klein Frankreich Rural Historic District, Fredericksburg vicinity, Gillespie County, Texas

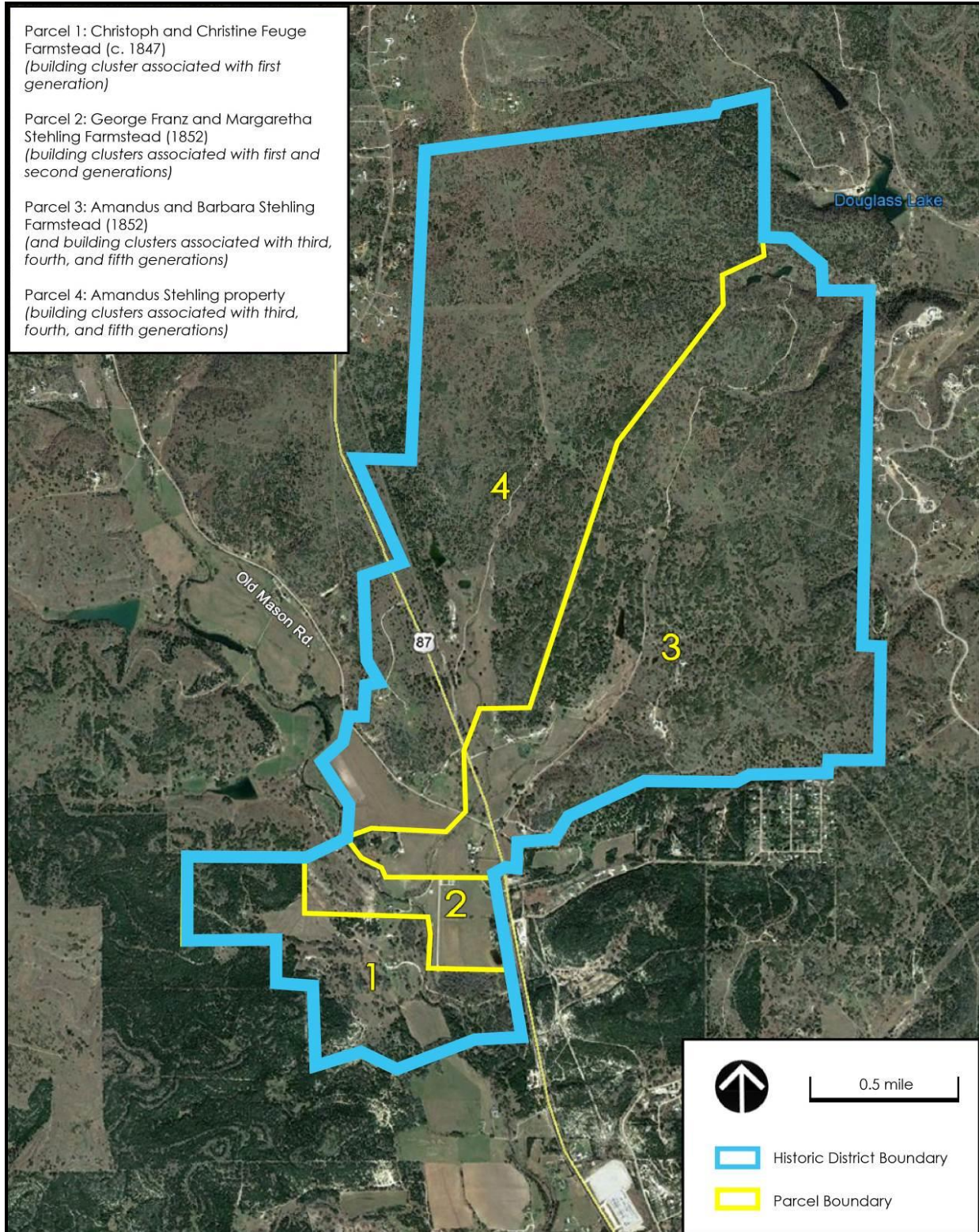
The district stretches across a landscape of wooded hills and limestone bluffs coursed by tributaries of Barons Creek. The Creek crosses the lower quarter of the district, running just southwest of Highway 87 and Old Mason Road. Barons Creek begins in limestone hills and flows south-southeast for just over 16 miles through Fredericksburg to the Pedernales River. Within the district, the creek creates a fertile bottomland with more loamy soil suitable for growing hay or other crops. The district's historic-age building clusters are in this area. The larger part of the district east of Highway 87 is hilly, with shallow, rocky soils that are not conducive to intensive agriculture but are suitable for grazing. The limestone hills have open stands of live oak and Ashe juniper trees as well as woody shrubs, grasses, and wildflowers. Many of the live oak trees were lost during the hard freeze that occurred in February 2021. Throughout the district, the limestone bedrock is periodically exposed at small escarpments and in eroded areas, and several springs feed small creeks.

District Overview

The district can be understood from the perspective of three original farmsteads settled by Christoph and Christine Feuge (c. 1848), George Franz and Margaretha Stehling (1852), and Amandus and Barbara Stehling (1852), with the oldest extant resource dating to c. 1852. The Feuge and George Franz Stehling farmsteads (Parcels 1 & 2, respectively) contain building clusters associated with the first and second generations, while the Amandus Stehling property is much larger and contains additional farmsteads or building clusters carved out of his holdings by third, fourth, and fifth generations (Parcels 3 & 4). Considered together, these sites represent the evolution of the district from the earliest period of settlement in the early 1850s, through period of significance ending in 1976. The district boundaries encircle all four parcels and follow property lines established by the Feuge and Stehling families during the period of significance (*see Boundary and Parcel Map on following page*).

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Boundary and Parcel Map



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The district is shaped like a rough rectangle with a bulbous “tail” that extends to the southwest (see Boundary and Parcel Map). The district is divided by U.S. Highway 87, which crosses the district at the place where the tail begins. The tail section southwest of the highway comprises about a quarter of the district’s land area. It is home to most of the historic built resources and contains the entirety of Parcels 1 and 2 plus small sections of Parcels 3 and 4. This area contains Barons Creek and its fertile bottomlands, with Klein grass fields and grazing pastures distributed on both sides of the creek among the various farmsteads. This area also contains Old Mason Road, which branches northwest off of Highway 87 and passes through a short section of the district.

Parcels 3 and 4 span both sides of the highway. Amandus Stehling’s farmstead and several of his descendants’ ranch headquarters are found in the smaller parcel portions on the southwest side of the highway along Barons Creek. On the northeast side of the highway, Parcels 3 and 4 largely contain unimproved grazing land for the Stehling family’s livestock. This larger, less developed portion of the district is hilly and wooded, with two dirt and gravel ranch roads that run northeast into the ranch from Highway 87. The southernmost road is the primary ranch road. It is the largest at almost 2.5 miles long and continues all the way through the ranch to manmade ponds at the property’s northeast corner (Map 12). The secondary ranch road runs about one mile into the ranch to a “camp house” (Resource 15b) before branching off into smaller two-track roads. Elsewhere in this larger ranch section are two non-historic building clusters (both in Parcel 3), an abandoned segment of Old Mason Road just east of Hwy. 87, and more two-track dirt roads that lead to grazing land and several springs and stock ponds.

The district contains all of the characteristics of a rural historic landscape as defined by NRHP Bulletin 30.²

1. Land use patterns and activities – Historic land use patterns are clearly evident throughout the district. This is due in part, because much of the nearly 2,500-acre landscape remains virtually undeveloped as early settlers and their descendants found the thin layer of soils over limestone hills more conducive to grazing livestock than intensive crop cultivation. As a result, stock raising became dominant; thus, the district features large stretches of natural landscape composed of grass-covered hills, stands of ancient live oaks, and rocky outcroppings, with branches of Baron’s Creek flowing across it. Scattered natural springs, some of which have been developed with pipes, channels, and troughs, also contributed to grazing land use.

Elsewhere in the district early settlers made a more direct impact on land use patterns and activities that are still apparent in the continued division of building clusters into domestic and agricultural zones, use of stone fences to mark boundaries and shelter livestock, network of dirt roads within and between farmsteads, low-water crossings, reservoirs and recreation areas, and cultivated fields in the level, more fertile bottomlands where the original settlers removed untold amounts of stone to establish crop land. Crop fields begun by the original settlers and continued by their descendants, remain in use for grasses and hay to the present day.

2. Patterns of spatial organization – Spatial organization in the district can be seen in the location of historic homesteads, all of which were situated close to Barons Creek, but above the flood plain, which had fertile soil deposits suitable for growing gardens and crops. They were also sited near Old Mason Road, the main road through the Klein Frankreich valley between Fredericksburg, the center of German immigration in the region, and the town of Mason to the northwest; the road connected families to social and religious outlets and to markets for their agricultural products. In addition, fenced pastures and circulation networks within the ranch helped organize grazing areas and the distribution of livestock around the ranches.

Each of the historic farmsteads, including the c. 1920 Paul Stehling farm, centered on a building complex composed of separate domestic and agricultural zones, divided from one another by an interior road. Domestic zones contained the main house and associated outbuildings and structures, such as a well and water tank, a privy,

² NRHP Bulletin 30: *Guidelines for Evaluating and Documenting Rural Historic Landscapes*, pages 4-6.

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a smokehouse, a wash house or “hot water house” with a fireplace and hearth containing a large cast iron basin to boil water for laundry, washing up after work, butchering hogs, and canning fruits and vegetables. Domestic zones usually included large vegetable gardens of as many as five acres, one or two of which were dedicated to growing potatoes, a small orchard, and possibly a chicken house or coop. Gardens and keeping chickens were part of the domestic zone because the work was often assigned to women and younger children who generally stayed in the house or house yard. Domestic zones were often enclosed by stone or picket to define the family yard, keep small children inside, and livestock outside.

Nearby but across an interior dirt road, lay agricultural zones where most of the hard, often dangerous, work took place. Agricultural zones included large, multi-purpose 1- or 2-story frame or frame and stone barns with hay lofts, open-fronted vehicle bays for wagons, buggies, or, later, automobiles. They often had horse or milking stalls and , and equipment storage. The agricultural zones held other, smaller barns for farm vehicles or tractors, large equipment, and tools. In addition, the zone contained corrals, sheep and goat pens built against a stone wall to shelter the animals from the cold north wind, hog pens, dipping vats, and blacksmithing sheds. Resources in the agricultural zones were usually laid out in two parallel rows with an interior path between them. Much of the farm work was done outside, in the open pathway.

To a large extent, these spatial patterns and uses are continued in the district. The Feuge Farm, in particular, remains remarkably intact in terms of distinct domestic and agricultural zones and spatial organization.

3. Response to the natural environment – The response to the natural environment is evident in the siting of historic homesteads on elevated land above the flood plain but close to Barons Creek, the establishment of cultivated fields in the fertile zones along the creek where rich soil has been deposited for centuries, and the creation of dams and reservoirs in the hills east of Highway 87 to impound precious spring and creek water for use in times of drought. Other examples in the district include interior circulation networks that wind around hilly terrain and limestone outcroppings, use of natural springs to create troughs and ponds for livestock, and use of limestone outcroppings to quarry local stone for constructing buildings and fences.
4. Cultural traditions – Cultural traditions in the district are represented by the historic settlement patterns established by German immigrants in the Texas Hill Country in the early- to mid-19th century. Some patterns were more “American,” diverging from those of their native country where land was at a premium and had been subdivided and reduced in size to such an extent that the resulting small farms were barely large enough to sustain families. In fact, land scarcity was the driving force behind German emigration. Instead of crowded warrens in which farm families lived in rooms above their animal pens, German immigrant were able to spread out and separate domestic from agricultural resources without losing land for crops. The arrangement was more comfortable, healthier, and less dangerous.

More unique were their vernacular building types and uses including the 1 ½-story, side-gabled limestone rubble dwellings with stone, shed-roofed rear additions and exterior stairs to the upper half-story sleeping room in the first generation, the evolution of the house type to full, two-story quarried stone block houses with bull-façade porches. The use of stone, in particular, dominated construction not only in dwellings, but in smokehouses, boundary fences, water tanks, storm cellars, barns, and animal pens. These materials and uses are emblematic of German settlement in the area and are found throughout the district. In fact, stonemasonry itself became associated with the German immigrants and several of the Feuge men, in particular, became well-known stone masons, not only in the district, but elsewhere in the German region. The use of local stone and stone masonry techniques are further described in Section 8.

5. Circulation networks – Historic circulation networks are evident in the district. Old Mason Road was used for travel into Fredericksburg for goods and services and to other communities in the region including Doss and

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Mason. All of the farms in the district were connected to Old Mason Road by dirt "driveways" of varying lengths depending on the distance from the homestead; they wound their way around hills and ravines and crossed Baron's Creek at its lowest point. In addition, each ranch or farm, for they were both, had its own network of interior dirt roads to reach grazing areas, springs, ponds, and fence lines. These driveways entered into the building complex and divided the domestic from the agricultural zones. A livestock underpass added after Highway 87 was completed in the 1940s allows for the continued circulation of livestock to grazing lands across the highway.

6. Boundary demarcations – The district has several types of boundary demarcations, including fenced pastures, corrals, parcel boundaries on the edge of the district, and parcel boundaries within the district that separate different homesteads. Some areas display the intentional clearing of trees and shrubs along fence lines. The most prominent boundary markers were the iconic stone fences built by the early settlers and maintained by their descendants. Though much was lost when the Texas Highway Department bought lengths of fence lines to crush as a foundation for Highway 87 in the 1940s, most of those in the ranch interiors are still extant.
7. Vegetation related to land use – The primary type of vegetation related to land use are the native plants found across much of the district that were used for livestock grazing. In addition, cultivated fields grew hay, corn, and other crops. Other types of vegetation found in the district include trees and shrubs that have grown incidentally along fence lines and trees – especially pecans – planted intentionally along entrance drives or for shade near houses. Pecans were grown for these reasons but also for the nuts which were gathered in the fall and sold for extra money.
8. Buildings, structures, objects and sites – The district contains numerous built resources whose functions are related to farming or ranching, including dwellings, barns, storage sheds, animal sheds, corrals, ranch roads, wells, dams, stone fences, and wood fences. The district contains 111 individual resources, 81 of which date to the 1852-1976 period of significance and are considered contributing. The district has 30 non-contributing resources; non-contributing resources include historic age properties that have been severely altered or do not relate to the historical significance of the district; or that are non-historic.

All but two of the primary dwellings built in the period of significance age are vernacular houses; the exceptions are the frame bungalow built in 1921 by Paul Stehling and the 1975 stone Ranch style house built by his son, Ted Stehling, both on the original Amandus Stehling farm. The 1 ½ story stone building form, and later quarried stone block houses, are distinctive to German Hill Country settlement. The two-story quarried stone houses built in the late 19th century to 1901, display modest Folk Victorian stylistic elements such as turned porch posts. The 1901 House also features a frieze board, decorative brackets, and pierced woodwork indicative of Folk Victorian dwellings.

9. Clusters – The clusters within the district represent the original families' homesteads as well as those of later generations who continued to work the land. The clusters are sited to take advantage of creek or highway access, and the buildings and structures within the clusters are organized according to function. Domestic resources such as dwellings, garages and sheds tend to be grouped together, while barns, pens, and corrals are clustered nearby with access to grazing pastures. Other types of clusters in the district include wells, troughs, and dams that are situated to take advantage of natural springs and underground aquifers. (See #2: Patterns of spatial organization).
10. Archeological sites – The district contains the ruins of a historic dwelling built before 1852 near Barons Creek, as well as the ruins of animal pens and a windmill. Anecdotal accounts of Native American use of the land for water and hunting were handed down through the generations and most families in the district have collections of arrowheads found along or near Baron's Creek where they may have camped. Both Comanches and Apaches were known to German settlers in the area and some of the first and second-generation farmers in the district

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occasionally encountered hunting bands on their land without incident. However, there is no anecdotal or physical evidence of any permanent settlement by Indigenous people in the district though some groups likely established temporary or hunting camps in the area.

11. Small-scale elements – Small-scale elements within the district include fences around domestic yards, farm equipment, equipment parking areas, gates, road remnants, gas pumps, stone blocks delineating yards or decorative planting areas, abandoned fenceposts, and telephone and power poles.

Description of Resources

This section is organized according to the four parcels and the different building clusters and resource locations found within them. Due to the size of the district, its resources are depicted on numerous maps, with Map 1 depicting the district parcel boundaries and Maps 2-16 depicting the different building clusters and individual resources.

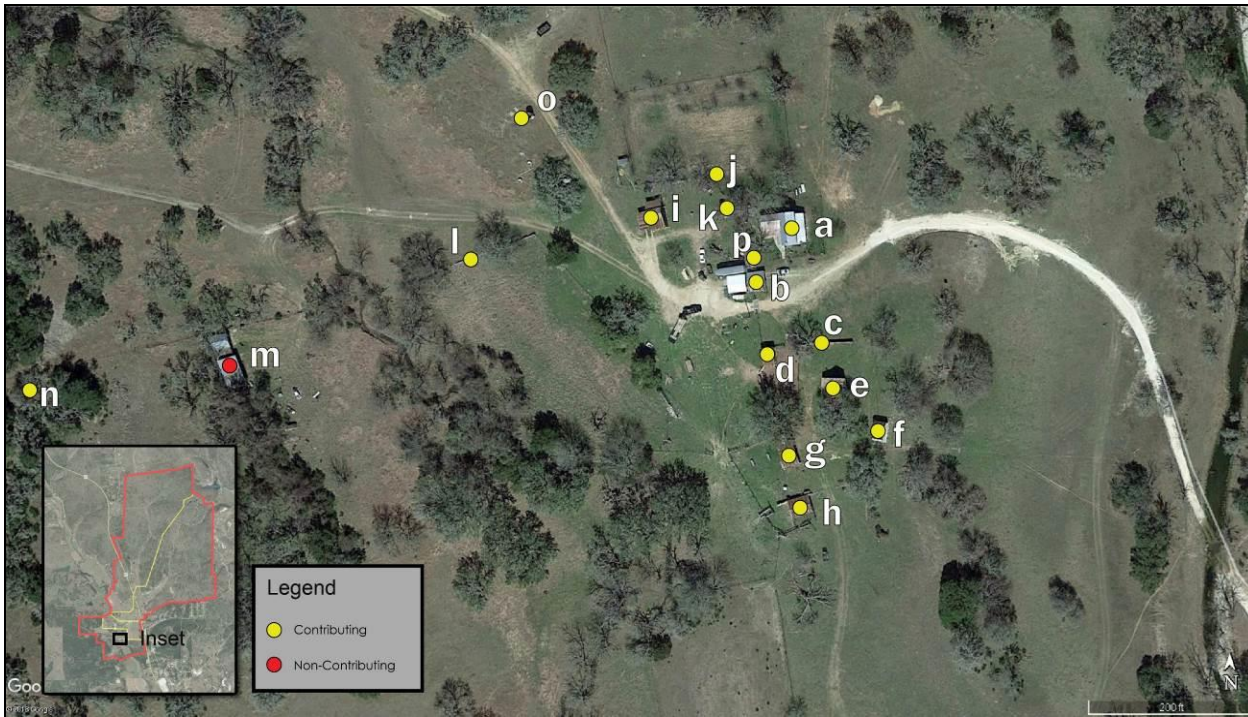
All resources associated with the Feuge homestead are depicted on Map 2; all resources associated with the George Franz Stehling farmstead are shown on Maps 3-4; and those present on the Amandus Stehling property (spread across Parcels 3 & 4) are identified on Maps 5-16.

Individual resources shown on these maps are arranged by map number and alphanumeric; for example, on Map 2, the site number for the 1901 Feuge dwelling is labeled “2a,” the 1960 garage is labeled “2b,” and so on. The maps are in a general order of west to east as possible. Following each map is a corresponding inventory table, a description of the building cluster or site depicted on the map, and a description of each of that map’s resources.

At the end of Section 7 is a master inventory list depicting each district resource.

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Parcel 1 / Map 2 – Christoph and Christine Feuge Homestead, established c. 1848



Parcel 1 / Map 2 Resources

#	Property Type	Resource	Date(s)	Roof form/ Plan Type	Exterior Materials	Status
2a	Building	Single Dwelling	1901	Side gable	Stone	C
2b	Building	Garage	c. 1935	Front gable	Wood, Metal	C
2c	Structure	Stone Fence	c. 1860	Linear	Stone	C
2d	Building	Log Barn	c. 1860	Front gable	Wood (timber)	C
2e	Building	Single Dwelling	c. 1870	Side gable (saltbox)	Stone	C
2f	Building	Smokehouse	c. 1870	Front gable	Stone	C
2g	Building	Barn	c. 1930	Side gable	Wood	C
2h	Building	Goat Shed	c. 1880/1930	Side gable	Stone, Metal	C
2i	Building	Barn	c. 1900	Front gable	Wood	C
2j	Building	Storm Cellar	c. 1900	Front gable	Stone	C
2k	Building	Wash Shed	1902	Side gable	Wood	C
2l	Structure	Stone Fence	c. 1860	Linear	Stone	C
2m	Building	Hay Barn	1980	Front gable	Wood	NC
2n	Object	Grave Marker	1914	Arch top	Stone	C

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2o	Structure	Tank House/Well	c. 1910	Hexagonal	Wood, Metal	C
2p	Structure	Windmill	c. 1935	Truss Tower	Metal	C

Parcel 1 / Map 2 Descriptions

This building cluster is the c. 1847 Christoph and Christine Feuge Homestead located just west of Barons Creek. The homestead is accessed by a curving, dirt and gravel entrance drive that heads west off of U.S. 87, winds through trees, crosses the creek at a concrete low water crossing, and ends at the 1901 house (2a). Near the house in a domestic grouping are the garage, storm cellar, and wash shed. A short distance west of that grouping is the c. 1900 barn (2i). Nearby on the south side of the entrance drive is another grouping that contains the c. 1870 house, two barns, the goat shed, the smokehouse, and a historic stone fence.

The landscape around the cluster varies. Immediately north of the barn and storm cellar (2i and 2j) is a half-acre fenced vegetable garden that dates to the historic period. North of this are fenced grazing pastures dotted with trees. To the south is another pasture, and an 11-acre cultivated field that has been cleared of trees. Two two-track roads lead west and northwest from the building cluster. The west road passes a historic stone fence that delineates another grazing area. On the east side of the road are a water tank and well (2o) and a windmill (2p). The west road provides access to the hay barn and continues to follow the edge of the property through rolling, wooded areas to the west and north. The northwest two-track road provides access to a gently terraced, 15-acre cultivated field. A single grave site is located in the trees west of the building cluster, about 190 feet west of the hay barn.



Single Dwelling (2a) – The resource is two-story, side-gabled limestone house built on an elevated site above the floodplain. The date 1901 is incised in limestone over the main entry door on the primary façade. Called “the new house,” it is the fifth and most recent dwelling on the Christoph and Christine Feuge homestead; two early log houses built close to Barons Creek were washed out in floods. The house has an attached, full-façade shed-roofed porch supported by wood columns and pilasters. The six regularly spaced porch posts are detailed with Folk Victorian style brackets and a wraparound frieze. The house is built of hand-chiseled limestone blocks laid in regular courses with flat limestone lintels and smaller limestone blocks for sills. The house has a symmetrical primary façade with a centered door flanked by 4/4 double hung wood sash windows on the first floor and two widely spaced 4-lite single sash on the upper floor. Secondary side facades feature 4/4 double hung wood sash on both the upper and lower floors. A shed-roofed frame addition covers part of the rear façade. It has a metal roof and a chimney made of limestone. A wood post and box wire fence encloses the yard.

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Garage (2b) – This resource is a front-gabled frame garage with a concrete foundation, horizontal wood siding, and a corrugated metal roof built about 1935. It is located at the rear of the 1901 house (2a). The garage door was replaced by a corrugated metal door.



Stone Fence (2c) – A length of stone fence stretches about 50 feet across a grassy field in the barnyard opposite the homesite. Approximately four feet high, the stones vary in size and are laid in irregular courses with a squared-off, flat top course. Similar stone fences are found throughout the district; however, this example has more formally dressed stones that create smoother, more uniform wall surfaces. All historic stone fences in the district were built about 1860-1870 from limestone found on the ranches.



Log Barn (2d) – Resource 2d is a c. 1860 front-gabled log barn with a shed-roofed side addition. The timber walls are notched at the corners and chinked with small stones. The gabled ends and side addition have board siding. The roof is corrugated metal. The barn has a single door on the primary façade that opens to a post and board corral.



Single Dwelling (2e) – Resource 2e is a 1 ½ story, side-gabled limestone dwelling with a shed-roofed stone addition on the rear. It is similar to other stone houses built by German settlers in the Fredericksburg area from c. 1860 to c. 1880. The Feuges were known as skilled stone masons and the house was built in 1870 or 1871 by Christoph Feuge (Jr.) for his bride.

The main side-gabled volume was built about 1860 but the addition appears to have been built soon afterward based on the size and workmanship of the rough-chiseled limestone block walls and foundation. The upper half-story was accessed by an exterior wall and likely served as bedrooms for the children. A square chimney rises from the roof of the addition at its juncture with the main roof. Both roofs are covered with corrugated metal. The wood panel door on the rear is centered on the wall and flanked by two 4/4 wood sash windows. This vernacular stone house is a good, largely intact example of its type.

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Smokehouse (2f) – The front-gabled smokehouse is built of limestone block and has a single wood door under a flat stone lintel. Above the door is an opening to vent smoke. An open shed-roofed lean-to extends from the roof on the side of the building. The roofs are clad in corrugated metal. Built c. 1870, it is an excellent example of a nineteenth century stone smokehouse in the region.



Barn (2g) – Resource 2g is a c 1930 low, front-gabled frame barn with a wide opening to the barnyard. It has an open shed-roofed addition supported by rough timbers. The barn and addition both have corrugated metal roofs.







Goat Shed (2h) – This resource is a low-pitched side-gabled animal shelter with corrugated metal cladding on two sides and a stone wall on the rear, north side that functions as a wind break. The front is wide open to a post and board and metal rail corral, as well as to the barnyard. The stone wall dates to an earlier c. 1880 enclosure; metal siding and roof, and wood fence date to c. 1930.



Barn (2i) – Resource 2i is a tall, c 1900 1 ½ story frame barn with a side-gabled roof that slopes down in the front to cover a 1 ½ story shed-roofed section that has four bays open to the barnyard. The open bays may have been used as shelter for vehicles or farm equipment. A lower shed-roofed section was added to the barn's rear elevation. The barn has wood vertical board siding and corrugated metal roofs. Both the barn and the taller shed-roofed section have hay lofts.

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	<p><u>Storm Cellar (2j)</u> – This limestone storm cellar has walls that rise about four feet above grade and a steeply-pitched, front-gabled metal roof. It has a small square opening with wood storm door to access the cellar space, and small rectangular vents on the sides. Due to the history of violent storms and tornadoes in the area, the family may have had an early storm shelter but this one appears to date to c. 1900 from the stonework and short distance to the 1901 house.</p>
	<p><u>Wash Shed (2k)</u> – This is a front-gabled wash shed with vertical board siding and a corrugated metal roof. The off-center door on the long side elevation is made of vertical boards. The east end elevation is open. A historic limestone fireplace with a built-in cast iron wash basin is located at the opening.</p>
	<p><u>Stone Fence (2l)</u> – Resource 2l is a 120-foot stretch of stone fence located at a distance from both the homesite and the barnyard. It stands about 3-3 ½ feet tall and is composed of flat, narrow limestone rubble. The dry stack, utilitarian fence lacks the craftsmanship of some other, more substantial stone fences in the district and is missing stone in places. Nevertheless, it contributes to the rural landscape.</p>
	<p><u>Hay Barn (2m)</u> - This building is a 1 ½ story frame hay barn with a medium-pitched, front-gabled roof and hayloft door. It is clad in horizontal wood board. Built in the mid-1970s, the barn lies in a pasture away from the homesite and barnyard.</p>

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Grave Marker (2n) – A single grave lies in a wooded pasture on the Feuge farmstead. The resting place is marked by a slightly arched marble headstone incised with the name Ortwin A. Feuge, who was only seven years old when he died in 1914.



Tank House, Tank, & Well (2o) – The Tank House is a small wood-frame structure with teardrop wood siding and a hexagonal footprint. It is in fair condition. Atop the frame structure is a cylindrical metal water tank with a missing roof. Next to the Tank House is a taller cylindrical metal tank with a conical roof. The second tank sits on grade. A water well is located adjacent to the tanks.



Windmill (2p) – This windmill is located next to the garage (2b). It is a c. 1935 Aermotor brand windmill with metal blades and a metal tower.

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Parcel 2 / Map 3 – George Franz Stehling Homestead, c. 1852



Parcel 2 / Map 3 Resources

#	Property Type	Resource	Date(s)	Roof form/Plan Type	Exterior Materials	Status
3a	Building	Single Dwelling	1889	Side gable	Stone	C
3b	Building	Barn/Guest House	c 1890/1972	Hipped	Stone, Wood	C
3c	Building	Barn/Office	c 1889	Front gable; Shed	Stone, Wood	C
3d	Structure	Water Tank	c 1889/1972	Cylindrical	Stone	C
3e	Building	Sheep & Goat Pen	c 1890	Side gable	Stone, Metal	C
3f	Structure	Tennis Court	c 1972	Flat/Rectangular	Clay	NC
3g	Structure	Airplane Runway	c 1972	Flat/Linear	Concrete	NC
3h	Building	Airplane Hangar	c 1972	Front gable/Arch	Metal	NC
3i	Structure	Cattle Pens	c 1972	Shed/Rectangular	Metal	NC
3j	Building	Airplane Hangar	c 1972	Front gable	Metal	NC

Parcel 2 / Map 3 Descriptions

This building cluster is the c. 1852 George Franz Stehling Homestead, which contains a historic core plus several 1970s resources that are non-contributing because they do not relate to the district’s significance (3f-3j). The historic cluster is situated on the west bank of Barons Creek about 850 feet north of the Christoph Feuge Homestead (Map 2), and is nestled

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against the base of a limestone hill that rises to the northwest. The homestead is accessed by a dirt and gravel entrance drive off Highway 87 that passes Kleingrass fields, then crosses Baron Creek at a culvert and ends at a circular drive. The culvert crossing creates a swimming hole just west of the road on the upstream side. On the downstream side of the culvert is a terraced stone feature that creates a small cascade. The building cluster consists of five resources dating to circa 1889-1890: the stone house, two small barns, a stone water tank with windmill, and a sheep shed and pen that sits approximately 250 feet northwest of the house, against the base of the hill. To the south are the grazing pastures that separate this cluster from the Feuge homestead, and to the north across the creek is a cultivated field.

To the east, between the creek and the highway, are two fenced, cultivated fields that together are 35 acres in size. The southern field has a shallow stock pond and a barn (4b) nestled in a stand of trees along the highway. The northern field has cattle pens in its northwest corner. Along the entrance drive at the top of the fields is the main airplane hangar and apron. The runway extends south along the west edge of the fields. West of the runway along the drive is another hangar, and nearby at the east edge of Barons Creek is the tennis court. North of the entrance drive is the historic Amandus Stehling farmstead (Map 6).



Single Dwelling (3a) – The historic house in this cluster is a two-story, side-gabled building with coursed ashlar limestone walls. The roof is clad in standing seam metal. The front elevation faces north. It has an off-center single-entry door, two double-hung windows on the first floor, two small square windows on the second floor, and a full-length, shed-roofed porch. A wide, blocky stone chimney extends from the northwest corner of the roof. The east elevation has a small gabled addition with board and batten walls. A historic stone ell extends from the rear southwest corner of the house. A small frame addition is attached to the east side of the ell on the house's southeast corner.



Barn/Guest House (3b) – This resource is a c. 1890 stone barn that was converted to a guest house in c. 1972. It has limestone walls and a hip roof clad in standing seam metal. The south-facing front elevation has been converted to frame construction and has wood siding, a central entry door, two pairs of divided light windows, and a shed-roofed porch. On the east elevation is a small shed-roofed addition with another entrance door and a pair of windows. The west elevation has a single window in the limestone wall.

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Barn/Office (3c) – This resource is a historic stone and board-and-batten barn that was converted into an office. It is a long rectangular building with a gabled roof running east-west and a wide, shed-roofed section that extends the length of the south elevation. The historic limestone core of the building is at its northeast corner, and it has board and batten additions to the south and west. On the west elevation, the gabled section has a board and batten pedestrian entry door flanked by two small, square windows. Above the door in the center of the gable is a round divided-light window, added in the 1970s. The west elevation of the shed-roofed section has a wide board and batten door intended for equipment entry. The board and batten shed-roofed addition on the south elevation has an inset entrance and several small, square windows, also added in the 1970s when the barn was converted.



Water Tank/Pool and Windmill (3d) – The historic water tank is a cylindrical, above-ground, open tank constructed of dressed limestone blocks. The tank is about eight feet tall, with a diameter of ten feet. The stone walls of the tank are 18 inches thick. It was converted to a swimming pool by the addition of a wood deck which has a shade structure, benches, and a ladder leading into the tank; the deck is not attached to the tank. Next to the tank is a historic, c. 1920 Aermotor windmill with a metal fan, vane, and truss tower.



Sheep & Goat Pen and Barn (3e) – This rectangular pen is comprised of a historic stacked stone fence measuring approximately 60 feet by 25 feet and four and a half or five feet tall. The c. 1890 fence has an opening in the southern edge where a modern gate is installed. Attached to the fenced enclosure on the north edge of the pen is a c. 1972 animal barn. The barn is a low metal structure with a side-gabled metal roof.



Tennis Court (3f) – The tennis court is situated about 175 feet west of the runway, along the east bank of Barons Creek. It has a clay court surface, a chain-link perimeter fence, and tall light standards. A shade structure and equipment shed are situated just outside the fence.

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Airplane Runway (3g) – The concrete runway is approximately 30 feet wide and 1,535 feet long. It runs roughly north-south. To the north, it connects to a concrete apron and taxiways that lead to the main hangar. At the south, the runway widens into a curved shape to allow for a plane’s turning radius.



Airplane Hangar (3h) – This is a secondary hangar building located approximately 100 feet west of the runway. It has a small concrete apron in front but is not connected to the runway via a taxiway. It is a metal building with an open south elevation and steel trusses.



Cattle Pens (3i) – The cattle pens are located in the northwest corner of the large pasture that lies east of the runway. The pens consist of metal pole fencing with wire mesh, with interior fencing and gates to allow splitting the pen into two rectangular sections. A metal shade roof covers a corner of the pen, and water troughs are located both inside and outside of the pens.



Airplane Hangar (3j) – This is the main hangar building that is situated adjacent to the apron and taxiways. It is a metal building with a broad front-gabled roof and hangar doors on the south elevation. Along the west elevation is a shed-roofed section containing a garage door and pedestrian entrance. The metal roof is punctuated with three large vents along the ridge.

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Parcel 2 / Map 4 – George Franz Stehling Homestead, c. 1852



Parcel 2 / Map 4 Resources

#	Property Type	Resource	Date(s)	Roof form/ Plan Type	Exterior Materials	Status
4a	Structure	Airplane Runway	c. 1972	Flat/Linear	Concrete	NC
4b	Building	Barn	c. 1972	Gambrel	Wood	C

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Parcel 2 / Map 4 Descriptions

This map depicts the barn that is in a wooded area along U.S. 87, at the east edge of the George Franz Stehling fields described above.



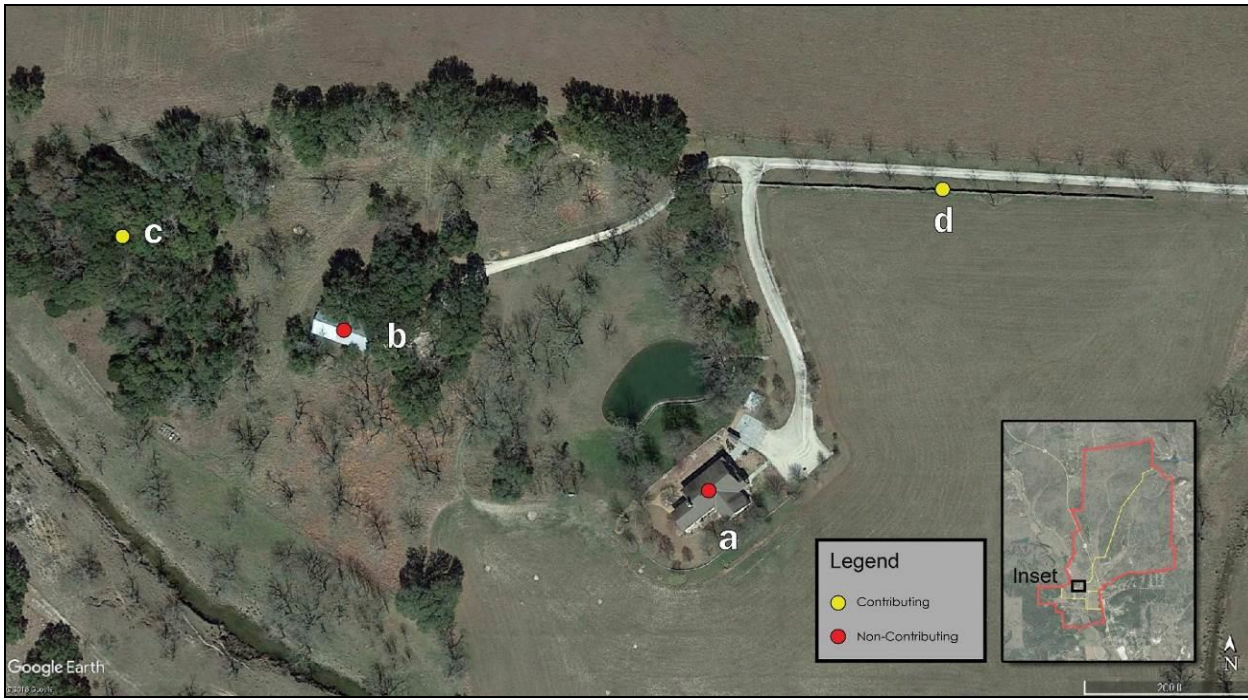
Airplane Runway (4a) – The runway is depicted on Map 4 also. See Map 3 section for description.



Barn (4b) – This barn is situated approximately 215 feet west of Hwy. 87 and several feet N/NE of the pond. It is situated in a thick stand of trees and cannot be seen from the highway. The barn is two stories in height with a metal-clad gambrel roof. The first floor consists of half-timbered limestone rubble walls, while the second floor has framed, vertical-plank walls. The main entrance on the west elevation has wide wood-plank doors both in the center of the first floor and the center of the upper floor for hayloft access. Shed-roofed wings extend from the building on both side elevations, creating open covered areas for equipment storage

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Parcel 3 / Map 5 – Amandus Stehling Homestead, c. 1852



Parcel 3 / Map 5 Resources

#	Property Type	Resource	Date(s)	Roof form/ Plan Type	Exterior Materials	Status
5a	Building	Single Dwelling	1995	Cross gable	Stone	NC
5b	Building	Workshop	2014	Front gable	T-111	NC
5c	Structure	Stone Fence	c. 1860	Linear	Stone	C
5d	Structure	Stone Fence	c. 1860	Linear	Stone	C

Parcel 3 / Map 5 Descriptions

This small building cluster consists of a modern house and workshop situated on the east side of Barons Creek. Its entrance drive begins at Old Mason Road and heads southwest and west along a border of trees until branching south to reach the house and a small pond, and west to reach the workshop. A historic stone fence is near the drive, and another is in the trees west of the workshop. South of the house is the cultivated field located across the creek from the George Franz Stehling Homestead. North of the cluster and entrance drive is a 47-acre cultivated field that runs alongside Old Mason Road.

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Single Dwelling (5a) – This resource is a one-story, non-historic, single family home. It has limestone-clad walls and a broad cross-gabled roof with a single limestone chimney. The inset, L-shaped front porch is supported by square wood posts. A second inset porch is located along the side elevation.



Workshop (5b) – The workshop is a non-historic building on a concrete foundation. The front-gabled roof is clad in corrugated metal and the walls are T-111 vertical siding. The building's different elevations contain garage doors, horizontal sliding windows, and a single pedestrian entry door.



Stone Fence (5c) – This stacked limestone fence runs for approximately 530 feet. It is located just south of, and alongside, the entrance drive that approaches this building cluster. The fence height varies from about four and a half to five and a half feet high, and contains multiple courses of flat, stacked limestone stones. Along the top of the fence are larger stones laid vertically at a 45-degree angle. The fence is well-maintained and is in good condition.



Stone Fence (5d) – This stacked limestone fence remnant is located in a wooded area northwest of the house and workshop. It has multiple courses and is topped with a cap of flat stones. The fence is approximately three and a half feet high and 100 feet long, with collapsed, overgrown sections at each end.

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Parcel 3 / Map 6 – Amandus Stehling Homestead, c. 1852



Parcel 3 / Map 6 Resources

#	Property Type	Resource	Date(s)	Roof form/ Plan Type	Exterior Materials	Status
6a	Building	Single Dwelling	c. 1890	Cross gable	Stone	C
6b	Building	Tank House	c. 1890	Square	Stone; Concrete	C
6c	Building	Kitchen/Blacksmith	c. 1860s/1920	Side gable	Wood; Stone	C
6d	Structure	Well & Windmill	c. 1860/1920	Truss tower	Metal; Stone	C
6e	Building	Garage & Workshop	c. 1940	Front gable	Metal	C
6f	Structure	Stone Fence & Shed	c. 1860/1928	Shed; Linear	Stone; Metal	C
6g	Building	Barn	1880s/1930s	Front gable	Wood; Stone	C
6h	Building	Sheep Shed	c. 1955	Front gable	Wood	NC
6i	Building	Single Dwelling	1998	Cross gable	Stone	NC
6j	Building	Barn/Guest House	1920/1989	Front gable	Wood	NC
6k	Building	Shed	2004	Front gable	T-111	NC
6l	Building	Barn/Dwelling	c. 1980	Front gable	Metal	NC
6m	Building	Horse Shelter	c. 1980	Front gable	Wood	NC
6n	Structure	Stone Fence	c. 1860	Linear/T-shape	Stone	C

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6o	Structure	Stone Fence	c. 1980	Linear	Stone	NC
6p	Structure	Stone Fence	c. 1860	Linear	Stone	C
6q	Structure	Gas Pump	1930	Cylindrical	Metal; Glass	C

Parcel 3 / Map 6 Descriptions

This building cluster is the c. 1852 Amandus Stehling Homestead, a dense collection of historic and non-historic resources. Historically the cluster was accessed via a driveway off Old Mason Road. That dirt driveway is still used to reach the c. 1890 house. The drive meets Old Mason Road at the point where its road segment was abandoned near the intersection with U.S. 87 (see Map 7). A stone fence at this entrance demarcates the north edge of a 1.8-acre field that lies between the building cluster and the highway. A second, paved drive 570 feet to the south begins at the highway and runs west into the cluster to access some of its newer resources. The homestead is surrounded by cultivated fields that stretch east to Highway 87, south to the George Franz Stehling Homestead driveway near the airplane hangar (Map 3), east toward the field near the 1995 house (Map 4), and north to Old Mason Road.

Several historic resources built between about 1860 and 1940 are grouped around a dirt parking area at the end of the original driveway: the historic house, tank house, kitchen/blacksmith shop, well and windmill, garage/workshop, a stone fence and livestock shed, a barn, a sheep shed, a gas pump, and a short section of stone fence. Immediately west of this historic core is the c. 1980 horse shelter and barn/living quarters, and nearby to the south is the modern paved driveway, 1998 residence, converted barn, shed, and a non-historic stone fence.



Single Dwelling (6a) – This resource is a two-story house with coursed ashlar walls and a standing seam metal roof. The original house volume is side-gabled, with a rectangular footprint oriented east-west. A wide front-gabled ell extends north from the west end of the original volume. A shed-roofed porch with non-historic posts is situated in the crook of the L created by this addition. Under the porch, the east wall of the ell addition is stucco instead of limestone. The east wall contains a wood entry door with sidelights and one 4/4 double-hung window on the first floor, and two smaller 2/2 windows on the second floor. The south porch wall is the north wall of the original limestone house volume. It contains one wood entry door on the first floor and one window on the second floor. The east end of the original volume has two 4/4 windows on each floor and a small stone chimney at the roof ridge. The north end of the north ell volume has one 4/4 window on each floor. All window openings have thick stone lintels. Two gabled additions extend from the house, one from the south façade of the original volume and the other from the west side of the ell addition. Both additions are framed, with horizontal wood siding.

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Tank House (6b) – The tank house is a small one-story building with a tank extending from its roof. The building has thick coursed limestone walls approximately seven feet in height and a flat concrete roof. It has a single entrance door in its west elevation and one 4/4 double-hung window in the north and south elevations. The cylindrical tank is made from poured concrete and is about seven and a half feet tall.



Kitchen/Blacksmith Shop (6c) – This resource was a c. 1860-1870 kitchen with an open stone hearth that was converted to a blacksmith shop in c. 1920. It is a dog trot building with one c. 1880 limestone volume and one c. 1920 board and batten volume under the same gabled roof, with an open passageway in the middle. The frame volume has a limestone chimney. The roof is clad in corrugated metal and the gable ends each have vertical plank siding. A low stone retaining wall runs along the east side of the building.



Well & Windmill (6d) – The well and windmill are located immediately south of the house. The windmill is a c. 1920 Aermotor with metal truss tower, fan, and vane. Originally built by Amandus Stehling c. 1860, the well is hand-dug, approximately 40 feet deep and four feet in diameter, and is lined with limestone blocks.



Garage/Workshop (6e) – This resource is a framed, front-gabled garage with wood plank walls, a metal roof, and broad sliding garage doors clad in corrugated metal. A concrete parking pad is in front. Attached to it is an almost identical but smaller volume. Adjacent to the smaller volume is a modern shed that completes the workshop grouping.

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Stone Fence/Livestock Shed (6f) – This historic stacked stone fence is five and a half to six feet tall and 75 feet long. A shallow animal shed is built onto the south side of the fence. The shed is about 37 feet long and is wood-framed, with a corrugated metal roof. It has wire mesh between the support posts in front, and it utilizes the stone fence as its rear wall.



Barn (6g) – This resource is a c. 1930 two-story barn with a footprint measuring roughly 32 feet across and 50 feet long. It is a frame building built onto c. 1880s limestone fences that were converted to function as the walls and foundation of the barn. The frame walls are clad with wide vertical wood plank walls, many of which are covered by corrugated metal panels. The south elevation is open along its lower level, with several support posts visible. The north elevation is enclosed with limestone walls along its lower level. A boarded-up pedestrian entry door and a window opening with a hinged wood cover are located within the limestone wall. The limestone wall continues along the west elevation. The upper section of wall on the south, north, and west elevations are windowless. The east elevation lacks corrugated metal panels, so the wood siding is visible. This elevation does not have limestone at the lower level. It is open across 2/3 of its length. On the second level, the east elevation has two large sliding doors that roll on a track. The doors are made from the same wide vertical planks. The 1930s barn replaced an older barn on the site that burned.



Sheep Shed (6h) – The sheep shed is an open, gabled shade structure similar to a carport. It is situated along the 70-foot, intersecting section of stone wall found at the midway point of Resource 6n. The wall encloses the shed along its north and west sides, creating a sheltered enclosure. The addition of the metal carport structure detracts from the historic character of the shed.



Single Dwelling (6i) – This modern house has an L-shaped plan with a front ell, limestone walls, a partial-width inset porch, an entrance door with sidelights and transom, and a metal roof.

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Barn/Guest House (6j) – This resource is a small c. 1920 oat storage barn that was converted to a guest house in 1989. It is 1.5 stories in height, with board and batten walls and a limestone partial-height basement. The east elevation has been converted to a pedestrian entrance with a shed-roofed porch and limestone porch floor. A staircase, lower deck, and upper balcony were added to the west elevation.



Shed (6k) – The shed is a non-historic, front-gabled building with aluminum windows and an inset front porch.



Barn/Living Quarters (6l) – This non-historic building is a prefabricated metal barn with a front-gabled roof with shed-roofed overhang along one side. The front elevation faces south and has a shed-roofed porch and entrance doors. Small aluminum windows are located around the building.



Horse Shelter (6m) – The horse shelter is a small shed-roofed, frame building that is open along one wall.

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Stone Fence (6n) – This stacked limestone fence is located just west of the c. 1880/1930 barn (6g). It runs north-south for approximately 165 feet to the intersection with a modern fence (6o). It is approximately five feet tall and contains uncoursed limestone blocks of varying sizes. At the approximate center of the wall is perpendicular, intersecting section of wall that extends about 70 feet to the east past the modern sheep shed (6h).



Stone Fence (6o) – This non-historic stacked limestone fence is located south of the sheep shed and runs east-west for approximately 160 feet. It is approximately five feet tall and has stones of more uniform sizes laid in rough courses.



Stone Fence (6p) – This uncoursed limestone fence is located near Highway 87 along the northwest edge of a pasture. The primary run is about 170 feet long, and it has short sections branching off of it at each end.



Gas Pump (6q) – The gas pump is a metal “visual pump” style unit about seven feet tall. It has a cylindrical base sitting on a square concrete pad, a tapered pole-like body, and a glass fuel cylinder on top.

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Parcel 3 / Map 7 – Amandus Stehling Homestead, c. 1852



Parcel 3 / Map 7 Resources

#	Property Type	Resource	Date(s)	Roof form/ Plan Type	Exterior Materials	Status
7a	Structure	Bridge	c. 1935	Slab	Concrete	C
7b	Structure	Old Mason Road	c. 1857	Linear	Gravel	C
7c	Structure	Fence; Dipping Vat	1860s/c.1930	Linear	Stone; Concrete	C
7d	Building	Hunting Cabin	c. 1955	Side gable	Concrete block	C
7e	Building	Garage	c. 2000	Gambrel	T-111	NC

Parcel 3 / Map 7 Descriptions

This map depicts the area where Old Mason Road intersects with U.S. Highway 87. Old Mason Road branches off U.S. 87 to the northwest, where it soon crosses a c. 1935 concrete bridge built by the WPA. Originally Mason Road also continued to the southeast in a gentle curve, but that section was abandoned at the point where the highway intersects. Now the abandoned highway segment functions as a ranch road until it reaches the district boundary. Other ranch roads intersect here as well, including the driveway on the west that leads to the Amandus Stehling Homestead (Map 6), the primary ranch road that leads northeast deep into the district, and two smaller two-track roads that access grazing land. A historic-age hunting cabin and historic stone fence and pens are found along one of the two-track roads east of the highway.

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Bridge (7a) – This bridge is located on Old Mason Road over an unnamed intermittent creek. Built under the WPA, it is a concrete slab bridge supported by concrete abutments and multiple box cells or blade-like piers. Along each side of the bridge deck is a blocky railing with cast concrete posts and rails. The bridge is approximately 65 feet long. The road segment at the bridge is asphalt, with narrow dirt shoulders.



Old Mason Road Segment (7b) – East of Highway 87 is an abandoned segment of Old Mason Road that traverses a portion of the district. The road appears on an 1857 map of Gillespie County. The segment begins at the highway and curves south/southeast for about 0.15 miles. It is primarily limestone gravel overgrown with grass, plus some remnants of asphalt. The section of Old Mason Road that remains in use lies west of the highway. It runs north/northwest about 0.65 miles through the district before continuing about four more miles and reconnects with the highway. This section is also gravel with narrow shoulders but is well-maintained.



Stone Fence & Pens Ruins (7c) – The abandoned pens are located near Highway 87 at a cluster of oak trees. The pens consist of a stacked stone fence that is about 35 feet long and three feet tall, plus a nearby concrete dipping vat used to rid cattle of ticks.



Hunting Cabin (7d) – The hunting cabin is a small Minimal Ranch style building with concrete block walls, a side-gabled metal roof with an eave overhang, and steel casement windows flanking a single, centered entrance door. A small wood porch was added to the front elevation.

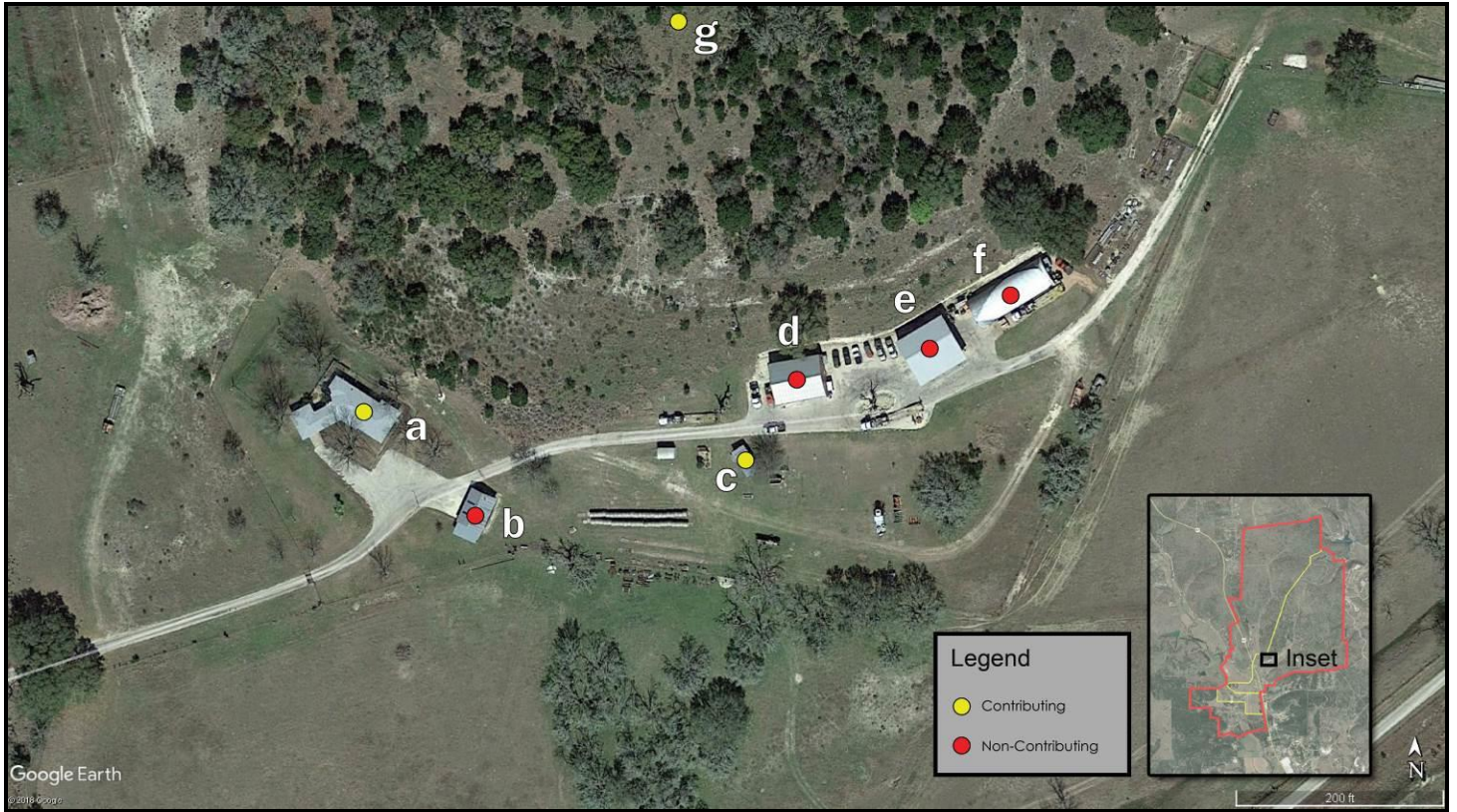
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Garage (7e) – Behind the hunting cabin is a modern, prefabricated, shed-type garage with a gambrel roof, T-111 type pressed wood siding, and an overhead garage door punctuated with four narrow lights along the top.

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Parcel 3 / Map 8 – Amandus Stehling Homestead, c. 1852



Parcel 3 / Map 8 Resources

#	Property Type	Resource	Date(s)	Roof Form/Plan Type	Exterior Materials	Status
8a	Building	Single Dwelling	1965	Hip	Stone	C
8b	Building	Workshop/Garage	1977	Side gable	Concrete block	NC
8c	Building	Barn	c. 1970	Shed	Metal	C
8d	Building	Barn	2003	Side gable	Metal	NC
8e	Building	Equipment Shed	2003	Side gable	Metal	NC
8f	Building	Greenhouse	2003	Barrel vault	Metal; Plastic	NC
8g	Structure	Stone Fence	c. 1870	Linear	Stone	C

Parcel 3 / Map 8 Descriptions

This building cluster is located east of Highway 87. It is accessed by a concrete driveway that runs northeast from the highway for about 800 feet before reaching the group of buildings. The cluster consists of a house and garage situated across the driveway from each other, and two barns, a shed, a greenhouse, and equipment parking pads a short distance to the east. The cluster sits at the base of a wooded hill that rises to the north. Atop the hill is a historic stone fence. To the

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south and west are grazing pastures. The driveway turns into a two-track dirt road and continues past the cluster to the northwest, curving around the base of the hill before reaching a historic dam and pond (Map 10).



Single Dwelling (8a) – This resource is a hip-roofed Ranch style house with random ashlar limestone walls, a small inset stoop entrance, and a limestone chimney. A second hip roof extends from the corner of the house at about a 45-degree angle. At the end of this roof is a one-car garage with an original garage door. Under the roof between the garage and the house is an open breezeway.



Workshop/Garage (8b) – This garage is a side-gabled concrete block building with a metal roof, two roll-up garage bay doors, and a single pedestrian entrance. A shed-roofed porch roof extends from its south side elevation, and a concrete driveway with limestone retaining wall leads to the garage doors.



Barn (8c) – This small barn has a low-pitched shed roof and corrugated metal walls. It is open on its southeast end to allow equipment storage.



Barn (8d) – This resource is a large, prefabricated metal barn with a gable roof.

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Equipment Shed (8e) – This resource is a prefabricated metal building with a very low-pitched gable roof and a deeply inset open storage area supported by metal posts.



Greenhouse (8f) – The greenhouse is a “high tunnel” style structure with metal ribs and a clear plastic exterior.



Stone Fence (8g) – The limestone fence in this cluster is approximately 820 feet in length and about three feet tall. It runs roughly east-west and travels up a small hill.

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Parcel 3 / Map 9 – Amandus Stehling Homestead, c. 1852



Parcel 3 / Map 9 Resources

#	Property Type	Resource	Date(s)	Roof form/ Plan Type	Exterior Materials	Status
9a	Building	Single Dwelling	1987	Cross gable	Stone	NC
9b	Structure	Swimming Pool	1990	Circular	Plastic; Wood	NC
9c	Building	Garage	1989	Shed	Metal	NC
9d	Building	Garage/Equipment	1989	Shed	Metal	NC
9e	Building	Party House	2007	Front gable	Metal	NC

Parcel 3 / Map 9 Descriptions

This map depicts another non-historic building cluster located east of Highway 87. This group of buildings is accessed by a driveway off the primary ranch road. The resources in this grouping include a modern house, swimming pool, garages, and a secondary dwelling and gathering place nicknamed the “party house.” The driveway passes through the cluster, then widens to become a parking area and vehicle turnaround point. The buildings are surrounded by undeveloped, wooded land, and a hill rises to the east. A two-track dirt road winds around this hill to the east, and a 0.2-mile two-track road heads north to a 2017 building (10j).

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Single Dwelling (9a) – This house has a roughly T-shaped plan with two ells of uneven size. The walls are clad in both limestone veneer and stucco, and the roof is metal. The house has two chimneys and an inset side porch.



Swimming Pool (9b) – This resource is a modern above-ground swimming pool with a wooden deck and adjacent pool equipment storage shed.



Garage (9c) – The garage is a narrow metal building with a low-pitched shed roof. A shed-roofed parking canopy extends from one side of the building.



Garage/Equipment Storage (9d) - This resource is a long metal building with a low-pitched shed roof and a roughly P-shaped footprint. At the southeastern end of the building is a bank of windows and a concrete deck.

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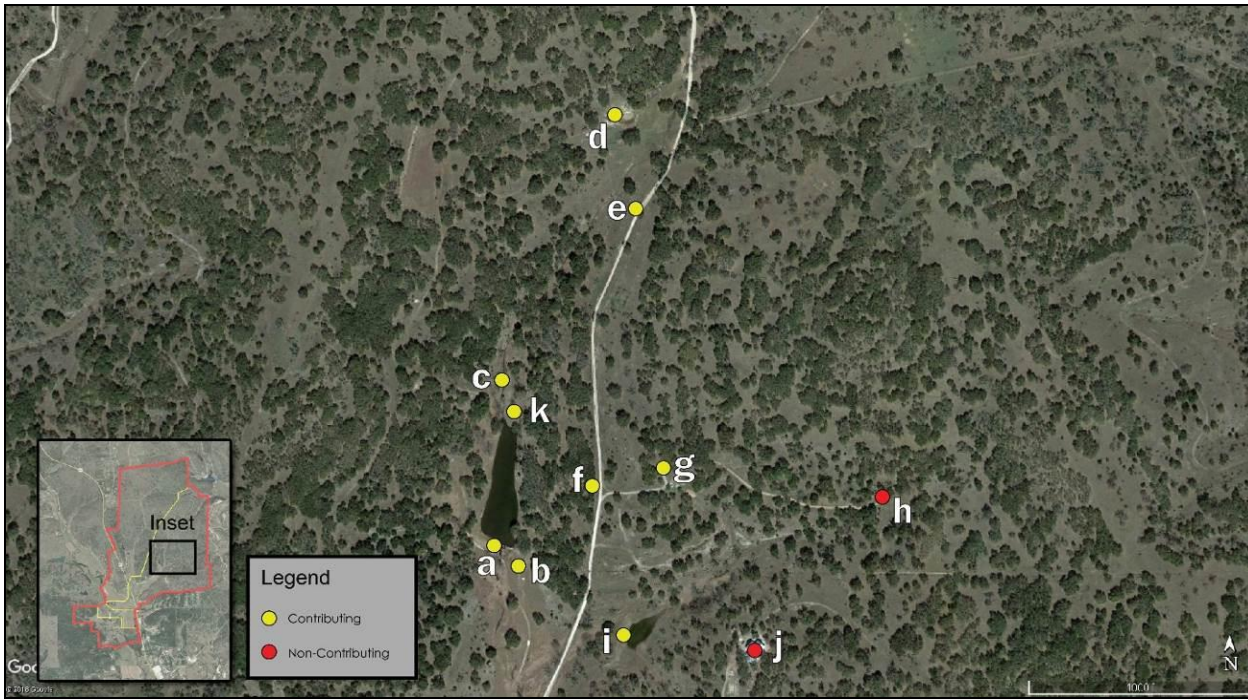
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Party House (9e) - The party house is a metal front-gabled building with an inset entry porch and a large shed-roofed side porch.

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Parcel 3 / Map 10 – Amandus Stehling Homestead, c. 1852



Parcel 3 / Map 10 Resources

#	Property Type	Resource	Date(s)	Roof form/ Plan Type	Exterior Materials	Status
10a	Structure	Dam & Pond	c. 1937	Linear	Concrete	C
10b	Structure	Well & Trough	c. 1940	Rectangular	Concrete	C
10c	Structure	Trough	c. 1940	Rectangular	Concrete	C
10d	Building	Barn	c. 1950	Side gable	Metal	C
10e	Structure	Trough	c. 1940	Rectangular	Concrete	C
10f	Structure	Stone fence	c. 1860	Linear	Stone	C
10g	Structure	Well	c. 1950	Pipes	Metal	C
10h	Building	Wildlife Shelter	c. 1960	Shed	Metal	NC
10i	Structure	Dam & Pond	c. 1930	Linear	Earth	C
10j	Building	Barn/Living Quarters	2017	Cross gable	Stucco	NC
10k	Site	Picnic Area	1930s/1950s	Irregular	Stone, Concrete	C

Parcel 3 / Map 10 Descriptions

Map 10 shows resources that are between 0.75 and 1.2 miles northwest of U.S. 87 along the primary ranch road. The road passes the agricultural fields associated with the cluster in Map 8 and the turnoff for the non-historic cluster in Map 9. As

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it continues northeast into the ranch, the road passes historic ranch resources including two manmade ponds with dams, wells, spring-fed troughs, a barn, and a stone fence. Also shown on this map is a 2017 building (10j) associated with the cluster in Map 9, and a two-track road that accesses a non-historic wildlife shelter. The acreage in this section is wooded, with gently rolling hills. Immediately north/northeast of the largest pond (10a) is a picnic area established by the 1930s and still used by family members.



Concrete Dam & Pond (10a) – This board-form concrete dam has a subtle zig-zag footprint. It is about 25 feet tall and approximately 90 feet long along its crest. The dam has earthen and concrete abutments at each end and three fin-like buttresses on the downstream side. The pond created by the dam is teardrop-shaped and a little over an acre in size.



Well and Trough (10b) – Near the concrete dam is a well and rectangular concrete trough. The trough has walls that extend several inches above grade. It is still in use. The windmill that was once present is no longer extant. The windmill anchor points remain.



Spring-Fed Trough (10c) – This resource is a shallow spring-fed water trough located just north of the pond. The trough is rectangular, with concrete walls set partially into the ground. The trough extends only a few inches above grade.



Barn (10d) – This small barn has corrugated metal siding and a low-pitched gable roof. One side is open, with wood fencing or gates creating an enclosure.

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Spring-Fed Trough (10e) – This spring-fed trough is a rectangular concrete structure with side walls rising only a few inches above grade. The trough has a concrete rail above it to prevent cattle from walking into the basin.



Stone Fence (10f) – This long fence stretches about 1,200 feet along the edge of the primary ranch road near the dam and pond (10a). It consists of flat limestone blocks of relatively uniform size, with a cap of blocks stacked against one another at 45-degree angles. The fence is approximately five feet tall.



Well (10g) – The well includes an above-ground wellhead, an electrical box supplying power to the pump, a metal water tank, and a plywood well cover.



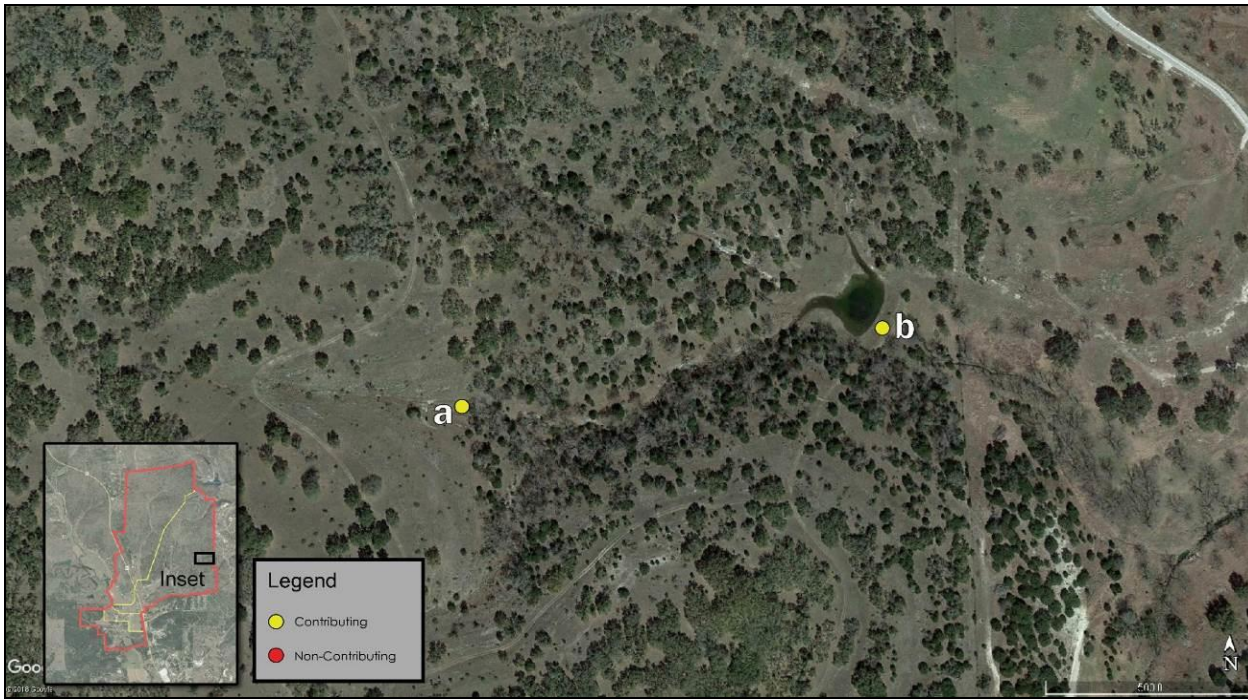
Wildlife Shelter (10h) – The wildlife shelter is a small metal barn with a shed roof. It is open along one side.

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 <p>0</p>	<p><u>Earthen Dam & Pond (10i)</u> – This resource is a small earthen embankment dam. It creates a small pond approximately 1/4 acre in size.</p>
	<p><u>Barn/Living Quarters (10j)</u> – This resource is a cross-gabled building with a T-shaped footprint, stucco walls, a metal roof, and a wide gabled porch.</p>
	<p><u>Picnic Area (10k)</u> – This resource is a grassy picnic area situated at the north end of the larger pond (10a). The west edge of the picnic area is delineated by a stone-lined canal that channels spring water from the spring at Resource 10c past the picnic area to the pond (10a). Over the canal is a bridge built in the 1950s from a steel I-beam that was shaped and welded by a family member. Near the bridge are stone steps leading into the canal. Early recreation elements dating to the 1930s and 1940s include a stone fire pit and barbecue pit. The picnic area is situated several feet above the pond's water level and a curved board-form concrete wall serves as a terrace. A metal ladder along this wall provides access to the pond for swimming.</p>

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Parcel 3 / Map 11 – Amandus Stehling Homestead, c. 1852



Parcel 3 / Map 11 Resources

#	Property Type	Resource	Date(s)	Roof form/ Plan Type	Exterior Materials	Status
11a	Structure	Trough	c. 1930	Rectangular	Concrete	C
11b	Structure	Dam & Pond	c. 1950	Linear	Earth	C

Parcel 3 / Map 11 Descriptions

This map shows a section of the ranch at the district’s east boundary. The acreage here is hilly, with small creek ravines and clusters of dense trees. A small pond is located along the eastern district boundary. It is fed by a spring 0.2 miles to the west whose water runs down one of the small ravines. The spring was improved by the construction of a concrete trough. Two-track dirt roads in this area provide access to the pond, spring, property boundary, and points north.

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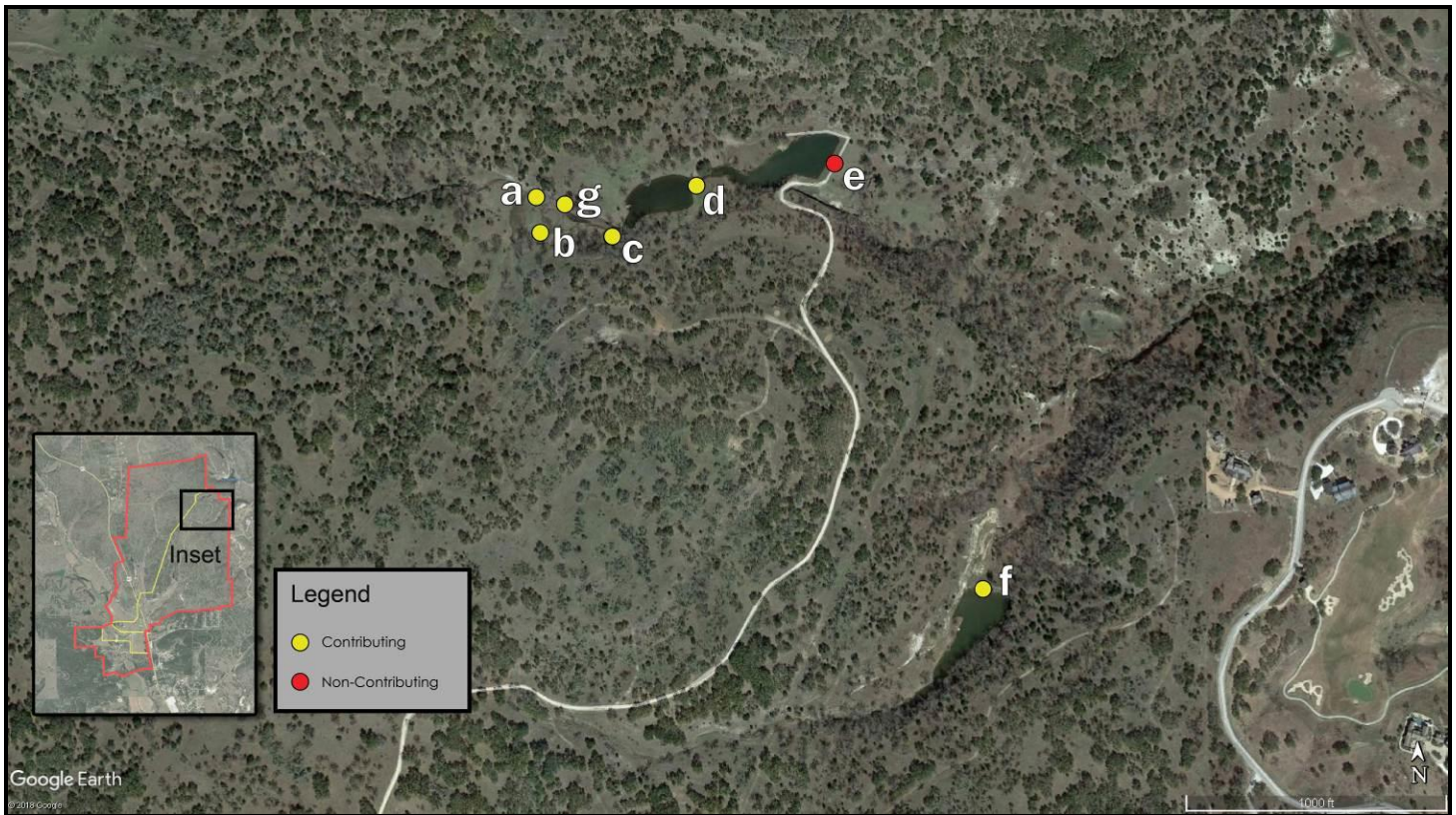
Spring-Fed Trough (11a) – This spring-fed trough is a rectangular concrete structure with side walls rising only a few inches above grade. The trough has a concrete rail above it to prevent cattle from walking into the basin.



Earthen Dam & Pond (11b) – This resource is a small earthen embankment dam located at the eastern edge of the district. It creates a small pond approximately 1/3 acre in size.

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Parcel 3 / Map 12 – Amandus Stehling Homestead, c. 1852



Parcel 3 / Map 12 Resources

#	Property Type	Resource	Date(s)	Roof form/ Plan Type	Exterior Materials	Status
12a	Structure	Dam	c. 1930	Linear	Concrete	C
12b	Structure	Trough	c. 1930	Rectangular	Concrete	C
12c	Structure	Stone Fence	c. 1860	Linear	Stone	C
12d	Structure	Dam & Pond	c. 1930	Linear	Concrete	C
12e	Structure	Dam & Pond	c. 1995	Linear	Earth	NC
12f	Structure	Dam & Pond	c. 1970	Linear	Earth	C
12g	Structure	Developed Spring	c. 1930	Rectangular	Concrete	C

Parcel 3 / Map 12 Descriptions

Map 12 includes resources found near the district’s northeast corner at the end of the primary ranch road. The road meanders northwest, following the terrain past grazing areas and clusters of trees, and curving east along the base of a small hill before descending a limestone escarpment. At the escarpment is a series of three dams and two spring-fed, man-made ponds, with the downstream pond at the east where the road crosses an earthen embankment dam. The spring that

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feeds the ponds is some distance up a small ravine to the east. The first dam in the series is a concrete dam that is not in use (12a). Next is a pond created by another concrete dam, followed by a larger pond created by the earthen dam at the road's terminus. The ponds are used for recreation, with small fishing and picnic piers at their banks. About a third of a mile southeast of these ponds is a non-historic dam and pond situated along a limestone outcropping in a deep depression near the district's east boundary.



Concrete Dam (12a) – This board-form concrete dam is about 25 feet tall and approximately 55 feet long along its crest. The dam has three fin-like buttresses on the downstream side. It is not currently in use.



Spring-Fed Trough (12b) – This spring-fed trough is a rectangular concrete structure with side walls rising only a few inches above grade. The trough had a concrete rail above it, but the rail broke near its center point and collapsed into the basin.



Stone Fence (12c) – This stacked limestone fence is located at the edge of some small trees near one of the ponds. The fence is two to three feet tall in sections, and has collapsed in other sections. Its total length is approximately 100 feet.



Concrete Dam & Pond (12d) – This board-form concrete dam is about 25 feet tall and approximately 85 feet long along its crest. The dam has earthen and concrete abutments at each end and one fin-like buttress on its downstream side. The pond created by the dam is 3/4 acres in size and has a wood fishing pier at its west bank.

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Earthen Dam & Pond (12e) – This resource is a U-shaped earthen dam that measures 200 feet across its crest and has a 125-foot wide embankment at its downstream slope. Earthen “arms” extend about 100 feet along the upstream side and define the eastern edges of the pond. The pond is one acre in size and has a wide, deeper section near the dam and a narrow, curved section at its inlet on the west. At the pond’s northwest bank is a masonry picnic pier with a fire pit. An access road approaches the pond from the south, curves around a small limestone escarpment, crosses the dam’s crest, and loops around the north bank to provide access to the picnic terrace.



Earthen Dam & Pond (12f) – This earthen dam measures about 155 feet across its crest, with a 35-foot downstream embankment. The pond created by the dam is approximately one acre in size.



Developed Spring (12g) – This developed spring consists of a flat concrete pad with a rectangular depression in the center of it. The spring water wells up into the depression, which can then serve as a trough.

Klein Frankreich Rural Historic District, Fredericksburg vicinity, Gillespie County, Texas

Parcel 4 / Map 13 – Amandus Stehling Homestead, c. 1852



Parcel 4 / Map 13 Resources

#	Property Type	Resource	Date(s)	Roof form/ Plan Type	Exterior Materials	Status
13a	Building	Single Dwelling	1921	Hip	Wood	C
13b	Building	Garage/Storage	1935	Hip	Metal	C
13c	Building	Barn	1972	Side gable	Metal	C
13d	Building	Barn	c. 1921	Shed	Wood	C
13e	Building	Barn	1928	Linear; Shed	Stone; Metal	C
13f	Building	Tenant House	1947	Side gable	Asbestos	C
13g	Structure	Trough & Pens	1942	Rectangular	Wood	C
13h	Structure	Silage Pit	1945	Linear	Concrete	C
13i	Structure	Silage Pit	1947	Linear	Concrete	C
13j	Building	Garage	c. 1935	Hip	Wood	C
13k	Building	Shed	1940s	Gable	Wood	C
13l	Building	Vehicle Barn	1947	Gable	Metal	C

Klein Frankreich Rural Historic District, Fredericksburg vicinity, Gillespie County, Texas

Parcel 4 / Map 13 Descriptions

This building cluster is a historic period homestead on the north side of Old Mason Road, just west of Highway 87, with driveway access from both roads. Immediately northwest of the building cluster is a wooded hill with a small two-track ranch road. Southeast of the cluster is a wedge-shaped piece of land created by the intersection of Old Mason Road and the highway. The wedge-shaped acreage contains fenced grazing pastures, scattered trees, and two historic silage pits. The house faces southwest toward Mason Road and is accessed by a narrow, paved driveway. Behind the house is a historic garage. The rest of the resources in the cluster are distributed along the base of the hill. To the east, a gravel drive leads into the cluster from Highway 87. It terminates in a circular drive near a barn, guest house, and cattle pens located northeast of the house. Northwest of the house are two barns.



Single Dwelling (13a) – This resource is a one-story 1921 Craftsman bungalow with narrow wood siding. The house has a rectangular footprint with a metal-clad hipped roof. The front elevation faces southwest, and has a full-width inset porch and a set of concrete steps with wrought iron railings. The porch has battered wood columns on wood bases, with a low wood porch wall between them. Above the porch is a front-gabled dormer with three small windows and simple eave brackets. The front door has a small transom window, and windows around the house are 1/1 wood double hung. The southeast side elevation has a small projecting wall volume with a hip roof and an intersecting side gable on the main roof. At the north rear corner of the house is a shed-roofed addition, and a carport that connects the house to a small hip-roofed garage.



Garage/Storage (13b) – This resource is a hip-roofed garage with a standing-seam metal roof and corrugated metal walls. It has a wide sliding garage door on its southwest elevation. It is situated about 45 feet northeast of the bungalow (13a).



Barn (13c) – This barn is a tall building with a side-gabled roof, rear shed-roofed addition, and corrugated metal walls and roof. Its south side elevation is open, with wood fencing or gates creating an interior enclosure. The open side is protected by a shed-roofed porch.

Klein Frankreich Rural Historic District, Fredericksburg vicinity, Gillespie County, Texas



Barn (13d) – This small barn has vertical plank walls, a low-pitched shed roof clad in corrugated metal, and an open, shed-roofed bay for access or storage.



Barn (13e) – This resource is a long, narrow barn about 115 feet in length. The barn consists of a main volume plus several smaller additions to the northeast and southwest side elevations. A six-foot-tall, stacked limestone wall creates much of the rear wall of the barn. The rest of the barn is framed, with a corrugated metal roof. The barn's southwest corner has a gabled addition with a pedestrian entry with concrete stoop and two small square wood windows. The cattle pens (13g) connect to the front of the barn.



Tenant House (13f) – The tenant house is used as a guest house and is a Minimal Traditional house with a rectangular footprint and side-gabled roof. The house has a side addition that elongates the footprint and roofline. The walls are clad in asbestos siding and the roof is standing seam metal with exposed rafter ends. On the front elevation of the original house volume is a single entry door with bracketed stoop roof and three wood 1/1 windows.



Trough & Cattle Pens (13g) – The cattle pens consist of two fenced enclosures plus additional fencing intended to direct livestock between a pasture and barn. The fences are made from wood posts and horizontal boards of varying sizes. At the southern edge of the pens is a livestock loading chute with a limestone and concrete base. A concrete trough is situated along a pasture fence line immediately east of the chute.

Klein Frankreich Rural Historic District, Fredericksburg vicinity, Gillespie County, Texas



Silage Pit (13h) – This silage pit is approximately 65 feet long and formed by two thick, board-formed concrete walls and a concrete floor arranged as a trench. One of the walls is slightly taller than the other and is canted slightly. It is no longer in use.



Silage Pit (13i) – This silage pit is approximately 55 feet long and is partially infilled with soil and grasses. It is made from two thick, board-formed concrete walls, one of which is slightly taller than the other and canted slightly. Although it is partially infilled, the resource is intact.



Garage (13j) – This historic hipped roof garage is located immediately behind the bungalow (13a). The garage has wood board and batten walls and a standing seam metal roof with a wide eave overhang. The garage is connected to the house by a carport.



Shed (13k) – This small front-gabled shed is located immediately north of the garage/storage resource (13b). The shed has a rectangular footprint, painted board siding, wood windows, and a gabled roof clad in metal.

Klein Frankreich Rural Historic District, Fredericksburg vicinity, Gillespie County, Texas



Vehicle Barn (131) – This shed is located between resources 13e and 13f. It is a front-gabled building with corrugated metal walls and roof. A sliding, hasp-hung barn door on the front elevation is supported by a rail that extends beyond the edge of the building.

Klein Frankreich Rural Historic District, Fredericksburg vicinity, Gillespie County, Texas

Parcel 4 / Map 14 – Amandus Stehling Homestead, c. 1852



Parcel 4 / Map 14 Resources

#	Property Type	Resource	Date(s)	Roof form/ Plan Type	Exterior Materials	Status
14a	Building	Single Dwelling	1974	Side gable	Stone	C
14b	Building	Well House	1974	Side gable	Metal	C
14c	Building	Workshop	1978	Side gable	Metal	NC
14d	Structure	Livestock Underpass	c. 1940	Flat arch	Concrete	C
14e	Structure	Ruins - Dwelling	c. 1852	Rectangular	Stone	C

Parcel 4 / Map 14 Descriptions

This map shows a late historic period building cluster located between Old Mason Road and Highway 87 at the district’s west boundary. A curving gravel driveway at the highway leads to a house, well house, and workshop situated around a circular drive and gravel parking areas. Map 14 also depicts a livestock underpass at Highway 87 and the ruins of a historic stone dwelling along Old Mason Road near Barons Creek.

Klein Frankreich Rural Historic District, Fredericksburg vicinity, Gillespie County, Texas



Single Dwelling (14a) – This resource is a Ranch style house with a “bent” footprint where the two ends intersect at approximately a 30-degree angle. A shallow inset porch is located at the inside angle. The walls are clad in limestone veneer, and a wide limestone chimney is located at the rear elevation. Two garage doors are found in the west side elevation.



Well House (14b) – The well house is a small rectangular building with metal walls and a roof. It has one door and no windows.



Workshop (14c) – The workshop is a barn-like building with metal walls and a low-pitched, gabled metal roof. It has an open, inset covered area at its east elevation.



Livestock Underpass (14d) – The livestock underpass is a tunnel under Hwy. 87. It has concrete abutments at each end, concrete tunnel walls about six or six and a half feet in height, and a thick concrete ceiling panel that functions like a lintel.

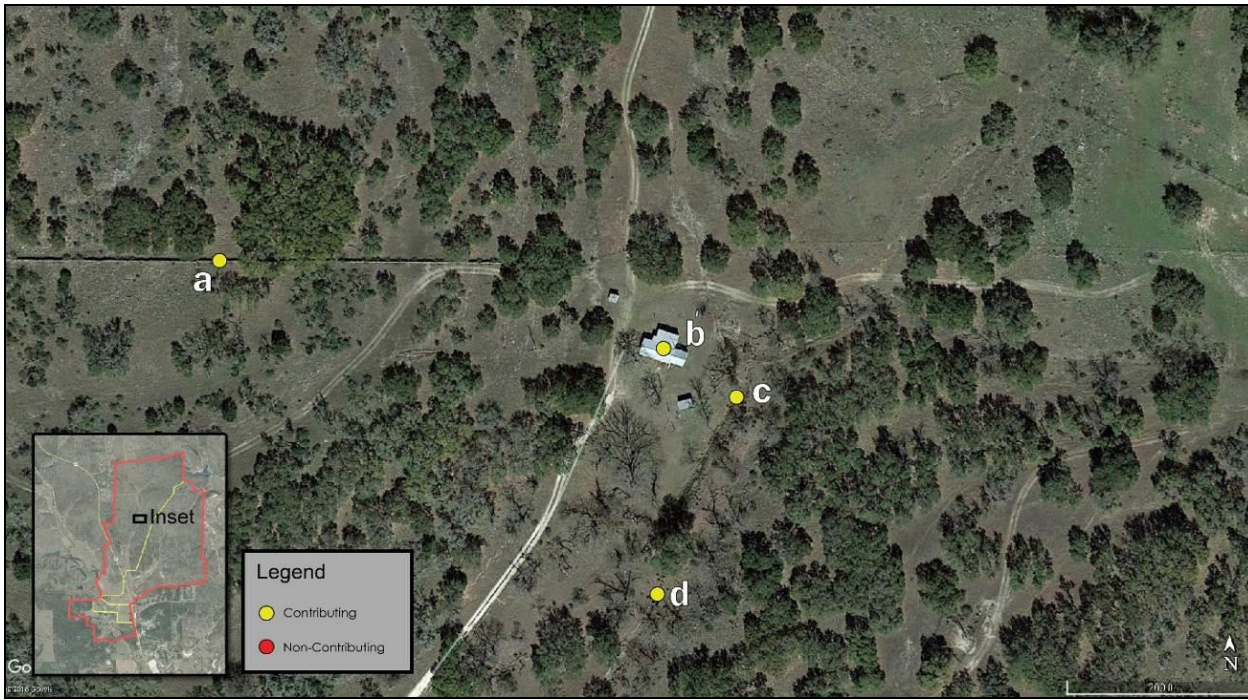
Klein Frankreich Rural Historic District, Fredericksburg vicinity, Gillespie County, Texas



Early Dwelling Ruins (14e) – This resource is the remains of a small building near Barons Creek. It is associated with the Henry Thiele family who lived here by 1850. Based on its size, it was likely a one-room dwelling. Four stacked limestone partial walls remain. Adjacent to the ruin is a low stacked limestone retaining wall about 40 feet in length.

Klein Frankreich Rural Historic District, Fredericksburg vicinity, Gillespie County, Texas

Parcel 4 / Map 15 – Amandus Stehling Homestead, c. 1852



Parcel 4 / Map 15 Resources

#	Property Type	Resource	Date(s)	Roof form/ Plan Type	Exterior Materials	Status
15a	Structure	Stone Fence	c. 1860	Linear	Stone	C
15b	Building	Camp House	1938	Side gable	Painted Boards	C
15c	Structure	Developed Spring	1936	Square	Concrete	C
15d	Structure	Trough	1937	Rectangular	Concrete	C

Parcel 4 / Map 15 Descriptions

This map depicts four historic resources located deep in the northern portion of the district, at the end of the secondary ranch road. The road leads northeast from Highway 87 for almost a mile, passing grazing areas and wooded hillsides before reaching a 1938 dwelling, spring, and spring-fed trough. Nearby is a historic stone fence. From the dwelling location, smaller two-track ranch roads branch out to the west, north, and east to reach grazing areas and fence lines.

Klein Frankreich Rural Historic District, Fredericksburg vicinity, Gillespie County, Texas



Stone Fence (15a) – This stone fence is the longest in the district at approximately 1,550 feet. About 450 feet of fence in the center section is in a ruinous or semi-ruinous state, but the fence is intact at each end. It is almost five feet high, and contains multiple courses of flat, stacked limestone stones. Along the top of the fence are larger stones laid vertically at a 45-degree angle.



Camp House (15b) – The camp house is used as a hunting cabin and is located at the end of the secondary ranch road near a spring and small creek. It is a side-gabled residence with painted board walls, some of which are covered with corrugated metal. The original volume has a shed-roofed porch and a ribbon window consisting of six divided-light windows. An addition on the east side has a slightly lower roof height.



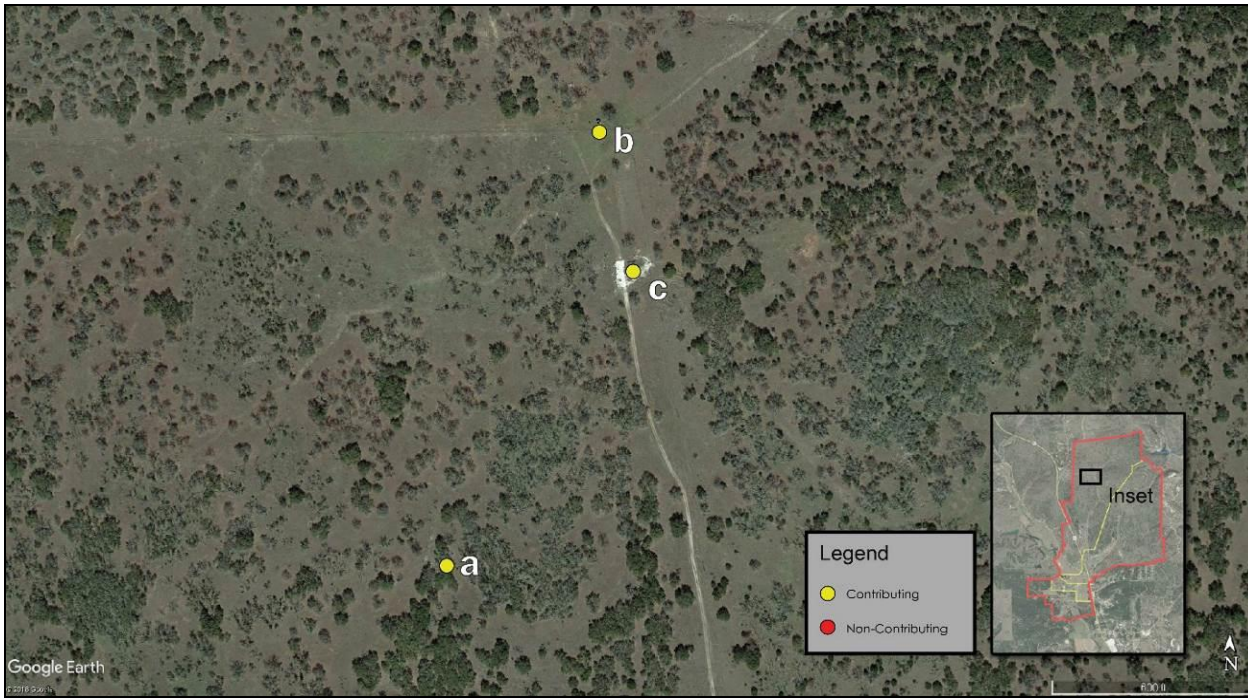
Developed Spring (15c) – This spring has been improved by the installation of a poured concrete structure. The structure has a square footprint and a cylindrical hole in its center. It directs the spring water into the cylindrical hole to keep it separate from the surrounding mud. The structure extends about a foot above the water level.



Spring-Fed Trough (15d) – This trough is located a short distance downstream from the developed spring. The trough is a rectangular, poured concrete structure that extends a few inches above grade.

Klein Frankreich Rural Historic District, Fredericksburg vicinity, Gillespie County, Texas

Parcel 4 / Map 16 – Amandus Stehling Homestead, c. 1852





Parcel 4 / Map 16 Resources

#	Property Type	Resource	Date(s)	Roof form/ Plan Type	Exterior Materials	Status
16a	Structure	Spring & Trough	1930	Rectangular	Concrete	C
16b	Structure	Well & Windmill	1951	Truss tower	Metal	C
16c	Structure	Corrals	c. 1980s	Irregular	Metal	NC

Parcel 4 / Map 16 Descriptions

This map also depicts an area in the northern portion of the ranch. A half mile north of the camp house (15b) along a two-track dirt road is an intersection of fence lines. Here the land is somewhat level, and the land has been cleared of trees to accommodate fence lines running west, south, and northeast. At the intersection of fences is a well with a windmill, water tank, and trough. Approximately 380 feet to the south along the two-track road is a corral. Nearby in some trees is a developed spring.

Klein Frankreich Rural Historic District, Fredericksburg vicinity, Gillespie County, Texas

	<p><u>Developed Spring & Trough (16a)</u> – This resource is a trough built on top of a spring. The trough is a rectangular, poured concrete structure that extends a few inches above grade. It is partially filled with dirt and grass.</p>
	<p><u>Well, Windmill, Water Tank, & Trough (16b)</u> – This resource is a c. 1951 Aermotor windmill with a metal fan, vane, and truss tower that draws water from a well and delivers it to a trough and water tank. The trough is concrete and is situated under a fence line to provide water to two different pastures. The water tank is a small, open, cylindrical concrete structure.</p>
<p>NO PHOTO</p>	<p><u>Corrals (16c)</u> – Several connected metal bar corrals.</p>

Klein Frankreich Rural Historic District, Fredericksburg vicinity, Gillespie County, Texas

Parcel 4 / Map 17 – Amandus Stehling Homestead, c. 1852



Parcel 4 / Map 17 Resources

#	Property Type	Resource	Date(s)	Roof form/ Plan Type	Exterior Materials	Status
17a	Structure	Dam & Pond	Late 1940s	Linear	Earth	C
17b	Structure	Dam	Late 1940s	Linear	Earth	C

Parcel 4 / Map 17 Descriptions

This map depicts an area just east of Highway 87 and just north of the northern of the two main ranch roads. The ranch road travels northeast through a cleared, low-lying area along the highway and passes a limestone outcropping. Northwest of this are two earthen dams that create small ponds. Two small two-track roads access both dams.

Klein Frankreich Rural Historic District, Fredericksburg vicinity, Gillespie County, Texas



Dam & Pond (17a) – This resource is an earthen embankment dam measuring approximately 230 feet along its crest. It has a straight footprint and is oriented on a southwest-northeast diagonal. The dam creates a pond measuring a little over an acre in size when full.



Dam (17b) – This resource is also an earthen embankment dam, located 160 feet north of the ranch road. This dam is about 400 feet long with a curved, almost semi-circular footprint. The dam has the capacity to create a 0.8-acre pond, but aerial photos indicate that it is rarely filled with water.

Klein Frankreich Rural Historic District, Fredericksburg vicinity, Gillespie County, Texas

District Inventory

#	Property Type	Resource	Date(s)	Form or Type	Exterior Materials	Status	Parcel	Map
2a	Building	Single Dwelling	1901	Side gable	Stone	C	1	2
2b	Building	Garage	c. 1935	Front gable	Wood, Metal	C	1	2
2c	Structure	Stone Fence	c. 1860	Linear	Stone	C	1	2
2d	Building	Log Barn	c. 1860	Front gable	Wood (timber)	C	1	2
2e	Building	Single Dwelling	c. 1870	Side gable (saltbox)	Stone	C	1	2
2f	Building	Smokehouse	c. 1870	Front gable	Stone	C	1	2
2g	Building	Barn	c. 1930	Side gable	Wood	C	1	2
2h	Building	Goat Shed	1880/1930	Side gable	Wood, Metal	C	1	2
2i	Building	Barn	c. 1900	Front gable	Wood	C	1	2
2j	Building	Storm Cellar	c. 1900	Front gable	Stone	C	1	2
2k	Building	Wash Shed	1902	Side gable	Wood	C	1	2
2l	Structure	Stone Fence	c. 1860	Linear	Stone	C	1	2
2m	Building	Hay Barn	1970s	Front gable	Wood	NC	1	2
2n	Object	Grave Marker	1914	Arch top	Stone	C	1	2
2o	Structure	Tank House, Tank, & Well	c. 1910	Hexagonal	Wood, Stone	C	1	2
2p	Structure	Windmill	c. 1935	Truss Tower	Metal	C	1	2
3a	Building	Single Dwelling	1889	Side gable	Stone	C	2	3
3b	Building	Barn/Guest House	c. 1890/1972	Hipped	Stone, Wood	C	2	3
3c	Building	Barn/Office	c. 1889	Front gable; Shed	Stone, Wood	C	2	3
3d	Structure	Water Tank	c. 1889/1972	Cylindrical	Stone	C	2	3
3e	Building	Sheep & Goat Pen	c. 1890	Side gable	Metal	C	2	3
3f	Structure	Tennis Court	c. 1972	Flat/Rectangular	Clay	NC	2	3
3g (& 4a)	Structure	Airplane Runway	c. 1972	Flat/Linear	Concrete	NC	2	3 & 4
3h	Building	Airplane Hangar	c. 1972	Front gable/Arch	Metal	NC	2	3
3i	Structure	Cattle Pens	c. 1972	Shed/Rectangular	Metal	NC	2	3
3j	Building	Airplane Hangar	c. 1972	Front gable	Metal	NC	2	3

Klein Frankreich Rural Historic District, Fredericksburg vicinity, Gillespie County, Texas

#	Property Type	Resource	Date(s)	Form or Type	Exterior Materials	Status	Parcel	Map
4a (& 3g)	Structure	Airplane Runway	c. 1972	Flat/Linear	Concrete	counted above	2	4 & 3
4b	Building	Barn	c. 1972	Gambrel	Wood	C	2	4
5a	Building	Single Dwelling	1995	Cross gable	Stone	NC	3	5
5b	Building	Workshop	2014	Front gable	T-111	NC	3	5
5c	Structure	Stone Fence	c. 1860	Linear	Stone	C	3	5
5d	Structure	Stone Fence	c. 1860	Linear	Stone	C	3	5
6a	Building	Single Dwelling	1890	Cross gable	Stone	C	3	6
6b	Building	Tank House	c. 1890	Square	Stone, Concrete	C	3	6
6c	Building	Kitchen/Blacksmith	c. 1860, 1920	Side gable	Wood, Stone	C	3	6
6d	Structure	Well & Windmill	c. 1860, c. 1920	Truss tower	Metal, Stone	C	3	6
6e	Building	Garage & Workshop	c. 1940	Front gable	Metal	C	3	6
6f	Structure	Stone Fence & Shed	c. 1860/1928	Shed; Linear	Stone, Metal	C	3	6
6g	Building	Barn	1890s/1930s	Front gable	Wood, Stone	C	3	6
6h	Building	Sheep Shed	c. 1955	Front gable	Wood	NC	3	6
6i	Building	Single Dwelling	1998	Cross gable	Stone	NC	3	6
6j	Building	Barn/Guest House	c. 1920/1989	Front gable	Wood	NC	3	6
6k	Building	Shed	2004	Front gable	T-111	NC	3	6
6l	Building	Barn/Dwelling	c. 1980	Front gable	Metal	NC	3	6
6m	Building	Horse Shelter	c. 1980	Front gable	Wood	NC	3	6
6n	Structure	Stone Fence	c. 1860	Linear/ T-shaped	Stone	C	3	6
6o	Structure	Stone Fence	c. 1980	Linear	Stone	NC	3	6
6p	Structure	Stone Fence	c. 1860	Linear	Stone	C	3	6
6q	Structure	Gas Pump	1930	Cylindrical	Metal, Glass	C	3	6
7a	Structure	Bridge	c. 1935	Slab	Concrete	C	3	7
7b	Structure	Road (Mason Road)	c. 1857	Linear	Asphalt, Gravel	C	3	7
7c	Structure	Fence and Pens Ruin	1860s/ c. 1920	Linear	Stone, Concrete	C	3	7
7d	Building	Hunting Cabin	c. 1960	Side gable	Concrete block	C	3	7
7e	Building	Garage	c. 2000	Gambrel	T-111	NC	3	7

Klein Frankreich Rural Historic District, Fredericksburg vicinity, Gillespie County, Texas

#	Property Type	Resource	Date(s)	Form or Type	Exterior Materials	Status	Parcel	Map
8a	Building	Single Dwelling	1965	Hip	Stone	C	3	8
8b	Building	Workshop/ Garage	1977	Side gable	Concrete block	NC	3	8
8c	Building	Barn	c. 1970	Shed	Metal	C	3	8
8d	Building	Barn	2003	Side gable	Metal	NC	3	8
8e	Building	Equipment Shed	2003	Side gable	Metal	NC	3	8
8f	Building	Greenhouse	2003	Barrel vault	Metal, Plastic	NC	3	8
8g	Structure	Stone Fence	c. 1870	Linear	Stone	C	3	8
9a	Building	Single Dwelling	1987	Cross gable	Stone	NC	3	9
9b	Structure	Swimming Pool	1990	Circular	Plastic, Wood	NC	3	9
9c	Building	Garage	1989	Shed	Metal	NC	3	9
9d	Building	Garage/ Equipment Shed	1989	Shed	Metal	NC	3	9
9e	Building	Party House	2007	Front gable	Metal	NC	3	9
10a	Structure	Dam & Pond	c. 1937	Linear	Concrete	C	3	10
10b	Structure	Well & Trough	c. 1940	Rectangular	Concrete	C	3	10
10c	Structure	Trough	c. 1940	Rectangular	Concrete	C	3	10
10d	Building	Barn	c. 1950	Side gable	Metal	C	3	10
10e	Structure	Trough	c. 1940	Rectangular	Concrete	C	3	10
10f	Structure	Stone fence	c. 1860	Linear	Stone	C	3	10
10g	Structure	Well	c. 1950	Pipes	Metal	C	3	10
10h	Building	Wildlife Shelter	c. 1960	Shed	Metal	NC	3	10
10i	Structure	Dam & Pond	c. 1930	Linear	Earth	C	3	10
10j	Building	Barn/Living Quarters	2017	Cross gable	Stucco	NC	3	10
10k	Site	Picnic Area	1930s	Irregular	Stone, Concrete	C	3	10
11a	Structure	Trough	c. 1930	Rectangular	Concrete	C	3	11
11b	Structure	Dam & Pond	c. 1950	Linear	Earth	C	3	11
12a	Structure	Dam	c. 1930	Linear	Concrete	C	3	12
12b	Structure	Trough	c. 1930	Rectangular	Concrete	C	3	12
12c	Structure	Stone Fence	c. 1860	Linear	Stone	C	3	12
12d	Structure	Dam & Pond	c. 1930	Linear	Concrete	C	3	12
12e	Structure	Dam & Pond	c. 1995	Linear	Earth	NC	3	12
12f	Structure	Dam & Pond	c. 1970	Linear	Earth	C	3	12
12g	Structure	Developed Spring	c. 1930	Rectangular	Concrete	C	3	12
13a	Building	Single Dwelling	1921	Hip	Wood	C	4	13

Klein Frankreich Rural Historic District, Fredericksburg vicinity, Gillespie County, Texas

#	Property Type	Resource	Date(s)	Form or Type	Exterior Materials	Status	Parcel	Map
13b	Building	Garage/Storage	1935	Hip	Metal	C	4	13
13c	Building	Barn	1972	Side gable	Metal	C	4	13
13d	Building	Barn	c. 1921	Shed	Wood	C	4	13
13e	Building	Barn	1928	Linear; Shed	Stone, Metal	C	4	13
13f	Building	Tenant House	1947	Side gable	Asbestos	C	4	13
13g	Structure	Trough & Pens	1942	Rectangular	Wood	C	4	13
13h	Structure	Silage Pit	1945	Linear	Concrete	C	4	13
13i	Structure	Silage Pit	1947	Linear	Concrete	C	4	13
13j	Building	Garage	c. 1935	Hip	Wood	C	4	13
13k	Building	Shed	1940s	Gable	Wood	C	4	13
13l	Building	Vehicle Barn	1947	Gable	Metal	C	4	13
14a	Building	Single Dwelling	1974	Side gable	Stone	C	4	14
14b	Building	Well House	1974	Side gable	Metal	C	4	14
14c	Building	Workshop	1978	Side gable	Metal	NC	4	14
14d	Structure	Livestock Underpass	c. 1940	Flat arch	Concrete	C	4	14
14e	Structure	Dwelling Ruins	c. 1852	Rectangular	Stone	C	4	14
15a	Structure	Stone Fence	c. 1860	Linear	Stone	C	4	15
15b	Building	Camp House	1938	Side gable	Painted Boards	C	4	15
15c	Structure	Developed Spring	1936	Square	Concrete	C	4	15
15d	Structure	Trough	1937	Rectangular	Concrete	C	4	15
16a	Structure	Spring & Trough	1930	Rectangular	Concrete	C	4	16
16b	Structure	Well & Windmill	1951	Truss tower	Metal	C	4	16
16c	Structure	Corrals	c. 1980	Irregular	Metal	NC	4	16
17a	Structure	Dam & Pond	Late 1940s	Linear	Earth	C	4	17
17b	Structure	Dam	Late 1940s	Linear	Earth	C	4	17

Klein Frankreich Rural Historic District, Fredericksburg vicinity, Gillespie County, Texas

Statement of Significance

The Klein Frankreich Rural Historic District consists of four contiguous parcels of land composed of family farmsteads settled by German immigrants Christoph and Christine Feuge, and brothers Amandus and George Franz Stehling, and their wives, Barbara and Margaretha, in Gillespie County, Texas, in the late 1840s and early 1850s. Klein Frankreich, which means “little France” in German, is the name early settlers gave to the hilly landscape for its resemblance to the French countryside. The district lies about four miles northwest of Fredericksburg, the Gillespie County seat, in the heart of the central Texas region known as the Hill Country. The district covers approximately 2,807 acres in the Barons Creek and Palo Alto Creek watersheds; it spans both the east and the west sides of State Highway 87, which extends north/northwest from W. Main Street/U.S. 290 in Fredericksburg to the town of Mason, further north in Mason County. Each of the historic farmsteads contains its own set of domestic and agricultural resources, some of which date to the earliest period of settlement in the 1850s and 1860s; later improvements were added by descendants of the original settlers over the past 170 years. In addition to individual buildings, structures, objects, and sites, the farmsteads share landscape elements that distinguish them collectively as a rural historic district; among them are domestic and agricultural building clusters, functional work/use zones, road networks, water pumping and storage facilities, crop fields, pastures and woods for grazing livestock, timber tracts, and garden spaces. The majority of extant resources in the district remain largely intact to the period of significance (1852-1976), which ranges from the date of the earliest known extant resource in the district to the 1976 death of the last fulltime farmer/rancher Richard Stehling, who cultivated his fields and raised his livestock as he had throughout his lifetime; as a result, the district conveys an exceptional sense of the rural landscape that once characterized most of Gillespie County and other Texas Hill Country counties from the 1850s through the 1960s and into the 1970s. Though some modern construction has occurred in the district since 1976, its historic agricultural development patterns and associated farm and ranch uses are clearly evident across the still rural countryside. For these reasons, the district is nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A, in the areas of Agriculture and Ethnic Heritage: German, at the local level of significance, as a good representation of German agricultural development patterns and rural lifeways in central Texas during the period of significance. It is also nominated at the local level of significance under Criterion C, in the area of Architecture, for excellent examples of vernacular resources including stone dwellings, smokehouses, barns, and dry stack rock fences built by stone masons and skilled craftsman that are indicative of German building patterns, design, and materials dating from the early 1850s to the early 20th century. The period of significance ends in 1976 with the death of Richard Stehling, who was the last of the family’s fulltime farmer/ranchers to cultivate fields and raise livestock within the district.

Introduction to District Composition and Integrity

The Klein Frankreich Rural Historic District is composed of farms/ranches established and first settled by three German immigrants in the 1850s: brothers George Franz and Amandus Stehling, single men who arrived on the Texas coast in 1845, and Christoph and Christine Feuge, who arrived with their children in 1846.³ All made their way overland from the port at Indianola to Fredericksburg, by 1847. The district contains buildings, structures, objects, and sites dating from German settlement and farm development beyond the protection of the Fredericksburg townsite and associated farm lots in Gillespie County in the early 1850s and continuing through the mid-20th century to the end of the period of significance in 1976. The district possesses most of the landscape characteristics of a rural historic landscape as defined by National Register Bulletin 30. These characteristics include building clusters of principal domestic and agricultural resources, and identifiable circulation networks, patterns of spatial organization, land uses and activities, and vegetation. Extant historic resources and rural landscape elements remain largely intact to the period of significance (1852-1976).⁴ Most historic resources in the district exhibit a high level of integrity and are therefore contributing elements; the district possesses a

³ Feuge and Stehling descendants in the district consider their properties as both farms and ranches.

⁴ The Period of Significance is based on the construction date of the earliest known extant resources, specifically the stone ruins of an early settler’s dwelling built by Heinrich Theile by 1852 (Resource 14e), and continued agricultural use in the district through the period of significance ending in 1976.

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larger percentage of contributing resources than non-contributing ones. Contributing resources include dwellings, barns, corrals, and pens, stone walls and fences, internal ranch roads, windmills, water tanks, wells, irrigation features, crop fields, and pastures, that have not been significantly altered since the end of the historic period.

Klein Frankreich meets the guidelines for listing as a Rural Historic District under Criterion A for its historic and continued use of the land, primarily field crops and stock raising, and the high level of integrity in its historic agricultural landscape and many essential components. Among these components are building clusters that serve as farm/ranch headquarters; they typically contain mid- to late 19th and early 20th century dwellings, barns, smokehouses, hot water houses, smithies, and other agricultural buildings and structures. Other major rural attributes include crop fields, grazing land for livestock, unimproved timber tracts and creek beds, water tanks, windmills, dams, and ponds, dry stack rock walls and fences, and other agricultural landscape features associated with historic German and central Texas farms and ranches. The district also meets Criterion C for its vernacular architecture, including stone dwellings, barns, and fences that embody the distinctive characteristics of German farms and ranches in the central Texas Hill Country from the mid-19th to the last quarter of the 20th century.

The district survives as a largely intact rural historic landscape in Gillespie County, an area in the Texas Hill Country that is rapidly changing with the subdivision of family farms and ranches for trendy wineries, private estates or ranchettes, second homes, and exclusive golf course communities with architect-designed mansions and club houses, like nearby Boot Ranch to the east. In contrast, the Klein Frankreich district retains many of its historic resources, including farmhouses, barns, corrals, and other outbuildings; from throughout its history. These resources and the landscape itself, reflect agricultural traditions integral to the development of Texas for most of its history, from the Republic period through Texas's long identification as a rural state for much of the 20th century.

Klein Frankreich retains remarkable integrity to that historic rural aesthetic and construct. The district retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association to such an extent that it conveys an exceptional sense of time and place for its strong historic associations with German settlement, agricultural patterns and practices, and vernacular architecture. In particular, its physical boundaries, land use patterns, and building clusters appear much as they did in the early 20th century when the agricultural landscape was almost fully developed by second and third generations of the Feuge and Stehling families. Descendants of those families still occupy and maintain their agricultural properties as crop fields and livestock grazing land, much as they have for five generations. Their commitment to preserving their families' heritage and agricultural landscape is particularly noteworthy in light of recent developments that have reduced the size and numbers of historic farms and ranches in Gillespie and other Hill Country counties.

German Immigration to Texas in the 19th Century

Germans constituted the single largest group of direct European immigrants to settle in Texas during the nineteenth century.⁵ According to historian and cultural geographer Terry Jordan, the earliest German settlers in Texas attempted to develop their farms and rural settlements according to the traditions of their homeland. However, when faced with the vast, unfamiliar, and entirely unsettled landscape in Texas, they incorporated only those aspects of the Old World into their farmsteads that proved successful in this foreign setting. Over time, they retained nuances of their German heritage, which are primarily evident in surviving building forms and construction techniques, but largely adopted new techniques of rural development that were more similar than different from those of southern Anglo-Americans who outnumbered all other groups in the republic, then state, in the same period.

Nevertheless, Germans who were bound by a common language and certain cultural traditions, left a distinctive mark on Texas that still resonates today, especially in the Hill Country counties where they settled in large numbers and remained

⁵ Terry G. Jordan, *German Seed in Texas Soil: Immigrant Farmers in Nineteenth-Century Texas*, University of Texas Press: Austin, 1966/1993: 3.

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largely isolated from other regions of the state, both by choice and by the lack of railroads and good highways that may have resulted in earlier and greater assimilation into the larger Texan culture. Today, their unique heritage, food, and architecture attracts thousands of tourists each year to historic German enclaves like New Braunfels and Fredericksburg for the very things that set them apart from the rest of Texas.

The history of land promotion to potential emigrants from Germany to Texas in the 1840s, is widely known but bears repeating as the most direct context in which the Klein Frankreich community can be understood and evaluated for significance. Most German emigration in the early- to mid-1840s stemmed from economic reasons. German peasants for the most part were subsistence farmers who eked out a meager living on only a few acres of land. Population growth in the early nineteenth century resulted in increased subdivision and reduction of farmland to the point that many peasant landowners could barely feed their families. Other factors included feudalistic inheritance laws that deprived all but the oldest heir of any land at all, and increased industrialization that usurped the peasants' ability to supplement their negligible income from skilled home industry as they had in the past. Thus, a large number of Germans had few, if any, legitimate avenues of economic support and no means of upward mobility; many were forced into service, where they were only slightly better off than serfs. In addition to a moribund economy, a potato blight that started in 1845, spread throughout northwestern Europe, including parts of Germany where potatoes had become the main source of food among peasants. The blight led to famine, disease, and death, and a demoralized population.⁶

Given these conditions and the dearth of prospects for a better way of life, it is no wonder that emigration and the opportunities it might provide, appealed to landless Germans. Though Germans moved into other areas of Europe, they were particularly attracted to the United States and the Republic of Texas, for their vast expanses of undeveloped, often free, land. The opportunity to own hundreds of acres of land with little upfront investment must have seemed like a dream to Germans who might only hope to own 10 or 20 acres of overworked fields, and then only if they happened to be the firstborn son or daughter. Many Germans first learned about Texas from a letter written in 1831 by Friedrich Ernst to a friend in his native Oldenburg. In it, Ernst rhapsodized about his Mexican land grant in present Austin County. Printed in an Oldenburg newspaper, the letter and related book on travel in Texas inspired the first measurable wave of German immigrants to Texas; in the four years between 1838 and 1842, it was estimated that several hundred Germans settled in and around Ernst's townsite of "Industry," making it the first recognizably German "colony" in Texas.⁷

Adelsverein: German Emigration Society

Still, the German settlement at Industry was insignificant in comparison to the thousands of southern Anglo-Americans who pushed into Texas in the 1840s, especially after statehood in 1845. It took an organized effort of wealthy, well-educated minor nobles to promote Texas and entice sufficient numbers of Germans to leave the Fatherland for distant and unknown territory to have a significant impact on the Texas Republic, then state of Texas. The "*Verein zum Schutze Deutscher Einwanderer in Texas*," which translates as the "Society for the protection of German Immigrants in Texas," better known as the Adelsverein, or simply, Verein or Society, formed to colonize land in the Americas both to make a profit for themselves as investors and relieve the social and economic tensions felt by so many of their less fortunate compatriots. They proposed to provide emigrants passage and the goods, and services needed to start new lives with greater opportunities for success and much larger, more productive than they could ever hope to have in Germany.

At first the verein considered a number of places for their colonies, including the United States and Mexico, but they ultimately settled on the nascent Republic of Texas, perhaps because of its sheer size and enormous expanse of raw, undeveloped land; they may have reasoned that, by getting in on the ground floor with their venture, they could realize an enormous return on their investment simply by improving the land to any degree beyond its natural state of wilderness. The society chose Prince Carl von Solms-Braunfels as commissioner general for the colonization effort and raised

⁶ Jordan, *German Seed* . . . , 1966/1993: 38.

⁷ Jordan, *German Seed* . . . , 1966/1993: 41.

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\$80,000 to fund it. Their enthusiasm was contagious and intoxicating, and spread throughout the provinces in the form of promotional literature and meetings in village halls and churches.⁸

If they had been intrigued by Ernst's letter, landless Germans must have been thrilled by the verein's proposal to give them free passage to the colony, free land, a log house and all the provisions necessary to begin farming on credit to be paid back after the second successive harvest. The terms seemed generous to men who were experienced farmers. The verein also promised public improvements including roads, mills, schools, churches, and cotton gins. In return, single men were to pay about \$120 and heads of households about \$240 for the right to enlist in the project. Each recruit was also bound to occupy his house and cultivate at least fifteen acres of land for a period of three years to help establish the colony. Meanwhile, the verein would retain ownership of half the land in the grant, which they planned to develop at great profit.⁹ Through meetings, articles, pamphlets and word of mouth, thousands of Germans uprooted themselves from family, friends, and homeland to take a chance on Texas.

The verein was both naïve and misinformed, and confronted by obstacles from the outset. Only two of the society's members had actually traveled to Texas to take stock of its prospects for settlement. Their exploration was limited to the southeast coastal plain where they were impressed by its rich soil and successful cotton cultivation. They incorrectly imagined that the rest of Texas had similar soil and productivity and bought land in the Fisher-Miller Grant, in west-central Texas. Only later, after emigration had begun, did they learn that the region was arid, with rocky and infertile soil that would not support cotton cultivation. Furthermore, Comanches and other Native American tribes already occupied the land.

An even greater challenge appeared when the society's commissioner general, Prince Solms-Braunfels, arrived in Galveston in July 1844, to learn that the verein did not actually own the land in the Fisher-Miller Grant; they had only purchased the right to settle immigrants on it. Even that right was in question when it was found that Fisher and Miller had already forfeited their claim to the land because they had not achieved any settlement on the land in the time required by the Texas Republic. In essence, the verein had enlisted recruits to settle the land without the legal right to do so.¹⁰ When Prince Solms-Braunfels learned this news, hundreds of German emigrants were already enroute to Texas. Solms quickly responded by buying another tract of 1300 acres closer to the coast and "outside the Indian Territory," on the Comal River.¹¹ The nascent "colony" was later named New Braunfels after the prince.

While in Galveston, Prince Solms bought another tract of land on behalf of the verein; it lay further down the coast on Matagorda Bay. He named the stretch of beach Carlshaven or Karlshaven (Carl's Harbor), but it became better known later as Indianola.¹² Solms secured the location to serve as the society's headquarters for processing immigrants and arranging for their journey to the Texas interior by wagon train. The land deals came none too soon; five months later, in December 1844, the first 700 German immigrants landed in Galveston where they boarded smaller schooners, or lighters, to carry them over 100 miles of shallow water down the coast to the deeper port at Indianola.¹³

The immigrants must have been tremendously relieved to set foot on land after an arduous, months-long voyage across the ocean. Except for a few who could pay for better accommodations, passengers lived in cramped, unventilated quarters below deck where they survived mainly on soup, potatoes, and water; when the voyage took longer than 60 days, as many

⁸ Lucille Stehling Pape, *The Incredible Journey of the Stehling Brothers: Amandus and George Franz Stehling, 1845*, Dietel & Son Printing, Inc., Fredericksburg, Texas, 2020: 21-22.

⁹ Jordan, *German Seed...*, 1966/1993: 43.

¹⁰ Ultimately, the state of Texas sanctioned the immigrant's claims to the Fisher-Miller grant but not before many of them had settled elsewhere before reaching the grant.

¹¹ Pape, *The Incredible Journey...*, 2020: 25.

¹² *Ibid.*

¹³ *Ibid.*

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did, the immigrants were forced to ration their already meager provisions.¹⁴ Many became sick; the dead were buried at sea. Despite these horrendous conditions, more emigrants followed; in the two years from 1844 to 1846, at least 7,380 emigrants sailed from Germany to Galveston, and on to Indianola.¹⁵ The passengers' relief was short-lived, however. After being unceremoniously deposited onto the beach, they discovered that the society had neglected to build shelters of any kind to house them while awaiting transport to the colonies. With no other recourse, they camped on the open beach where they spent a cold, wet winter in tents or makeshift huts fashioned from wooden cargo crates.¹⁶

In the spring of 1845, the first arrivals travelled by ox-drawn wagons 150 miles overland on primitive roads to the Comal River site. The wagons trickled into the area from late March to early April 1845.¹⁷ Upon reaching their destination, the immigrants found themselves in a literal wilderness that was only slightly more promising than the beach at Indianola. Though the verein had promised them log houses and numerous community resources, the immigrants were left to fend for themselves; they set to work immediately clearing land and erecting temporary shelters from branches and tall grass. Despite their hardships, the earliest immigrants were the lucky ones. Later arrivals faced a much longer wait for passage to the interior when the United States and Mexico went to war over Texas' statehood in 1845. For the duration of the war (1846-1848), immigrants waited for wagons on a first-come, first-served basis until their names were called, which, for many, took a year or more.

Meanwhile, provisions given to the New Braunfels settlement ran low and the colonists complained to Prince Solms. The prince may have been a good military strategist, but he knew nothing about creating a civilian settlement in the wilderness. By all accounts, he mismanaged the verein's funds and either lacked the means or the inclination to intercede with the society on behalf of his fledgling colony. After inspecting his namesake colony, the prince came away so discouraged that he decided to abandon the emigration project altogether. Solms notified the society that he was resigning his position as commissioner general and returning to Germany. Casting his colony adrift, the prince rode directly to Galveston rather than face the ill and demoralized immigrants on the beach at Indianola. But he could not avoid all of his responsibilities; before he could sail home, Solms was jailed in Galveston by creditors.¹⁸

Those left at Indianola soon learned that the society could not provide them with oxen or wagons to take them inland. They demanded to know how and when they could expect to be transported to their promised land, but were given few answers, only that they had to wait their turn for a wagon. Many waited for more than a year, living in tents or rudimentary shacks made of wooden crates. As months passed, more immigrants joined them until Indianola was teeming with luckless German refugees. They had endured hardships on the long voyage to Texas only to encounter even more frightful conditions at Indianola where they succumbed to hunger and the heat and humidity of the mosquito-ridden coast. Starvation and disease including typhoid, typhus, and malaria decimated their numbers. One immigrant reported that of some 5,000 immigrants who landed at Indianola between October 1845 and April 1846, an estimated 1,400 did not survive.¹⁹ Nothing in the verein's promotional pamphlets or speeches had prepared them for the chaos and horror they found at Indianola. Furthermore, they had no hope of those promises being fulfilled because in 1847, the verein fell into bankruptcy, leaving their charges on their own to face the wilderness.²⁰

¹⁴ Pape, *The Incredible Journey* ..., 2020: 24.

¹⁵ Don H. Biggers, *German Pioneers in Texas*, 1925, reprinted 1983: 32.

¹⁶ Pape, *The Incredible Journey*..., 2020: 25.

¹⁷ *Ibid.*: 26.

¹⁸ *Ibid.*: 31, 34.

¹⁹ Wendy Little, "Germans Journey to Boerne," adapted from Bettie Edmonds, "Journey to Boerne," *Authentic Texas: The Heritage Magazine of Texas*, December 2, 2019, <https://authentictexas.com/the-germans-journey-to-boerne/>

²⁰ Jordan, *German Seed*..., 1966/1993: 45.

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Fredericksburg and Vicinity

Following Prince Solms' retreat from New Braunfels, the verein made one of its few good decisions by tapping a well-educated and practical member of the society, Baron Ottfried Hans von Meusebach, to take his place. Dropping his title, Meusebach changed his name to the more democratic sounding John O. Meusebach while enroute to Texas in late April of 1845.²¹ Meusebach arrived in New Braunfels just days after Solms' departure from the colony. Hoping to gain more clarity on the state of the society's affairs in Texas, Meusebach followed Solms to Galveston where he bailed the prince out of jail with funds earmarked for the immigrants. Whatever intelligence Meusebach gained from his meeting with Solms is unclear, but the prince promised to send funds back to the colonies; those promises went unfulfilled.²² Meusebach returned to New Braunfels where he attempted to put the verein's mismanaged affairs in order. At the same time, he knew that many more immigrants were enroute to Texas and that more land was needed to settle them. In August 1845, Meusebach assembled a scouting party to look for a good site between New Braunfels and the Fisher-Miller Grant for a second colony. Impressed with a parcel of land watered by two permanent creeks above the Pedernales River and about 60 miles northwest of New Braunfels, Meusebach somehow convinced the owner to sell the 10,000-acre tract on the verein's credit.²³ He reportedly chose the site for its "good streams, good soil, dense woods, and an abundance of stone" for constructing buildings.²⁴

In mid-December 1845, Meusebach hired a crew to survey the land and forge a road from New Braunfels to the new colony.²⁵ Surveyor Hermann Wilke laid out a townsite that Meusebach named Fredericksburg, in honor of his friend and fellow Verein member, Prince Frederick of Prussia.²⁶ Both New Braunfels and Fredericksburg were somewhat based on German farm villages in which residences, barns, and other farmstead structures were clustered together in the central core and surrounded by outlying crop fields. Meusebach's plan for Fredericksburg offered each head of household one townlot of about half an acre – large enough for a dwelling, animal and equipment barns, sheds, and a kitchen garden – and a ten-acre outlot, or farmlot, for crop fields.²⁷ Theoretically, outlots were intended to fan out around the central, residential core, so that none lay too far for the farmers to walk to and from their fields each day.

In April 1846, the first wagon train left New Braunfels for the new colony with about 120 immigrants and eight soldiers provided by the verein as escorts through Indian territory.²⁸ They arrived at their destination on May 8, 1846, and immediately set to work erecting temporary shelters such as brush arbors and Mexican *jacales*, one-room huts built of, 1½' – 2' branches stacked horizontally between longer, vertical timbers driven into the ground *palisado* style and covered by a thatched roof.²⁹ These rudimentary dwellings sufficed through the summer until more labor-intensive log houses could be built. As soon as they reached Fredericksburg, each head of household drew lots for a half-acre town lot. They were also promised ten-acre farm tracts, but because the first settlers chose to cultivate one large communal field, the individual outlots were not distributed until 1848.³⁰

²¹ Little, "Germans Journey...", ": 33.

²² Pape, *The Incredible Journey...*, 2020: 34.

²³ Martin Donell Kohout, "Fredericksburg, TX," *Handbook of Texas Online*, accessed January 07, 2022, <https://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/entries/fredericksburg-tx>. Published by the Texas State Historical Association.

²⁴ Robert Lamar Feuge, *Christoph Feuge: A German Pioneer's Story*, Lumina Press: Coral Springs, Florida, 2009, 74.

²⁵ Pape, *The Incredible Journey...*: 37.

²⁶ Kohout, "Fredericksburg, TX"; Pape, *The Incredible Journey...*, 2020: 36, 40.

²⁷ Jordan, *German Seed...*, 1966/1993: 157-159.

²⁸ Pape, *The Incredible Journey...*, 2020: 38.

²⁹ Monty and Michelle Mohon, *Gillespie County: A View of Its Past*, Gillespie County Historical Society (The Downing Publishers Company): Virginia Beach, Virginia, 1996, page 45.

³⁰ Jordan, *German Seed...*, 1966/1993: 157-158.

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The Long Passage and Trek to Gillespie County, 1845-1846

Among the emigrants who sailed to Texas under the Adelsverein initiative 1844-1847 were the Christoph and Christine Feuge family, from Hanover, and brothers George Franz and Amandus Stehling, from near Fulda, in Hesse (Figure 1). Hanover and Hesse were among the verein's most responsive provinces for recruiting emigrants for their colonization endeavor. In fact, most of the Germans who arrived in Gillespie County under the auspices of the verein in the 1840s hailed from the Middle and High provinces of Nassau, Electoral Hesse, Hesse-Darmstadt, southern Hanover, and Brunswick.³¹

The immigrants came to Texas for a variety of reasons, the greatest of which was the prospect of large tracts of free land. Perhaps the most compelling reason the Stehling brothers left Germany were inheritance laws that granted family lands only to the eldest child, leaving other children without any way to make a living except in servitude. In the case of George Franz and Amandus Stehling, their older sister, Felicitas, stood to inherit the small family dairy farm. Landless men like the Stehling brothers must have been overjoyed at the prospect of owning vast tracts of free land in Texas. It was a big decision to leave their homeland and family, perhaps never to see either again, for a virtual wilderness occupied by Native Americans, including several Comanche tribes who used the area as hunting grounds. Still, the brothers did not have the means to pay for their passage until they met Dr. William Weigand, who promised to pay their passage and expenses in exchange for three years' labor constructing buildings and breaking the land on his grant. In exchange, the brothers would be eligible for the same amount of land in the Fisher-Miller Grant: 120 acres for single men and 320 acres for married men. Both of the brothers were single at the time.

The Stehling brothers sailed to Texas on the brig, *Garonne* (Figure 2), in 1845.³² They arrived in Galveston on December 6, 1845; two days later, they were shuttled to the port of Indianola where they disembarked onto the beach (Figure 3).³³ The brothers had endured 107 long and exhausting days on board the *Garonne*. When they arrived at Indianola, there were no wagons or oxen to take them into the Texas interior; teamsters had cancelled their contracts with the verein for greater pay offered by the U.S. Army for the brewing war with Mexico. The brothers had to wait their turn until earlier immigrants received passage to the German colonies. Their carpentry skills were no doubt put to good use in Indianola building basic shelters for the hundreds of immigrants stranded on the shore waiting for the verein to make good on their promises to provide guides and wagons to carry them to their new homes. The brothers remained on the coast for 15 months before they either walked or got on a wagon train to the Fredericksburg settlement.³⁴

The Fredericksburg Colony: 1846-1848

Though the Feuges didn't sail for Texas until the following year, they were among Fredericksburg's first settlers; they arrived in Fredericksburg in 1846, the year Meusebach established the colony.³⁵ Like the Stehling brothers, the Feuges first sailed to Galveston, then on to Indianola. The family consisted of Christoph Feuge, his wife, Christine, and their seven children: William, Sofia, Louisa, Christopher [sic], Frances, Henry, and Mary, who would have been an infant.³⁶ Christoph's brother, Heinrich "Henry" Feuge, was also an emigrant who likely came on the same ship. The family traveled the 240 miles from Matagorda Bay to Fredericksburg by wagon over a rough road that was barely more than a

³¹ Jordan, *German Seed...*, 1966/1993: 121.

³² Ship's manifest in Pape, *The Incredible Journey...*, 2020: 81.

³³ Pape, *The Incredible Journey...*, 2020: 80-82.

³⁴ Pape, *The Incredible Journey...*, 2020: 87

³⁵ Robert Lamar Feuge, *Christoph Feuge...*, 2009: 82.

³⁶ The 1850 Gillespie County census shows Mary as four years old, making her an infant when she sailed to Texas with her parents. The census also indicates that all of the Feuge children alive in 1850, including Mary, had been born in Germany.

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trail; the brothers rode with the driver and Christine rode in the wagon bed with her children.³⁷ They arrived in the Fredericksburg settlement in October 1846.³⁸

As a married man, Christoph Feuge was originally entitled to settle on 640 acres in the Fisher-Miller Grant. However, when the society learned they didn't actually own the grant and even the settlement rights were in question, they offered Feuge a town lot and a ten-acre farm lot in Fredericksburg, along with a certificate for the land in the Fisher-Miller Grant, should the ownership be resolved in the future.³⁹ When the Feuges arrived in Fredericksburg, they found themselves in a literal wilderness without the log houses, roads, or any of the amenities they expected from the society. The Feuge brothers were assigned town and farm lots. Christoph drew town lot #316 and Heinrich drew lot #317, for a total of 7.2 acres. They didn't immediately get their farmlots as the first group of settlers agreed to work together on a large community farm. In 1848, the Feuges received their ten-acre farm lots (#572 and #573), but they lay nearly two miles west of the center of town. Feuge, who had given up 30 acres of good land in Germany for the promise of 640 acres in Texas, was said to have been bitterly disappointed by the meager amount of land he received.⁴⁰

The Feuge brothers were further dismayed to find that they had to build their own houses and outbuildings. They had no other options but to erect a rudimentary shelter made with tree limbs spread over cellars on their adjoining townlots.⁴¹ They probably built a log house for the family, including Christoph's brother, Heinrich, soon afterward.⁴² The brothers reportedly built or helped build one-room saddle-notch log houses for other settlers, as well.⁴³ A typical one-room, saddle-notch log house required 48 relatively straight 18' timbers to build the 8' walls, and ten additional logs for the gables. Builders dug trenches and filled them with rocks to a height of 6" above the ground for the foundation. The largest logs were set on the foundations as sills for the east-west gable ends; two smaller logs were used for the north-south tiers. The men trimmed each log along the top and bottom to level them and notched the ends to fit the cross timbers. When the walls rose higher than the men could reach, they built ramps and rolled the logs to the upper tiers; four large logs served as top plates.⁴⁴ The Feuge brothers also built cellars and helped clear land for the communal fields.⁴⁵

Meanwhile, George Franz and Amandus Stehling languished in Indianola. Little is known about their lives or how they survived between December 1845, when they landed on the Texas coast, and the spring of 1847, when they finally arrived in Fredericksburg.⁴⁶ The fate of their patron, Mr. Weigand, and his servants, also remains a mystery. Weigand may have determined that their situation was hopeless and despaired of the verein ever making good on its promises. He was a man of means, so he may have booked passage back to Germany for himself and his other servants. No archival or family records have ever been found to explain what happened to him and his name did not appear in immigrant rolls for New Braunfels or Fredericksburg. Nor did he ever claim his headright in the Fisher-Miller Grant or press the Stehling brothers, who were indentured to him for three years, into service. He simply vanished, and in doing so, left the brothers free to make their own way in Texas.⁴⁷

The Stehling brothers had few options but to wait their turn for a wagon or walk to the Texas interior where they might claim land grants in their own names. Some 500 German men left stranded at Indianola decided to join the U. S. Army during the Mexican War rather than suffer and possibly die from the hellish conditions on the coast. There is no record

³⁷ Robert Lamar Feuge, *Christoph Feuge...*, 2009: 82.

³⁸ *Ibid.*

³⁹ *Ibid.* 2009: 79.

⁴⁰ *Ibid.*, 2009: 94.

⁴¹ *Ibid.*, 2009: 105.

⁴² U. S. Bureau of the Census, 1850. The 1850 census identified Heinrich as living in the house with Christoph and his family.

⁴³ Feuge, *Christoph Feuge...*, 2009: 109

⁴⁴ *Ibid.*

⁴⁵ *Ibid.*, 116.

⁴⁶ Pape, *The Incredible Journey...*, 2020: 87.

⁴⁷ *Ibid.*, 84-86.

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that the Stehling brothers took that route. They had almost certainly brought their carpentry tools with them on the voyage and may have been able to get some paid work during their sojourn in Indianola. They may have had to work with the society agent to determine whether they were actually eligible for a land grant in one of the colonies since they had signed on as Weigand's servants rather than as householders on their own. Whatever the reason for delay, they finally set out for Fredericksburg; their arrival in the spring of 1847 was fortuitous as the verein, drowning in debt, went bankrupt and ceased their emigration program later that year.⁴⁸

Feuge and Stehling Families in and about Fredericksburg, Gillespie County: 1846-1850

The Stehling brothers learned that, as immigrants, they were eligible for land grants in their own names; furthermore, they were not bound to their sponsor for three years. They selected adjoining half-acre townlots, #3 and #4, but the lots were far from the village center where they would be better protected against possible attack by Native Americans. They were also far from a creek or other source of clean water. Nevertheless, they built a single log house in the center of their adjoining town lots. They had carpentry skills and tools, and probably helped other immigrants build similar log dwellings. For the first several years, they lived near the Feuge family on the outskirts of Fredericksburg. In 1848, when Feuge and the Stehling brothers drew their ten-acre outlots, which were also far from the village, about two miles west of the center of Fredericksburg.⁴⁹

Discouraged with his farm lots, Feuge bought two sections of land near a Mormon colony on Llano Creek, east of Fredericksburg, where he may have begun farming.⁵⁰ He did not, however, establish his homestead on that property. Instead, he continued to scout for a suitable place and focused on land in a valley northwest of Fredericksburg. Only a few immigrants had chosen to settle in the area, possibly because it was deep into Comanche hunting grounds. By then, however, they had some reason to believe they could survive beyond the relative safety of Fredericksburg. In 1847, John Meusebach had negotiated a peace treaty with several Comanche tribes to the effect that the tribes would not harm settlers and they would be allowed to continue hunting in the area. The treaty gave settlers some assurance that they could safely venture into the outer limits of the colony to establish homesteads.⁵¹

The treaty may have encouraged Christoph Feuge to establish his homestead in the Klein Frankreich valley. In late 1847 or early 1848, he bought 320 acres in the Dan Murchison Survey on upper Barons Creek (Figure 6). The property lay about four miles northwest of Fredericksburg. Dubbed Fredericks Valley by early census enumerators, the area became better known as Klein Frankreich, which meant "Little France" in German.⁵² It was described in a book by Feuge's descendants, Robert Lamar Feuge, as a "shallow valley in an ancient floodplain surrounded by wooded hills."⁵³

Despite having found his homestead, both the Feuge and Stehling families may have still been living on their farm lots when the federal census was taken in 1850. According to the enumerator's handwritten note, the families were neighbors living "in or about the town of Fredericksburg."⁵⁴ Since all but two pages in the Fredericksburg section were described as being *in* Fredericksburg, the notation indicated that the families lived beyond the townsite boundaries, on their 10-acre farm lots or possibly on their homesteads in Klein Frankreich.

⁴⁸ Pape, *The Incredible Journey...*, 2020: 87.

⁴⁹ Feuge, *Christoph Feuge...*, 2009: 94.

⁵⁰ U. S. Bureau of the Census, 1850, Agricultural Schedule, Gillespie County, TX: Zodiac, Live Oak and Llano Creeks, September 12-20, 1850. https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/1276/images/T1134_2-00360?src=&backlabel=Return.

⁵¹ Feuge, *Christoph Feuge...*, 2009: 77.

⁵² Pape, *The Incredible Journey...*, 2020: 98; Robert Lamar Feuge in his book, *Christoph Feuge: A German Pioneer's Story*, (2009), stated on page 122, that Christoph bought the land "by 1847," but that date may refer to Julius Ransleben's warranty deed to Christine Feuge attesting to his sale of the land to Dan Murchison on December 22, 1847 (Vol. L:411-412).

⁵³ Feuge, *Christoph Feuge...*, 2009: 123.

⁵⁴ U. S. Bureau of the Census, Fredericksburg, Gillespie County, Texas, 1850.

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There is some question as to whether Feuge was farming his land on Llano Creek or on his homestead in 1849, the year data was collected for the 1850 Non-population Agricultural Census. The Agricultural Schedule listed Feuge's farm in the section for Zodiac, Live Oak and Llano Creeks, but the data may have actually been from his Klein Frankreich property. The schedule showed that in the previous year (1849), Feuge had cleared and "improved" 32 acres for crops and owned another 288 acres of "unimproved" land -- pasture and woods -- for a total of 320 acres, the amount of land in the Murchison Survey in Klein Frankreich. The cash value of his farm was \$600, with farm implements worth another \$80. Christoph owned four horses, three asses or mules, four milk cows, and six "other" (beef) cattle, but no working oxen. He also had 37 swine. His livestock was valued at \$335. He produced 500 bushels of Indian (field) corn in the harvest of 1849.⁵⁵ The extent of improvements and location of his livestock tends to indicate that the data applied to Feuge's Klein Frankreich farm.

In any case, Feuge moved his family to Klein Frankreich by 1850. He first built a log house on a tributary of Barons Creek, but the stream may have dried up, leaving him without a source of clean water. He decided to re-locate and built a second log house in the south pasture near the main branch of the creek.⁵⁶ It was a V-notched log "dogtrot" house with two rooms connected by a covered breezeway with open sides to allow air flow through the center. A stone chimney was added to complete the log house.⁵⁷ The second log house may have burned or washed away in a flood because Feuge built a third house on higher ground.⁵⁸ At the same time, he began clearing land for crops and building rock fences with the massive amounts of limestone he removed for his fields.⁵⁹

Census records provided a wealth of information on both families in 1850. George Franz Stehling was identified as "Francis." He was 27 years old and head of the household which included his wife, Margaretha or "Margaret," age 19, his younger brother Amandus, 25, and ten-year old Mary Ann Fachs [sic], who was likely Margaretha's sister (Figure 5).⁶⁰ Later census records show Franz birthplace as Hesse and Margaretha's as Nassau⁶¹; both regions where the verein enlisted many of their recruits. Mary Ann and other children in the enumeration district were attending school in 1850, a clear sign of progress in the four years since the colony was founded. George Franz's occupation was listed as a "carpenter" in the construction industry. Amandus' occupation was as a laborer in no specific industry, though family records indicate that he worked as his brother's assistant in the carpentry business.⁶² Their dwelling - #207 in the census record -- was a log house almost certainly built by the brothers' own hands. As carpenters, they likely built or helped build log houses for other pioneers in the colony.

Both Christoph Feuge and his son were identified in the 1850 Census as "Christopher."⁶³ In 1850, the elder Christoph was 38 and headed a large household that included his wife, Christine, 39, his brother, Henry, 26, and his seven children: William, 19; Sofia, 16; Louisa, 14; Christopher, 10, Frances, 8, Henry, 6; and Mary, 4. Louisa, Christopher, and Francis

⁵⁵ U. S. Bureau of the Census, Agricultural Schedule, Gillespie County, TX: Zodiac, Live Oak and Llano Creeks, September 12-20, 1850. https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/1276/images/T1134_2-00360?ssrc=&backlabel=Return.

⁵⁶ Charles Blackwell interview with Terri Myers, December 8, 2020.

⁵⁷ Feuge, *Christoph Feuge...*, 2009: 167, 197, 218.

⁵⁸ Charles Blackwell, interview with Terri Myers, December 8, 2020. The log house was later sided with rock and enlarged with a shed-roofed stone addition by Christoph's son, Cristof, about 1870. It is resource 2e.

⁵⁹ Feuge, *Christoph Feuge...*, 2009: 134.

⁶⁰ Margaretha Stehling's family name was Fuchs. Though Franz and Margaret lived in the same household for the 1850 census, their marriage was solemnized the following year on March 23, 1851, in St. Mary's Church in Fredericksburg.

⁶¹ U. S. Bureau of the Census, 1860, Population Schedule: Precinct 2, Gillespie County, Texas, July 28, 1860.

⁶² U. S. Bureau of the Census, 1850: "in or about Fredericksburg," Gillespie County Texas, September 20, 1850: 18.

https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/8054/images/4191104-00612?usePUB=true&_phsrc=Mbe1075&_phstart=successSource&usePUBJs=true&pId=6972982

⁶³ U. S. Bureau of the Census, 1850, "in or about Fredericksburg," Gillespie County, Texas, September 18, 1850: 17.

https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/8054/images/4191104-00611?usePUB=true&_phsrc=Mbe1038&_phstart=successSource&usePUBJs=true&pId=6971224

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were noted as attending school. Though Henry, a laborer, still lived in his brother's household, he owned a small amount of real estate valued at just \$50.⁶⁴ By the early 1850s, he built a log house for his family in Klein Frankreich.⁶⁵ According to Terry Jordan, corn, though unknown in Germany, quickly became a mainstay of the German immigrant diet. Feuge's farm compared well with other area farms. He and Henry Thiele, who preceded him in Klein Frankreich, owned the same amount of acreage, but Feuge had more improved land than his neighbor. In fact, his 32 acres of crop fields were considerably more than the average 19 acres for other farmers in his census district. His 288 acres of unimproved land was also greater than the 89-acre average for farmers in the district.⁶⁶

The First Decade in Klein Frankreich: 1850s

The 1850s were momentous for the Stehling family. George Franz and Margaretha Fuchs were married in a civil ceremony in 1850; the marriage was sanctified on March 23, 1851, at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Fredericksburg.⁶⁷ The following year, on March 20, 1852, Amandus Stehling married seventeen-year-old Barbara Vogel (Figure 4), also at St. Mary's Catholic Church. Barbara Vogel's journey to Fredericksburg had been even more harrowing than that of the Stehling brothers. Like the Stehlings, she had sailed to Texas from Germany with her family in 1845. On the grueling overland trek to Fredericksburg, both of her parents succumbed to disease, exhaustion, or both, and died; they were buried in unmarked graves along the trail. The girl made the rest of the journey in the care of John and Elizabeth Pries, a couple who had come to Texas on the ship with her family.⁶⁸ Barbara appears in the 1850 census as living in the Pries [sic] household in Fredericksburg. John Pries, 33, was a shoemaker. He and his wife, Elizabeth, 24, also had a one-year old son, Charles. The only other child in the household was Barbara, age 15.⁶⁹

Their marriages may have prompted the Stehling brothers to buy farms after having lived in Texas for seven years. They understood that as more immigrants arrived in Fredericksburg, it would be harder to find land close to town. They surveyed the territory around the settlement on horseback to find suitable land for homesteads. One of their excursions took them to their former neighbors, the Feuges, in Klein Frankreich. The Feuges reportedly told them that they had sighted Native Americans watering their horses in the creek, but had not had any confrontations with them. Feuge was an older man with sons close in age to the Stehling brothers, so they may have trusted his judgement. In March 1852, just a few days after Amandus's wedding, the brothers bought a 128-acre tract of land out of the P. Huiser Survey, No. 194 (Figure 6).⁷⁰

Three years later, the brothers partitioned the land into two 64-acre tracts.⁷¹ Baron's Creek, which flowed through the tract, divided the parcels into nearly equal east and west halves; Franz occupied the land west of the creek and Amandus

⁶⁴U. S. Bureau of the Census, 1850, "in or about Fredericksburg," Gillespie County, Texas, September 18, 1850: 17.

https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/8054/images/4191104-00611?usePUB=true&_phsrc=Mbe1038&_phstart=successSource&usePUBJs=true&pId=6971224

Christoph Feuge's agricultural schedule was enumerated in the "Zodiac, Live Oak and Llano Creeks" section in 1850 but he resided "in or about Fredericksburg."

⁶⁵ The first log house burned. A second log house either burned or washed away when Baron's Creek flooded. A third log house was built on the present elevated Feuge homesite where it may have been incorporated later into the extant 1 ½ story stone dwelling.

⁶⁶*Ibid*; https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/1276/images/T1134_2-00360?ssrc=&backlabel=Return

⁶⁷ Pape, *The Incredible Journey...*, 2020: 93.

⁶⁸ Elizabeth Preiss may have been her older sister (see deed record regarding heirs of Johan Vogel: Elizabeth Preiss appears to have been known earlier as Elizabeth Vogel who, along with Barbara Vogel Stehling, and a woman named Christine Vogel, were the surviving heirs of Johan Vogel).

⁶⁹ Barbara's surname was written as "Vogh" and she was erroneously identified as male in the census. U. S. Bureau of the Census, Fredericksburg, Gillespie County, Texas, September 16, 1850.

https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/8054/images/4191104-00600?usePUB=true&_phsrc=Mbe1038&_phstart=successSource&usePUBJs=true&pId=6971224

⁷⁰ Gillespie County Deed Records, Vol. C: 289-290 (filed March 29, 1852).

⁷¹ Gillespie County Deed Records, Vol. F: 312 (filed September 15, 1855).

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claimed the land east of the creek. Both built log houses on their adjacent farms; over time the dwellings were enlarged to accommodate their growing families.⁷² Ultimately, Amandus' front-gabled log house consisted of three in-tandem rooms and an upper half-story or attic where the children slept; a large stone chimney stood on the exterior wall of one gable end (Figures 7-8). These houses became the nuclei around which other domestic and agricultural resources would eventually be clustered. In the early settlement phase, these homestead sites likely contained a one- or two-room log house, a privy, a log shed or barn for a milk cow and one or two horses. They may have built other log structures such as corn cribs, chicken houses, and hog pens. Initially, the settlers likely hauled water for personal use and cooking from Baron's Creek; soon, however, they dug a well near the house.

The Stehling homesteads lay on relatively level ground, close to, but slightly elevated above the creek and floodplain. George Franz's homesite backed up to a pronounced limestone outcropping or bluff, while Amandus's lay on a slightly lower, flatter plain on the east side of the creek. Soon after starting their farms, the brothers built a road that crossed the creek and connected with a wagon road out of Fredericksburg across the Feuge and Stehling properties northwest through Fredericks Valley toward Fort Mason, and the settlement of Mason (Figure 6). In 1855, Franz agreed to "constantly and forever keep open a road 20 varas wide" for Amandus's use, in exchange for "good and valid consideration \$1.00."⁷³ The farm road gave both brothers access to the main road to Fredericksburg and communities further north which became known as the Mason Road, now Old Mason Road.

The brothers immediately began clearing trees and stones from the bottom land along the creek for crop fields and vegetable gardens. They cut trees and hitched their horses to the stumps with chains and ropes to pull them out of the ground. They hand dug the rich soil from around the roots to fill in the stump holes and level the land for fields. It was an arduous process of repetitive cutting, pulling, and digging to create even a small field. Over time, they enlarged their fields by the same methods.⁷⁴

At the same time, the Feuges and Stehlings began acquiring or increasing their livestock, eventually building cattle herds and sheep flocks that would become the mainstay of their ranches for generations. Raising cattle on the open range was challenging for the first settlers whose livestock sometimes wandered miles away for lack of fences to contain them. Ranchers rode through the wilderness on horseback to locate and drive their livestock home in trips that sometimes took days, even weeks. Despite Meusebach's peace treaty, ranchers were careful to avoid Comanche and Kiowa hunting parties.⁷⁵ To identify their cattle, the Stehling brothers registered their unique cattle brands with the Gillespie County Clerk. Amandus' brand, "A6," and George Franz' brand "F2," were hand drawn in the Register of Marks and Brands on August 15, 1853, and November 7, 1853, respectively.⁷⁶

In fact, fences were among the settlers' most urgent and daunting tasks. German settlers in Gillespie and other Hill Country counties had an abundance of limestone with which they built massive stone fences both to remove the rock from potential crop fields and contain their livestock, as well as to delineate property boundaries. Instead of discarding the rock in rubble piles, they used the blocks and shards to build the iconic stone fences that still characterize rural German landscapes throughout the Hill Country (Figures 9-10). Cultural geographer Terry Jordan reported that German farmers began building stone fences to enclose fields, gardens, corrals, and even pastures as early as the late 1850s, "accomplishing what no other ranchers in the entire West were willing or able to do – fencing the open range before barbed wire."⁷⁷ It was back-breaking work to dislodge, carry, and stack stone for the 4' – 6' fences, and all members of the farm families, even young children, contributed to their construction, something that took many months and often

⁷² Pape, *The Incredible Journey...*, 2020: 95.

⁷³ Gillespie County Deed Records, Vol. F: 335 (filed October 1, 1855).

⁷⁴ Herb Stehling, interview with Terri Myers, December 7, 2020.

⁷⁵ Pape, *The Incredible Journey...*, 2020: 95.

⁷⁶ *Ibid.*

⁷⁷ Jordan, *German Seed...*, 1966/1993: 165.

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years. Jordan wrote, “The amount of work involved, and the volume of stone removed by the German fence builders, staggers the imagination, and the contemporary observer cannot help but be awed by the relics of their handiwork.”⁷⁸

According to Jordan, the era of stone fence construction extended from the late 1850s to the 1880s, when barbed wire brought the era to “an abrupt end.”⁷⁹ These dates conform to accounts from families in the Klein Frankreich district, whose Feuge and Stehling ancestors built numerous stone fences across their farms. They served as boundary markers and field enclosures, as well as barn walls, usually the north wall, to shelter sheep and goats from bitter cold north winds. Many dry stack limestone walls survive in the district; some display a high degree of craftsmanship in the way the stone was laid and capped, often with an angled or decorative top course.

If the 1850s were productive and rewarding for the Stehling brothers, the decade was not kind to the Christoph and Christine Feuge family. Despite his prodigious efforts to improve his farm, Christoph Feuge did not live long to enjoy the fruits of his labor. He was accidentally shot while deer hunting with a neighbor on July 25, 1853; he was only about 41 years old.⁸⁰ According to their descendants who recall the story, when Amandus heard the news, he saddled his horse and rode to the Feuge homestead to comfort his wife, Christine, and offer his assistance. The Stehling brothers had lost a good friend and neighbor, a man who they had come to admire since arriving in Fredericksburg. They also knew that his death would be a great hardship on Christine and her children.⁸¹

The tragic accident left Christoph’s widow to run the farm and raise their children in what was still largely a wilderness. Though devastated by her husband’s death, Christine forged ahead. A woman with 320 acres of land, some of which was already cleared and in cultivation, might have been an attractive “catch” for German bachelors in the community, but Christine never remarried. Instead, she took charge of her farmstead and was, herself, acknowledged as a farmer in her own right in all subsequent census records; few other women in the Fredericksburg colony were listed as occupied other than “keeping house” in the nineteenth century.⁸²

Stehling and Feuge Farmsteads in the 1860s

By 1860, the Stehling brothers had been on their respective farms for eight years. Franz Stehling, 38, owned real estate – his 64-acre farm – worth \$650; he also had a personal estate of \$1,270, which was a considerable sum among his peers in Gillespie County. He and his wife, Margaretha, 27, were the parents of four children: Gertrude, nine; Mary, seven; Catharine, four; and Franz, two. Gertrude and Mary were both attending school.⁸³ Anna Maria (Mary Ann) Fuchs, Margaretha’s younger sister, who had been enumerated in their household in the 1850 census, worked as a servant for the F. Stucken family, with whom she lived in 1860. On October 6, 1863, she married Joannes (John) Kunz, at St. Mary’s Church in Fredericksburg.⁸⁴

⁷⁸ Jordan, *German Seed...*, 1966/1993: 165,

⁷⁹ *Ibid.*

⁸⁰ Pape, *The Incredible Journey...*, 2020: 94; U. S. Bureau of the Census, 1850, Gillespie County, Texas,

[https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-](https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/6972984:8054?tid=&pid=&queryId=ffd4330593603b9e189bb52dab71168d&_phsrc=QEm1294&_phstart=successSource)

[content/view/6972984:8054?tid=&pid=&queryId=ffd4330593603b9e189bb52dab71168d&_phsrc=QEm1294&_phstart=successSource](https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/6972984:8054?tid=&pid=&queryId=ffd4330593603b9e189bb52dab71168d&_phsrc=QEm1294&_phstart=successSource)

⁸¹ Pape, *The Incredible Journey...*, 2020: 98.

⁸² U. S. Bureau of the Census, 1860, Population Schedules: Precinct 2, Gillespie County, Texas, July 28, 1860; various census records (1850-1900).

⁸³ U. S. Bureau of the Census, 1860, Population Schedules: Precinct 2 (Franz Stehling), https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/35041177:7667?tid=&pid=&queryId=2e75c071690b7f4c5e54b687dcbc7468&_phsrc=Mbe1088&_phstart=successSource

⁸⁴ Roman Catholic Archdiocese of San Antonio, sacramental records, 1700-1995, via ancestry.com as forwarded from Jan Williams to Terri Myers, December 7, 2021.

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Across Baron's Creek to the east, Amandus Stehling and his wife, Barbara lived with their five children – Magdalena, seven; George, six; Christian, five; Adam, three; and Amandus, a one-year-old in the log house. These five, and four later children, were all born in the log house built by Amandus when he first moved to the farm. The only child shown as attending school at the time, was Magdalena; the others were too young. Amandus owned real estate valued at \$400, with a personal estate of \$1,000.⁸⁵ These figures conflict somewhat with those reported for him in the Agricultural Schedule which shows the farm as worth \$550, plus \$120 in farm implements.⁸⁶

West of the Franz Stehling farmstead, Christine Feuge was listed as a farmer and head of her household. Her son, Christoph, 21, was still living in her household along with Franz, 19; Mary, 14; and Anna, age nine. Anna was the only child of Christoph and Christine who had been born in Texas; the others, like their mother, had been born in the Hanover province of Germany. Anna was also the only child in the Feuge household listed as attending school in 1860. Christine Feuge's real estate was valued at \$1,000 – a sum that likely included the property on Llano Creek – and a personal estate valued at \$740.⁸⁷

It is difficult to accurately judge overall agricultural progress in the district between 1850 and 1860 from the 1860 agricultural census because a hard drought occurred in Gillespie County in 1859, the year on which the 1860 figures were based. As a result of the drought, the 1860 crop production numbers are likely lower than average for other years (1852-1858) in the decade. In general, though, improvements had been achieved. George Franz Stehling had improved – cleared and prepared for cultivation – 25 acres of land since 1852, when he and his brother partitioned their 128-acre parcel into two 64-acre tracts. He also acquired additional acreage since the partition; he claimed 55 acres of unimproved land, for a total of 80 acres, an increase of 16 acres between 1852 and 1860. He estimated the cash value of his farm at \$600, with another \$150 worth of farming implements. It is in his livestock that Franz' real worth might better be judged; in 1860, he owned a large number of cattle: 34 milch [milk] cows, 12 working oxen, and 200 "other" [beef] cattle. In addition, he had 25 hogs. He also owned five horses and one ass or mule. The value of his livestock was listed at \$1,370, a much larger sum than his farm at \$600. He had relatively low figures for crop production for 1859 – 120 bushels of wheat and 80 bushels of Indian corn – which is likely reflective of the drought.⁸⁸

Amandus Stehling had slightly more improved land than his brother – 30 acres – and 50 acres of unimproved land, also for a total of 80 acres in Gillespie County in 1860.⁸⁹ He estimated the cash value of the farm at \$550, with farm implements worth another \$120. At the time, Amandus owned only one horse and no asses or mules. Like his brother, however, he owned a large number of cattle with 30 milch cows, 12 working oxen, and 62 head of "other" (beef) cattle. In addition, he had 15 swine. He estimated the value of combined livestock at \$1,450; as with his brother, Franz, the value of his livestock was much higher than the value of the farm itself. Amandus either did not plant wheat that year, or the crop failed due to drought conditions; he only harvested 24 bushels of Indian corn in 1859.⁹⁰

⁸⁵ U. S. Bureau of the Census, 1860, Population Schedules: Precinct 2, Gillespie County, Texas (Amandus Stehling)

https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/35300749:7667?tid=&pid=&queryId=eec13b0e236f2948eda155389f940d3&_phsrc=Mbe1090&_phstart=successSource

⁸⁶ Real estate value may have been construed as the value of the buildings or building complex.

⁸⁷ U. S. Bureau of the Census, 1860, Population Schedule: Precinct 2, Gillespie County, Texas (Christine Feuge),

https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/35193273:7667?tid=&pid=&queryId=bd670cb0ffd87ab972e1a638dd42a464&_phsrc=Mbe1092&_phstart=successSource

⁸⁸ U. S. Bureau of the Census, 1860, Agricultural Schedules, Gillespie County, Texas (Franz Stehling),

https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/1276/images/T1134_4-00541?src=&backlabel=Return

⁸⁹ *Ibid.* (Amandus Stehling), https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/1276/images/T1134_4-00537?src=&backlabel=Return

⁹⁰ *Ibid.*

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Like her neighbors, Christine Feuge's improved acreage had increased from 32 acres in 1850 to 40 acres in 1860, despite the loss of her husband in 1853. She still owned 200 or 210 acres of unimproved land, for a total of 280 or 290 acres. Feuge estimated the cash value of her farm at \$700, only slightly higher than Franz or Amandus, considering that she had more improved land and much more unimproved property. The value of her farming implements was \$100. She had no horses, two mules or asses, and 20 hogs. Like the Stehling brothers, much of the value was invested in livestock with 16 milch cows, 12 working oxen, and 30 "other" [beef] cattle. Her much smaller herd of beef cattle and lower number of milch cows was reflected in the value of her livestock at only \$720. She also had lower crop production on her larger improved land than her neighbor, Franz Stehling: 20 bushels of wheat, no rye, and 30 bushels of Indian corn.⁹¹ Her lackluster harvest may have resulted from the drought, but might also reflect the loss of her husband and his labor.

The high number of working oxen among all three families, each of whom had a dozen oxen, is attributed to their second occupation as teamsters. Both Amandus and Franz Stehling, and later, their sons, and Christine Feuge's son, also named Christoph or Christof, worked as teamsters for the extra money they made from merchants and neighbors who needed supplies and equipment, and to bring home their own supplies and farm equipment without the added cost of hiring others to do the job. They drove teams of 12 oxen carrying heavy freight wagons across rough country roads that were more like trails, from Fredericksburg to cities like Austin and San Antonio, and as far away as Galveston, for essential merchandise.⁹² Close neighbors, the Stehling and Feuge teamsters may have traveled together on freight wagon trains.

In fact, the German immigrant community in Fredericksburg remained insular and fairly isolated from larger urban centers for decades after they were founded. Long after railroads connected Austin and San Antonio to the outside world, residents of the Fredericksburg colony relied largely on their local teamsters to bring home manufactured goods like metal machinery, plows and other farm equipment, and staples they couldn't produce on their own farms like coffee, sugar, and tobacco, as well as the occasional luxury item like China, glassware, or ribbon. It was not until the railroad finally came to Fredericksburg in 1913, that the teamsters ceased their work.⁹³

In addition to their agricultural progress, settlers in Klein Frankreich and other German immigrant communities in the area, enjoyed a higher standard of living than many Southern whites who moved into Texas from the 1840s through the 1860s. Though described as German "peasants" by cultural geographer, Terry Jordan, they had come to Texas with the advantage of a basic grammar school education given to all children in Germany. Thus, nearly all adults in Comal and Gillespie County could read and write, albeit in German, as opposed to many others who had come to Texas from Kentucky, Tennessee, and other upper South states in the same period. They read articles on good agricultural, health, and homemaking practices in German language journal and newspapers that were widely circulated among immigrant communities. These periodicals included articles geared to women on sanitation, healthy diets, the prevention and treatment of injuries, and safe food preservation and storage. Literacy may have also been a factor in their relatively low mortality rate and high number of children who lived to adulthood. A large number of healthy children resulted in a good labor force for German immigrant farm families.

German immigrant communities were bound and supported by a common language, strong family and religious values, cultural and folk traditions, work ethic and moral standards. They enjoyed traditional recreation and social activities such as hunting, religious holidays, foods, singing and dancing. As time passed, they celebrated anniversaries of historic events or traditions in Gillespie County, like "Easter Fire" commemorating the peace treaty their original leader John Meusebach made with Native Americans that allowed early settlers to homestead in the area, and the Old Teamsters reunions where

⁹¹ U. S. Bureau of the Census, 1860, Agricultural Census: Precinct 2, Gillespie County, Texas (Christine Feuge), https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/1276/images/T1134_4-00539?src=&backlabel=Return

⁹² Pape, *The Incredible Journey...*, 2020: 95; Gillespie County Historical Society, *Pioneers in God's Hills: A History of Fredericksburg and Gillespie County People and Events, Vol II*, 1974, "Amandus Stehling" (132); "John Stehling," (196); "Christian Stehling," (194).

⁹³ Pape, *The Incredible Journey...*, 2020: 95.

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men and boys who performed the hard and dangerous work of hauling freight got together to relive their adventures and tell their stories to new generations.

Fredericksburg remained the primary community for the Stehlings and Feuges, and others in Klein Frankreich, in the nineteenth century. Klein Frankreich did not describe a community as much as it did a landscape. Klein Frankreich had no churches, commercial buildings, civic centers, or government entities, not even a post office. It did not have so much as a rural school until 1904.⁹⁴ The residents of Klein Frankreich looked to Fredericksburg for all aspects of community life: church, businesses including dry goods and general stores, professional services such as doctors and lawyers, government offices, mills and gins, and, throughout the nineteenth century, schools.

Quarter of a Century: 1870

By 1870, the Stehlings and Feuges had lived in Gillespie County for 25 years. In that time, they had settled the wilderness, altering the natural landscape where they established homesites and barnyards, planted crop fields and orchards, erected horse and cattle corrals, sheep and goat pens, built stone fences, dammed and channeled creeks for stock ponds, and forged a network of roads and trails to distant pastures, timber stands, crop fields, and neighbors on adjacent farms. They created all of the infrastructure necessary to successful ranching in rural Gillespie County in that era. In the 1870 census, the Stehling and Feuge families are enumerated as residents of "Fredericks Valley," known by area residents as Klein Frankreich.

The 1870 census showed Franz Stehling as a 49-year-old farmer living with his wife, Margaretta, 38, and three children, Catharina, 14, Franz, 12, and Joseph, nine. Also listed in the household was eleven-year-old Josephine Burg. Nearby, thirteen-year-old Martha Burg was living with the Chriss [sic] Krause family in 1870.⁹⁵ The Burg sisters had been orphaned when their father was killed in the infamous Battle of the Nueces in which 90-97 Hill Country Unionists, mostly German intellectuals, were massacred by mounted Confederates while enroute to Mexico to avoid conscription into the Confederate army during the Civil War.⁹⁶ The Burg children were taken in by the Stehling, Krause, and other families in Klein Frankreich.⁹⁷

According to the 1870 census, Amandus Stehling was a 47-year-old farmer; his wife Barbara, kept house. Seven children remained in the household: Magdalena, George, Christ [sic], Adam, Margaret, Maria, and Johann, four. Of them, only Adam and Margaret attended school. The children likely worked with their parents on the farm. Amandus gave his personal estate as \$600 and his real estate at \$1,000. He was listed as a U. S. citizen.⁹⁸

⁹⁴ The one-room Klein Frankreich school existed from school year 1904-05 until 1949. After 1949, Klein Frankreich students had to find their own transportation to attend school in Fredericksburg.

⁹⁵ U. S. Bureau of the Census, 1870 Population Schedules: Fredericks Valley, Gillespie County, Texas
https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/10843379:7163?tid=&pid=&queryId=8d52833a022756d1827ec9c37ca8ad52&_phsrc=Mbe1093&_phstart=successSource

⁹⁶ Anonymous, "Nueces, Battle of the," *Handbook of Texas Online*, accessed November 11, 2022,
<https://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/entries/nueces-battle-of-the>. Published by the Texas State Historical Association.

⁹⁷ U. S. Bureau of the Census, 1860 and 1870, Population Schedules: Fredericks Valley, Gillespie County, Texas, various entries for Burg family.

⁹⁸ U. S. Bureau of the Census, 1870, Population Schedule: Fredericks Valley, Gillespie County, Texas,
https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/7679236:7163?tid=&pid=&queryId=501923ffd3a07f37d8bb86e4d8c034d1&_phsrc=Mbe1095&_phstart=successSource

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In 1870, Christine Feuge was in her late 50s or 60s and still actively farming her land west of the Stehling farms.¹⁰⁰ Her real estate was valued at \$600 and her personal estate at only \$150. At home were her children Franz, 28, who worked on the farm, Henry 26, and Anna, 19. The youngest member of the household was Christine's nephew, the 12-year-old son of Christoph Sr.'s brother, Heinrich, who had died in 1859. In the 1860 census, the boy was living with his mother, Caroline Feuge, 32, who had just lost her husband; they lived close to Franz Stehling at the time.¹⁰¹ Franz and Henry Feuge were both U. S. citizens. Young Christoph attended school.¹⁰²

In 1870, Christine's oldest son, Christoph [also spelled Christof] Theodor Feuge lived next to his mother in his own house. He worked as a laborer and had real estate worth only \$85, probably his house on his mother's farm. He had a personal estate of \$180. He was also a U. S. citizen. Christoph's household consisted of himself and his wife, Catharina, 28, and their three young children Lina, five, Henry, three, and Emma, one. None of the children were old enough to attend school.¹⁰³ In 1870 or 1871, Christoph built the extant 1 ½-story limestone house on his mother's homesite. The upper half-story was accessed by an exterior stair and was likely intended as a sleeping area for the children as they grew older. It is the oldest stone dwelling in the district. According to Feuge descendant, Charles Blackwell, the extant stone house was partly built of timbers that were later replaced with concrete when the logs deteriorated.¹⁰⁴ Christoph may have incorporated an earlier log building into the design of the stone house.

By 1870, the 1 ½-story side-gabled stone house type that Feuge built had become a common replacement for the Germans' original log dwellings described by Jordan as "temporary necessities of pioneer life, to be discarded as quickly as possible."¹⁰⁵ On many farms, they remained in use as barns, storage, or other useful purposes for several decades until they collapsed or were torn down for safety reasons. The earlier versions of the stone folk type were German *fachwerk* houses built of crossed half-timbers with the interstices filled with stone and covered in whitewashed plaster. Following the Civil War, new versions of the form were built without the added structural support of the massive timbers, as builders found them unnecessary.¹⁰⁶ Whether *fachwerk* or stone construction, these German immigrant folk houses were typically 1 ½-story, side-gabled dwellings with the upper half-story used as a sleeping room accessed by an exterior stair to a small door in the gable end. After a few years, they were often enlarged with a 1-story rear addition also built of stone with a shed roof that sloped down from the original roofline. Considered a "real" house, the folk house spread from Fredericksburg to the surrounding rural countryside.

On the other hand, Feuge's neighbors, Amandus and George Franz Stehling, resisted the trend to "upgrade" and remained in their log houses as long as they lived on their farms. Amandus and his wife occupied their log house through the nineteenth century until they moved to Fredericksburg in 1904. The brothers did make improvements to their pioneer homes, however; Amandus added two in-tandem rooms to his one-room house for a total of three rooms and an upper half-story sleeping area, and George Franz enlarged and sheathed his log house in wood siding, which gave it a more finished appearance.

¹⁰⁰ Christine Feuge's age varied greatly from one census year to another. In the 1850 census, her age is listed as 39; in 1860, it's either 51 or 57; in 1870, she is 65, and in 1880, she is said to be 78 years old.

¹⁰¹ U. S. Bureau of the Census, 1860, Population Schedules, Gillespie County, Texas, https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/35193273:7667?tid=&pid=&queryId=0c2a8f6187ddacbb5ebe4cb53fe7ef45&_phsrc=Mbe1102&_phstart=successSource

¹⁰² U. S. Bureau of the Census, 1870, Population Schedules, Fredericks Valley, Gillespie County, Texas, https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/7679236:7163?tid=&pid=&queryId=501923ffd3a07f37d8bb86e4d8c034d1&_phsrc=Mbe1095&_phstart=successSource

¹⁰³ *Ibid.*

¹⁰⁴ Christoph Theodor Feuge likely built or helped build two 2-story stone houses for his neighbors, one in 1889 for Joseph Stehling Sr. on the George Franz Stehling farm, and the other about 1890 for John Stehling on the Amandus Stehling farm.

¹⁰⁵ Jordan, *German Seed...*, 1966/1993: 166.

¹⁰⁶ *Ibid.*

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The 1870 Agricultural schedules show little difference in Franz Stehling improved acreage from 1860; he had only 22 acres of improved land for crop production, down from 25 acres the previous decade. However, he acquired more unimproved land, generally meant as pasture for grazing livestock; in 1870, he had 200 acres of unimproved land, a considerable increase from the 55 acres he had in 1860. Because so much of his property was left in a natural state, his farm value only rose by \$100 over 1860, to \$700 in 1870. Franz owned five horses, 14 milk cows, 14 working oxen, and eight hogs but the real value of his livestock was his 100 head of “other,” beef, cattle; he judged his livestock to be worth \$580. That year, he harvested 22 bushels of wheat, 177 bushels of rye, and 275 bushels of Indian corn; the jump in Indian corn on less acreage than he had in 1860, is probably reflective of the 1859 drought year that affected crop numbers in the 1860 census.¹⁰⁷

In the same year, Amandus Stehling had 25 acres of improved land and 270 acres of unimproved pasture and woods; his farm was valued at \$1,000. He had five horses. As for cattle, he owned 20 milk cows, down from 30 in 1860, 20 working oxen, up from 12, and 75 head of beef cattle, slightly more than the 62 head shown in the 1860 Agricultural Schedule. And, while he had 15 hogs in 1860, he had none in 1870. His livestock in 1870 had decreased from a value of \$1,450 in 1860, to just \$875, in 1870. Amandus also grew 50 bushels of wheat and produced 700 bushels of Indian corn, a huge increase over 1859, when he harvested only 24 bushels of corn.¹⁰⁸

Christine Feuge, described as a “strong, determined woman” by Stehling descendants, still ran her farm next to Franz Stehling according to the 1870 Agricultural Schedules.¹⁰⁹ For the previous year, 1869, she had 25 acres of improved land and 90 acres of unimproved pasture. The farm’s value was \$600, with implements worth another \$120. She had five horses, 14 milk cows, 10 working oxen, and 10 other cattle. She also had six sheep and 10 swine. Her livestock was valued at \$517. Christine also grew 55 bushels of wheat, ten bushels of rye and 200 bushels of Indian corn. By these figures, it is evident that Christine Feuge remained a competent farmer on her own account.¹¹⁰

The 1870 Agricultural Schedules for 1869 show some gradual improvement over the drought year of 1859, as reported in the 1860 census. It is clear that farmers in the Klein Frankreich district had become more invested in their livestock than in crop production, as were many Gillespie County farmers at that time. All of the farmers in the district maintained substantial dairies of between 14 and 20 milk cows; all had teams of working oxen ranging from 10 to 20 head, and all had some beef cattle, though Christine had far fewer than her neighbors with only 10 head, as compared with Franz’s herd of 100 head, and Amandus, with 75. It is curious that Amandus had no hogs when he had 15 swine in 1860. Though all three grew wheat, and Christine and Franz also grew rye, corn remained the largest and arguably most important field crop. Corn had become essential to the German farmers, both for their own use and as feed for their livestock.¹¹¹ One noteworthy item of the 1870 census was a category for wages paid for labor; all of the farmers in the district paid some money in wages for the year ending in 1869: Franz spent \$62, Amandus spent \$112, and Christine, spent \$20, in wages.¹¹² They may have hired help for rounding up cattle, branding, or some form of specialized work needed on their farmsteads.

By the 1870s, the original building clusters had grown from compact sites with a few small-scale log buildings – a house and some animal shelters – to larger compounds divided into agricultural and domestic zones with more specialized buildings and structures. Agricultural zones or barnyards included dairy and horse barns with individual stalls for milking cows and grooming horses, hay lofts, and corn cribs. They also built sheep sheds, pig pens, and chicken coops, sometimes

¹⁰⁷ U. S. Bureau of the Census, 1870, Agricultural Schedules, Fredericks Valley, Gillespie County, Texas (Franz Stehling) https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/1276/images/T1134_9-00058?ssrc=&backlabel=Return

¹⁰⁸ *Ibid* (Amandus Stehling).

¹⁰⁹ Pape, *The Incredible Journey...*, 2020: 98.

¹¹⁰ U. S. Bureau of the Census, 1870, Agricultural Schedules, Fredericks Valley, Gillespie County, Texas (Christine Feuge) https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/1276/images/T1134_9-00058?ssrc=&backlabel=Return

¹¹¹ *Ibid*.

¹¹² *Ibid*.

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up against the exterior wall of a barn to provide greater shelter for their animals. Barnyards also included open pens and corrals for sorting, inspecting, and branding livestock. In the domestic zone or house yard, they dug deep, stone-lined wells and added stone tank houses for water storage, stone smokehouses, summer kitchens, hot water sheds, and workshops. They continued to build and repair stone fences through the 1870s. Some stone fences enclosed spaces such as garden plots and crop fields to protect them from free-ranging cattle; others were incorporated into barns and pens to shield the animals, especially sheep, from cold north winds.

As early as 1857, one of the main roads emanating from Fredericksburg toward the present town of Mason to the northwest passed through the Stehling, Huisar, and Murchison surveys in the district.¹¹³ A map of Gillespie County made in 1873, depicts the road now known as the “Old” Mason Road.¹¹⁴ Remnants of the abandoned road remain visible on the east side of present Highway 87, while an improved leg of the road cuts northwest across the highway and through the district. The improved section of the road remains in use by local farmers and ranchers, and is popular with bicyclists.

First Generation: 1880s

In 1880, the Stehlings and Feuges had lived in Texas for 35 years and were veteran farmers and ranchers in the Klein Frankreich community. Although the first generation remained in charge of their original farmsteads; some of their children had already left the country for Fredericksburg or other places elsewhere in Texas and beyond. But some children in each generation remained on their family farms.

According to the 1880 census, Amandus Stehling was 56 and his household consisted of his wife, Barbara, and children Christian, Adam, Margaretta, Mary (or Marie), and John, their youngest child. John likely helped on the farm, as well, but from the age of 13, he had worked as a teamster with his older brothers Christian and George.¹¹⁵ Amandus’ brother, George Franz, identified as “Frank” in the census that year, still lived on his farm with his wife, Margaretha, and two of their children, Frank and Joseph. Frank was occupied as a teamster, but Joseph was then farming on his father’s property.¹¹⁶

Nearby, Christine Feuge still ran her own farm at the advanced age of between 69, as inferred by her age of 39 in 1850, and 78, the age listed in the 1880 census. Her sons, Frank, 35, and Henry, 33, were still single and living in her household. Her daughter, Anna, was also single and lived at home though her age, 23, must have been incorrect; according to the 1870 census, Anna was 19, so she would have been 29 in 1880. Frank Feuge worked as a teamster like his neighbors, Frank Stehling, Jr., Christian, George, and John Stehling. Henry was farming on his mother’s farm. Next to Christine in the census record was her son Christoph [sic], then 42, who gave his occupation as both stock raiser and farmer. He lived with wife, Catharina, 39, and children, Caroline, 15, Henry, 12, Emma, 11, William, 8, Charley, 4, and Bertha, one, in the 1 ½-story stone house next to his mother.¹¹⁷

¹¹³ W. Von Rosenberg, [Map of] “Gillespie County,” March 23, 1857; (<https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph88582/m1/1/>; accessed April 7, 2022), University of North Texas Libraries, The Portal to Texas History, <https://texashistory.unt.edu>; crediting Texas General Land Office.

¹¹⁴ Herman Lungkwitz, [Map of] “Gillespie County,” April 1873; (<https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph88579/m1/1/>; accessed April 7, 2022), University of North Texas Libraries, The Portal to Texas History, <https://texashistory.unt.edu>; crediting Texas General Land Office.

¹¹⁵ Gillespie County Historical Society, *Pioneers in God’s Hills, Vol. II, 1974*, “John Stehling,” (194).

¹¹⁶ U. S. Bureau of the Census, 1880, Population Schedules, Gillespie County, Precinct 1 (Amandus Stehling and Frank Stehling).

https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/6823634:6742?tid=&pid=&queryId=2ac941fe7fa4e5464307fa1f24a68973&_phsrc=Mbe1108&_phstart=successSource

¹¹⁷ U. S. Bureau of the Census, 1880, Population Schedules, Gillespie County, Precinct 1 (Christina [sic] Feuge and Christoph Feuge [Jr.]) https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/6823634:6742?tid=&pid=&queryId=2ac941fe7fa4e5464307fa1f24a68973&_phsrc=Mbe1108&_phstart=successSource

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Interestingly, Christoph Theodor Feuge was the first person in the Klein Frankreich district to call himself a stock raiser, even though, by 1880, his mother and the Stehling brothers had all been more engaged in stock raising than crop farming to make their living for many years. In 1880, Christoph had five acres of tilled land, 10 acres in permanent meadows, orchards, or vineyards, and 109 acres of woodland, likely for grazing his livestock. Altogether, he owned 124 acres. The value of his farm, including buildings and fences, was \$650, with \$75 in farm implements and machinery. In 1879, he paid \$100 in building and repair costs.¹¹⁸

In terms of livestock, Christoph owned ten horses and one mule or ass. He may have quit the teamster business as he had only two working oxen in 1880. His other cattle included 18 milk cows, 94 beef cattle, and 18 calves dropped in 1879. He also owned 30 swine and eight sheep; three lambs dropped in 1879. His sheep yielded 20 pounds of wool. His livestock was valued at \$1,000, a fairly hefty sum in the district. Finally, Feuge estimated the value of his farm production for 1879 at \$151, though he had only 5 acres of tilled land.¹¹⁹

His mother, Christine Feuge, still owned 30 acres of tilled land, had no acreage in permanent meadows, and 90 acres of woodland, for a total of 120 acres. The value of her farm, including buildings and fences, was given as \$920. She had paid \$40 in building and repair costs in 1879. She had seven horses and three mules or asses. She also had four working oxen, two milk cows, and 36 “other” (beef) cattle. In addition, she kept 50 hogs on hand. She judged the value of her livestock at \$348 and her farm production for the year 1879 as \$85. She also had some expenditures for hired labor; she paid \$12 in wages for four weeks of hired labor the previous year.¹²⁰

Nearby neighbor, Franz Stehling, had 24 acres of tilled land and 140 acres of woodland, for a total of 164 acres, likely not including his home and barn site. He estimated the value of his farm, including buildings and fences, at \$1,500, a sizeable sum in the area. He had \$30 worth of farm implements and machinery. Judging by his 24 working oxen, Franz was still in the teamster business, though his sons had most likely taken charge of it. He also had a sizeable dairy with 27 milk cows. He was well-invested in beef cattle with 88 head and 27 calves dropped in 1879. In addition, he had 11 hogs. He listed 20 barnyard fowl and produced 60 dozen eggs in 1879. He estimated the value of his farm production at \$228 but the mainstay of his farm was his livestock, valued at \$1,820.¹²¹

By 1880, Amandus Stehling had acquired much more land than his brother or his neighbors. He still had only a modest amount of tilled land, at 40 acres but owned 500 acres of permanent meadow, pasture, orchards, and vineyards, and 800 acres of woodland for a total of 1,340 acres. He estimated the value of his farm, including buildings and fences, at \$3,000 with another \$200 in farm implements and machinery. His high farm value may reflect the construction of the 2-story stone house he built for his son, John, that year.¹²²

Amandus also had the highest number of cattle among the four families; he owned 32 working oxen, 24 milk cows, and 140 head of beef cattle, with 24 calves dropped the previous year. Like his brother, Amandus’ large number of working oxen indicates his continued work as a teamster, an occupation that may have been taken over by his adult sons by then. Amandus also owned 40 hogs and 35 barnyard chickens that produced 100 dozen eggs in 1879. His livestock was valued at \$2,075 in the 1880 Agricultural Census.¹²³ From these figures, it is apparent that the Stehling brothers’ livestock values had improved considerably since 1870.

¹¹⁸ U. S. Bureau of the Census, 1880, Agricultural Schedules, Gillespie County, Texas, Precinct 1 (Christoph Feuge).

https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/1276/images/T1134_24-00562?ssrc=&backlabel=Return

¹¹⁹ *Ibid.* (Christoph Feuge).

¹²⁰ *Ibid.* (Christofer [sic] Feuge)

¹²¹ *Ibid.* (Frank Stehling).

¹²² *Ibid.* (Amandus Stehling).

¹²³ *Ibid.*

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Conversely, neither the Feuges nor the Stehlings grew many crops for market sales; most of their land was given to grazing or raising corn to feed their dairy cows and other livestock. However, the 1880 figures were based on the 1879 harvest and, like the 1859 harvest, 1879 was another drought year that resulted in poor harvests throughout the region. In 1879, Christine Feuge had 20 acres of land planted in Indian corn, but produced only six bushels. She also had seven acres in cotton and produced half a bale. Her son, Christoph, had just two acres of Indian corn and no appreciable production. Like his mother, he also put a portion of his land in cotton – three acres – which yielded just one-fourth of a bale in 1879.¹²⁴ On his farm, Frank Stehling planted six acres of Indian corn and harvested ten bushels in 1879. He also planted grains; he had three acres of oats that produced 12 bushels, and four acres of wheat that produced 14 bushels. As with the Feuges, he also put six acres in cotton but produced just a single bale in 1879.¹²⁵

Amandus Stehling had 15 acres in Indian corn, which yielded 15 bushels; four acres in oats, for a total of 27 bushels; and six acres in wheat, which produced 28 bushels. Like his brother and neighbors, Amandus planted cotton: six acres that produced only one bale for his effort. Only Christine Feuge and Amandus Stehling listed orchard production that year; Christine had 20 bearing peach trees that produced 25 bushels of peaches, while Amandus had 60 bearing trees that yielded 60 bushels. Amandus' orchard was among the largest and most productive in the census tract. No other fruit trees or berries were listed for either the Feuges or the Stehling brothers for the year ending in 1879.¹²⁶

Second Generation

The 1880s proved to be a decade of enormous change for the Feuge and Stehling families. Among the most consequential was the passing of the torch from the first generation of German immigrants to the second generation of native-borne farmers and ranchers. Christine Feuge, the indefatigable matriarch of her family, passed away on June 16, 1881.¹²⁷ She had carried on as the head of her household, operating the farm she and her husband had carved out of the wilderness for 28 years after Christoph's death in 1853. Christine Feuge almost certainly had assistance from her children, but seems to have borne the burden of managing her homestead on her own; her resolve and fortitude were the stuff of true pioneers. Following their mother's death, brothers Heinrich and Christoph Theodor Feuge, arranged with their other siblings to buy her homestead.¹²⁸ Christoph Theodor and his family continued to occupy the 1 ½ story stone house and remained in possession of the surrounding land.

The decade of the 1880s brought similar changes to the George Franz and Amandus Stehling families. George Franz died on July 28, 1883; he left behind his wife of more than 30 years, Margaretha, 47, their daughter Catherine, 24, and sons, Franz, or Frank, 22, and Joseph, 20.¹²⁹ Their first two children, Gertrude and Maria, had died young of diphtheria.¹³⁰ Their youngest child, Joseph, born October 1, 1860, had already been farming on the family homestead by the age of twenty, according to the 1880 census. After his father's death, the young man took over the farm.¹³¹ On February 28, 1889, Joseph married Catharina Staudt, who would ultimately bear him 16 children: 12 sons and four daughters (Figure 13).¹³² In that year, his neighbor, Christoph Feuge (Jr.), either built or supervised the construction of a new house for himself and his bride (Figure 14)

¹²⁴ U. S. Bureau of the Census, 1880, Agricultural Schedule, Gillespie County, Precinct 1, (Christine Feuge and Christoph Feuge (https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/1276/images/T1134_24-00562?src=&backlabel=Return

¹²⁵ *Ibid.* (Amandus Stehling).

¹²⁶ *Ibid.* (Amandus and Franz Stehling; Christine and Christoph Feuge).

¹²⁷ Pape, *The Incredible Journey...*, 2020: 98.

¹²⁸ Gillespie County Deed Records: Vol. J: 274; Vol. K: 433-434; Vol. K: 490-491; Vol. L: 145.

¹²⁹ Pape, *The Incredible Journey...*, 2020: 135.

¹³⁰ *Ibid.*

¹³¹ *Ibid.* 132.

¹³² *Ibid.* 136.

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Across Baron's Creek to the east, Amandus Stehling remained head of his household in the 1880s, but his youngest son, John, began to take on more of the day-to-day operation of the farm. Though he had worked with his brothers, George and Christian, as a teamster from the age of thirteen, John had always had a penchant for ranching. Even as a child in the early 1870s, John had raised sheep on the farm. From just eight head of sheep, he ultimately increased his flock until he reportedly had more sheep than any other farmer in Gillespie County. He herded the sheep by day and penned them in brush shelters at night to protect them from predators.¹³³

But taking over the farm from his father proved to be a large undertaking; throughout the nineteenth century, Amandus Stehling continually had added to his original 64-acre homestead until he had accumulated several thousand acres by the time John reached his maturity. That time came in 1890, when John married Mary Lewis and took over the farm from his parents. Amandus had a new, two-story limestone house with an attached, full-façade front porch built for John and his new wife (Figure 11); reportedly built or supervised by Christoph Feuge (Jr.), the house lay just a few yards from the family's original log house where the elder Stehlings still lived. Six children would be born and raised in the two-story house (Figure 12). All three generations continued to live side-by-side until 1904, when Amandus and Barbara Stehling retired to a cottage in Fredericksburg.¹³⁴

The early twentieth century was a good era for agriculture as people moved into Texas in substantial numbers following major oil discoveries in the state at that time. There was a great demand for all agricultural products and the livestock industry boomed and became a mainstay of Gillespie County's economy.¹³⁵ Though most of the farmers in the district had long ago turned predominantly to raising livestock, the huge increase in the demand for meat prompted them to increase their flocks of sheep and goats, and herds of beef cattle. Their emphasis on livestock continued to be profitable through the 1910s when military demand soared during World War I.¹³⁶

John Stehling was an industrious farmer who raised sheep, goats, cattle, horses, and oxen on his farm. Like his father and other farmers and stock raisers in Klein Frankreich, he grew corn and oats mainly as food for his livestock, and wheat. As his family grew, he enlarged the garden until it covered about five acres – one acre devoted solely to potatoes – where they planted and canned an enormous amount of vegetables, including tomatoes, okra, green beans, and sweet corn cut from the cob. He maintained a fruit orchard bearing apricots, peaches, and pears, as well as the pecan grove planted by his father. In addition, he continued to work as a teamster, hauling freight to augment his income from the sale of livestock.

John Stehling and his neighbors, the Feuges, were also civic minded. John Stehling and another man, Ernest Houy, petitioned the state for a school district in 1900 and were granted District No. 36. The first trustees of the new Klein Frankreich school were John Stehling, Ernest Houy, and Henry Feuge, Sr., Christoph Feuge's relative.¹³⁷ At first, classes were held at the home of Nichlos Ochs, about two and a half miles northwest of Fredericksburg; no records exist for the school from the first three years. But residents wanted a more centralized school that was closer for the majority of the students, especially the Stehling and Feuge children. In 1905, Henry Feuge Sr. sold two acres of land out of the Heinrich Stiehle Survey No. 765, to the Gillespie County Board of Trustees for \$2.00, basically a donation.¹³⁸ The Feuge and Stehling children all attended the one-room Klein Frankreich School from school year 1904-05, until it closed in 1949.¹³⁹

¹³³ Pape, *The Incredible Journey...*, 2020: 117; Gillespie County Historical Society, *Pioneers in God's Hills, Vol. II*, "John Stehling," (197).

¹³⁴ *Ibid.*; Pape, *The Incredible Journey...*, 2020: 116.

¹³⁵ Lucile Stehling Pape, "Important Events During the Second Generation," typescript, 2020.

¹³⁶ *Ibid.*

¹³⁷ Henry Feuge Sr. was related to Christoph Feuge [Sr.], but it is not known if he was his brother or a cousin.

¹³⁸ Lucille Stehling Pape, "Klein Frankreich School," typescript, 2020, from information provided by Clara Feuge Land in 1982. Lucille Pape was a former student who attended the rural school from 1934 to 1942.

¹³⁹ *Ibid.*

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One constant over time was the close relationship between the Stehling and Feuge families. Though the Feuges were Lutherans and the Stehlings were Catholics, facts that tacitly prevented them from intermarrying in that era, the two families were good friends who collaborated on numerous mutually beneficial projects together, not the least of which was building the stone houses, barns, smokehouses, and other outbuildings that characterize 19th and early 20th century German building patterns and traditions in Gillespie, Comal, Mason, and other Hill Country counties in Central Texas. The Feuges were known as expert stone masons who built or supervised the construction of late-19th century houses for Joseph Stehling, on the George Franz homestead, and John Stehling, on the Amandus Stehling farm, as well as their own stone saltbox house in 1870, and their finely-crafted two-story Victorian style stone house in 1901.

The Feuges and Stehlings worked together to quarry the stone, shape it, haul it to the job site, lay the blocks, and blast concrete for mortar. In the second and third generations, young men of both families worked together as teamsters, hauling freight in ox-drawn wagons between Fredericksburg and railheads in Austin and San Antonio, and as far away as San Angelo, in West Texas. Though not of the same religion, they were each others' closest neighbors and had other things in common: they shared the same language and cultural heritage and held similar values, among them family loyalty, education, a strong work ethic, and land ownership.

Amandus Stehling reportedly enlisted the help of his neighbor, Christoph Feuge (Jr.), to build his son's stone house. As built, c. 1890, the John Stehling House was a two-story, side-gabled dwelling with interior stone chimneys in the gable ends and an attached, full-façade shed-roofed front porch supported by wood posts (Figure 11; Figure 25). A second gabled wing was added to the rear of the original two-story house sometime after 1897, likely about 1900. The new stone wing was set perpendicular to and behind the side-gabled house, resulting in a T-shaped building footprint. The new wing also featured a partial façade shed-roofed porch supported by wood posts; this wing became the new primary façade possibly because it faced toward Old Mason Road which cut across the east side of the property between Fredericksburg and the town of Mason further north. Both wings are built of limestone block and display the same type and level of craftsmanship.

About the same time the two-story house was constructed, a separate stone kitchen/workshop and stone tank house were built in the domestic yard; the tank house was used to cure and smoke sausage and other meats. Next to the kitchen the family added a free-standing fireplace with a large cast iron cauldron set into the hearth to heat water for laundry, bathing, butchering hogs, making soap and other household chores; later, a frame workshop was built on the other side of the hearth leaving the fireplace open at the center of the two buildings, resulting in a "dog trot" configuration. A hand-dug well had already been built in the yard next to the log house c.1860; in the 1880s, the well was drilled to a deeper level and lined with stone from the bottom up. The house yard, including both the stone and log dwellings, summer kitchen, well, and tank house, was enclosed by a wood picket fence (Figures 11 and 25).¹⁴⁰

John's cousin, Joseph, built a similar stone house on the Franz Stehling homestead. The two-story stone house was completed in 1889, the year he and Catharina were married (Figure 14). As built, it was a two-story, side-gabled limestone block house with a massive stone chimney on one of the gable ends and an attached, full-façade front porch supported by wood posts. The addition of a c. 1900 wing at the rear of the house resulted in an L-shaped building footprint. According to family sources, Joseph's neighbors, the Feuges, built, or helped build the house for Joseph and his new wife. About the same time, Joseph added two new stone barns opposite the house and across the access drive (Figure 14). He also built a sheep pen against a stone wall that served as a wind break on the north side of the structure to better protect the animals and a large stone water tank in the yard behind the house. These resources still survive on the homesite though the barns have been converted to domestic uses, including a guest house and office; the stone tank serves as a swimming pool.

A decade later, Charles, aka Carl, Feuge built a large two-story stone house across from his parents' 1 ½ story limestone rubble dwelling. In the tradition of the Stehlings, the house was built the same year Charles married Hannah Pape. The

¹⁴⁰ Pape, *The Incredible Journey...*, 2020: 117.

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“1901” house,” as it is known for the date incised in the stone lintel above the entrance, displays exceptional craftsmanship in its precise corners and finely chiseled blocks; each block measures 18” deep and 3’ long (Figure 17). The side-gabled house rises a full two stories above the stone foundation and features an attached full-façade front porch supported by wood posts with Victorian-style wood brackets and a decorative wood frieze across the front and sides of the porch. While Christoph Theodore Feuge was known as a stone mason who likely built the 1 ½-story stone dwelling on his homestead and the two Stehling houses, the precision and refinement of the 1901 may be attributable to his son, Carl’s particular skill and talent. Other stone resources built on the Feuge farmstead in the late 19th or early 20th century include a smokehouse and storm shelter (Figure 16). These ancillary buildings also exhibit a high degree of craftsmanship in their stonework. Even the later stone fences and stone barn walls on the Feuge farmstead from this era are finely cut and artistically arranged.

The limestone blocks used in the houses may have been quarried from outcroppings along Baron’s Creek. Herbert Stehling, a great-grandson of Amandus Stehling, described a 30’ cliff behind his grandfather’s house as one source of stone. He recalled stories of mules pulling big slabs of rock to the surface¹⁴¹ where the masons cut them into square blocks with small stone hand axes.¹⁴² The blocks were then loaded into wagons and hauled to the homesite where masons directed workers – usually family members and neighbors – in the construction. The 18” stones were laid and set in place with a thin layer of cement mortar; limestone chips at the quarry site were fired and pulverized into a powder and mixed with sand to make the mortar.¹⁴³ Labor was often provided by family members and neighbors who hauled the stones from the quarry to the building site and hoisted them into place, a chore usually done on a Saturday.¹⁴⁴ The limestone blocks used in the construction of the two 2-story houses were more precisely cut and finished than the stone in the earlier 1 ½-story “saltbox” house on the Christoph Feuge homesite, possibly because the masons had become more skilled and had access to better tools for chiseling and shaping the rock.

Farmstead Layout and Development: 1880-1910

As cultural geographer and historian, Terry Jordan, wrote in his *Handbook of Texas* article, “German Vernacular Architecture,” early German immigrants did not replicate their traditional house and farmstead plans in the Hill Country. They particularly eschewed the “lower Saxon and hill Hessian combination of human and animal quarters under one roof” and the “Frankish court” arrangement of farm buildings that were “tightly grouped around an enclosed farmyard.”¹⁴⁵ The earliest settlers in Fredericksburg initially followed those German traditions on their small town lots and 10-acre outlots, but when they acquired larger farms, they adopted the Anglo-American farmstead model with separate domestic quarters and animal barns set at least some distance apart for comfort and health. In Germany, they combined these uses because they had so little land to spare, but in Texas, where they often had hundreds of acres, they had the luxury to differentiate their house yards from their barnyards, though their barns and outbuildings were still set close enough to their homes for convenience and safety. They enclosed their gardens and pastures, and marked property boundaries with stone fences from the very outset. Many of these stone fences survive in Gillespie County and the district.

The layout of the first-generation farmsteads in the district are not entirely known, but from the few surviving resources from the early settlement era, it appears that the original log house and a few log animal shelters were placed somewhat randomly but close together on a level, elevated site above the floodplain of about an acre. But within a few years, as evidenced from their livestock as shown in agricultural schedules, they expanded their building/structure sites to include smokehouses, one or more log barns for horses and dairy cows, and hog pens. They also built hand-dug wells and water tanks, privies, workshops, and vegetable gardens enclosed with stone fences.

¹⁴¹ Herb Stehling, interview with Terri Myers, December 7, 2020.

¹⁴² Charles Blackwell, interview with Terri Myers, December 8, 2020.

¹⁴³ Herb Stehling, interview with Terri Myers, December 7, 2020.

¹⁴⁴ *Ibid.*

¹⁴⁵ Jordan, “German Vernacular Architecture,” *Handbook of Texas Online*, updated November 29, 2019.

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As the second-generation farmers concentrated increasingly on livestock for their livelihoods, they began to build additional – sometimes larger and more specialized – barns and outbuildings in their barnyards in the 1880s and 1890s. By the 1880s, they were raising sheep in greater numbers and built shelters up against some of the stone fences as a wind break, though one or more of the other sides remained open to the weather but enclosed with a timber post and wire fence. Some stone fences were used as foundation/basements or as the first floor of larger barns; second generation farmers typically clad the upper walls in wood siding. These larger barns featured hay lofts, milking and horse stalls, and provided better protection from the elements. Two or three large hen houses stood in the barnyards. As barbed wire came into widespread use in the late 1880s and early 1890s, farmers ceased building stone fences to enclose pastures and mark property boundaries, but they maintained and continued to use them, especially as walls for animal pens and barns.

In this second-generation era, house/yard sites became more differentiated from the barnyards. Farmers in the district enclosed their homesites with wood picket fences to visually define their separate domestic “family” zones apart from their agricultural “work” zones. The enclosures had the practical benefit of keeping children safe from the sometimes dangerous work that occurred in barnyards and keeping animals out of the gardens. Later, these two functional areas were separated by farm access roads leading from the public highway to the home and barn complex. The domestic resources were sometimes clustered together on one side of the road’s terminus with agricultural resources on the other side. By this time, new resources in the house yards included large stone water storage tanks, windmills, hot water houses, workshops, and, in at least one case, a partially underground stone storm cellar. All of the families in the district maintained large vegetable gardens for their own use. Covering an acre of land or more, the fenced gardens lay close to the house so women and children could more easily haul water from the tank or well to get to the plants. Farmers in the district also planted peach and pear trees; some made wine from wild “mustang” grapes.

Though a nationwide depression starting with the Panic of 1893 stymied their ability to obtain bank loans on expected crops or livestock production, farmers in the district held onto their land, paid interest on loans from their parents, and continued raising crops and livestock. After the turn of the century, conditions for Texas farmers and stock raisers improved as increased urbanization and U. S. involvement in World War I prompted greater demand and larger markets for agricultural products, which translated into a better economic climate for farmers.¹⁴⁶ From the late nineteenth century through the 1910s, Christoph Theodore Feuge, Joseph Stehling, Sr. and John Stehling continued to grow wheat, corn, oats, and other small grains, primarily to feed their livestock. At the same time, they increased their cattle herds and flocks of sheep which were their main source of income. In this period, John Stehling had the largest amount of sheep in Gillespie County.¹⁴⁷ As the population of Texas grew in the late 1800s and early 1900s, farmers in the district found ready markets for their beeves, lambs, and goats in nearby towns like Fredericksburg and, after the railroad came to the area in 1913, larger cities like San Antonio.

In the era from about 1880 to 1910, the second generation substantially improved their parents’ frontier farmsteads and their own living conditions. They had developed their parents’ farmsteads from wilderness outposts with log houses and minimal animal shelters, to more complex building compounds with permanent stone dwellings, smokehouses, tank houses, summer kitchens, and more specialized barns, animal pens, and other outbuildings. They increased their herds and added to their acreage. While not wealthy, these second-generation families achieved a relatively high level of comfort and security and were considered successful farmers. Nevertheless, agricultural work remained a grueling, back-breaking occupation; nearly all of the adult men and older male teens in the district worked 60 hours per week according to census records in the early twentieth century. Almost all of the field work in the region was done by resident farmers and immediate family members; they typically did not engage in tenancy or hire laborers for wages, though they sometimes bartered with transient field hands for food and a place to sleep in the barn, until a particular chore or season was finished.

¹⁴⁶ Henry C. Dethloff and Garry L. Nall “Agriculture,” *The New Handbook of Texas*, Vol. I, Austin, Texas: Texas State Historical Association, 1996, 63.

¹⁴⁷ Pape, *The Incredible Journey...*, 2020: 116.

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Women and children were not exempt from this dawn-to-dusk workday, either. Women were tasked with cooking, cleaning, making and washing clothes, tending the garden, canning fruits and vegetables for large, sometimes multi-generational households. They did so while training, supervising, and nurturing their children. Women boiled water in huge cast iron pots over an outdoor wood-burning fireplace to do laundry, can produce, make soap, butcher hogs, and a myriad of other chores requiring scalding hot water. Children also performed important chores before and after school; they fed chickens, gathered and cleaned eggs, milked cows, collected firewood, tended the gardens, and other duties essential to rural life. In addition, men and boys often took on odd jobs or skilled work to supplement their incomes. For these and other reasons, many in the younger generations left the farm for other, less labor-intensive work in Fredericksburg, Kerrville, and elsewhere. Still, some family members in each generation remained on the land throughout the historic period.

Transition from Second to Third Generation: 1920s

In the 1920s, second-generation farmers in the district began to retire or otherwise turn their farms over to the next generation. The 1920 census shows John and Mary Stehling living near St. Mary's Church, in Fredericksburg, with John's sister, Mary, and their mother, Barbara Vogel Stehling.¹⁴⁸ By then, the family patriarch, Amandus Stehling, had passed away. His grandson, John, had lived and worked on the homestead for half a century. Though John still called himself a stockman on the farm in the 1920 Census, his son, Paul, 25, managed it. At the time, Paul and his wife, Nelda, were the only members of the family living on the Amandus Stehling homestead.¹⁴⁹ That changed when he and his brother, Richard, bought the property from their parents in 1920.¹⁵⁰

Under his stewardship, John Stehling had accumulated much more land in Klein Frankreich for a total of 2,400 acres. It was divided equally between two of his sons, Paul and Richard, each of whom received 1,200 acres of land. Paul and Richard did not "inherit" the land outright but bought it in the form of a loan and paid interest on the balance to their parents. They also settled with their siblings for their share of their parents' property. Similar transactions between parents and children for the disposition of the farm were common among German immigrant families in the area. The arrangement allowed the younger generation to continue farming and profit from it, while providing their parents with a source of income in their later years, somewhat like a pension or social security. After selling the farm, John and Mary Stehling bought a hotel in Fredericksburg - the Plaza Hotel - where they had a suite of rooms. The couple enjoyed living in town and hosted numerous social events at the hotel.¹⁵¹

Paul and Nelda Stehling married in 1919 (Figure 18) and built a new Craftsman style bungalow northeast of the original homestead. Completed in 1921, the house became the headquarters of their half of the Amandus/John Stehling homestead. Paul's brother, Richard, moved into their parents' two-story stone house where he and his wife, Ida, raised their five children. Richard's property had the advantage of existing barns and outbuildings, but Paul soon added similar barns and outbuildings behind his new house which fronted Old Mason Road. Both brothers continued farming and raising livestock, but in the 1920s, they expanded their efforts to their property on the east side of present Highway 87. Their grandfather and father had not improved the land in their lifetimes, but left it in natural grasses and woods. No permanent creeks flowed through that section, but it had plenty of natural springs. The brothers captured spring water in pipes and

¹⁴⁸ U. S. Bureau of the Census, 1920, https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/62782269:6061?tid=&pid=&queryId=c6c1e817104af336d4adbbe5a780efc7&_phsrc=Mbe1456&_phstart=successSource

¹⁴⁹ Richard Stehling does not appear in the 1920 Census.

¹⁵⁰ Lucille Stehling Pape, "Important Events During the Second Generation," typescript, 2020; U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1920.

¹⁵¹ Lucille Stehling Pape, interview with Terri Myers, December 8, 2020. Mary died in 1938 and in 1946, John sold the building to his son, Arthur, a lawyer, who converted it into a modern bank and office building, Security State Bank.

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channeled it into concrete troughs for their livestock, thus turning the land into good pasturage. They also built earthen dams to create reservoirs.¹⁵²

Meanwhile, similar generational transitions were taking place on the George Franz/Joseph Stelling, Sr. and Christoph and Christine Feuge farms. Christoph Theodor Feuge, who had emigrated from Germany to Texas as a boy of eight with his parents, could be considered part of the first generation. He undoubtedly helped his mother on his parents' farm after his father's accidental death in 1853. As a young man, he established his own household and farm on land he acquired from his mother who still lived on or next to the original homesite. Since then, he had worked continuously as a stock raiser and farmer, in addition to being a skilled stone mason for several churches and dwellings in the region.¹⁵³ In 1870 or 1871, he built the extant 1 ½ story stone house on the Feuge homestead for his own family. He also built, or helped build, two-story stone houses for his neighbors, Joseph Stehling, Sr., in 1889, and John Stehling, c. 1890.¹⁵⁴

But by 1920, Christoph was a widower of 82 who lived with his son, Charles, or Carl, as he was sometimes called, his son's wife Hannah, and their children in the stone house he and Charles built in 1901. Charles owned the home and farm, which may have been combined with his father's adjacent farm. Charles' occupation in the 1920 Census was shown as "farmer" engaged in "general farming," but, like his father, he was also a skilled stone mason who reportedly built the Methodist Church on Edison Street, in Fredericksburg, as well as other buildings in the area.¹⁵⁵ Charles and Hanna's oldest son, Edgar worked as a farm laborer, likely on his parent's farm where he grew up.¹⁵⁶

On the neighboring farm, Joseph Stehling, Sr. remained the head of his large household. In 1920, at the age of 59, Joseph owned his own house and farm and engaged in "general farming." His three oldest sons, Louis, 25, Adolph, 20, and Robert, 17, lived at home and worked on the farm as farm laborers. Altogether, Joseph and his wife, and ten of their 16 children, ranging in age from one-year-old Isidor, the baby, to Louis, 25, occupied the 1889 stone house. About 1900, Joseph enlarged his house with a two-story stone wing to the rear of the main volume to accommodate his growing family (Figure 14).¹⁵⁷ Though Joseph was still living and working on the farm in 1920, his son Robert would take charge of the homestead by 1930.

Third Generation in the Great Depression: 1930s

When the third generation of farmers and ranchers in the district took charge of their family homesteads in the 1920s, conditions appeared favorable for continued agricultural stability, even progress, in Central Texas. Paul and Richard Stehling began to build water conservation features on their farms. They developed natural springs with pipes to channel the water into concrete water troughs for their livestock, and built earthen dams and reservoirs to store and control the flow of water on the east side of present State Highway 87. They also invested in modern equipment including gas-powered tractors and threshing machines. The early 1920s had been hopeful years for the third generation of young farmers who got married, started families, and sought to improve upon their parents' efforts with progressive farming methods and machinery.

But the 1929 stock market crash and catastrophic depression that followed, brought hard economic times to farmers across the country; farmers in Klein Frankreich were not spared. Bank failures meant they could not borrow money against their

¹⁵² Ted Stehling, interviews with Terri Myers, December 8, 2020, and March 13, 2021.

¹⁵³ Charles Blackwell, interview with Terri Myers, December 8, 2020.

¹⁵⁴ Lucille Stehling Pape, interview with Terri Myers, December 7, 2020.

¹⁵⁵ Charles Blackwell, interview with Terri Myers, December 8, 2020.

¹⁵⁶ U. S. Bureau of the Census, 1920, https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/62783559:6061?tid=&pid=&queryId=acb3ce385ce1339654efa813f848537f&_phsrc=Mbe1460&_phstart=successSource

¹⁵⁷ *Ibid.*

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farms; some borrowed money from others in the local community just to pay the interest on the farm mortgage loans they had taken out from their parents. Whatever level of comfort and security farmers in the district enjoyed in the first two decades of the century had dwindled in the 1920s, and evaporated in the 1930s, during the Great Depression.

In 1930, Charles (Carl) Feuge, 53, and his wife, Hannah, 54, still occupied the two-story stone house that Charles and his father built in 1901. They owned their home and farm. Charles listed his occupation as “farmer” in the 1930 Census, but he also worked as a stone mason, and later, as a gunsmith.¹⁵⁸ Still at home were their son, Lee, a 21-year-old public school teacher, and sisters, Elsa, 17, and Lillie, 10. A boarder lived in the household; she was a young woman named Amanda Arhelger, also a public school teacher.¹⁵⁹ One or both of the young teachers may have worked at the rural Klein Frankreich school. Charles’ father, Christoph Theodore, who had lived in his son’s household after the death of his wife, had passed away at the age of 86. At the time of his death, he was one of the last of the original German immigrants in Klein Frankreich, having come to Texas with his family in 1846. Charles and Hannah Feuge’s son, Hugo Feuge, 24, and his wife, Rosa, 23, lived next door to them in the old 1 ½ story stone house.¹⁶⁰ According to the 1930 Census, Hugo worked as a laborer at “odd jobs,” and rented his house, almost certainly from his parents (Figure 15).¹⁶¹

At the George Franz/Joseph Stehling, Sr. farmstead, Joseph Stehling Sr. and his wife Katherina had moved to Fredericksburg with their daughter Rosa and four youngest children. Their son, Robert, 28, and his wife, Elizabeth, 23, were then the sole occupants of the family’s stone farmhouse in 1930. The couple had been married for three years and did not yet have children. Joseph still considered his occupation as that of a “ranchman” who raised livestock “on his own account.”¹⁶² Most of Joseph and Katherina’s sixteen children had married and moved away by 1930, some to their spouse’s farms, others to Fredericksburg and elsewhere.

Across the creek from Robert and Elizabeth Stehling, lived Robert’s cousin, Richard Stehling, 32, and his wife, Ida (Fiedler), 29. By 1930, the couple had three children: Norman, 6, Lucille, nearly 3, and Harold, a one-year-old baby.¹⁶³ Richard’s brother, Paul, 35, and his wife, Nelda (Heep), 28, lived further north and east. The couple owned their farm and the modern Craftsman style bungalow they built in 1921. They lived there with their only child at the time, seven-year-old James. They had two more children before the decade was out: Carolyn and Ted (Figure 19). An interesting question on the 1930 census was whether the respondent owned a radio set. Both Richard and Paul answered “yes;” the Census showed that few of their neighbors had that technology.

The Great Depression had a profound and lasting effect on millions of Americans who lived through it, but for many Texan farmers and ranchers, economic hardship had already begun in the early 1920s, with the so-called agricultural crisis of 1920-1921. Texas farmers and ranchers had benefitted from military demand during World War I, but when the war ended, they were left with surpluses which meant a drastic decrease in crop and livestock prices. Some sought to remedy the situation by retiring their draft animals and investing in tractors and other modern farm equipment for greater production and efficiency. Many took out loans to buy such equipment in the hope they would pay for themselves. They also put more land into cultivation. But these measures only left farmers in debt and contributed to the imbalance between

¹⁵⁸ On Carl Feuge’s death certificate in 1949, his wife stated that his usual occupation was as a gunsmith. State of Texas Death Certificate: Carl Theodor Feuge, October 27, 1949. https://www.ancestry.com/mediaui-viewer/tree/55917883/person/36002926905/media/35d7efa5-571c-4ec1-b332-46372e0464d7?_phsrc=Mbe1496&_phstart=successSource

¹⁵⁹ U. S. Bureau of the Census, 1930, https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/63745670:6224?tid=&pid=&queryId=bb6f16fdd64b8a78df074f83e5ad3af8&_phsrc=Mbe1462&_phstart=successSource

¹⁶⁰ Charles Blackwell, interview with Terri Myers, December 8, 2020.

¹⁶¹ U. S. Bureau of the Census, 1930, https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/63745670:6224?tid=&pid=&queryId=bb6f16fdd64b8a78df074f83e5ad3af8&_phsrc=Mbe1462&_phstart=successSource

¹⁶² *Ibid.*

¹⁶³ Two more sons were born in the 1930s: Herbert in 1932, and Richard, Jr. in 1938.

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supply and demand, a condition that lasted through the decade.¹⁶⁴ Charles Blackwell, great-great grandson of Christoph and Christine Feuge, recalled both his mother and his grandparents telling him that the German farmers in the region were already so poor that the Depression didn't really make that much of a difference to them.¹⁶⁵

Even so, low agricultural prices, bank closures, and lack of credit throughout the Great Depression prevented the third generation of farmers and ranchers from achieving the level of financial stability and sense of optimism their parents had enjoyed at the turn of the century. Descendants of Richard and Paul Stehling – the fourth generation who took over the Amandus Stehling homestead – vividly recall the demanding work that went into making a living from the land during the Depression. Richard and Ida's daughter, Lucille Stehling Pape, wrote that her parents "lost the few dollars they had managed to save since their marriage in 1921."¹⁶⁶ She explained that "prices for agricultural products fell to their lowest levels in history," leaving many farmers and ranchers unable to pay their bank loans.¹⁶⁷ As a result, many lost their farms in the 1930s. She recalled that high unemployment led to "many homeless people wandering the country seeking help. There were no government subsidies, food stamps or assistance of any kind. It was every man for himself."¹⁶⁸

Lucille's brother, Herb Stehling, remembered that his family had little more than what they could grow or make on the farm. When they went shopping in Fredericksburg, it was to buy staples like sugar, flour, and coffee.¹⁶⁹ Even then, farm families rarely had cash and resorted to bartering with grocers for necessities. During the week, it was the children's job to milk the cows, feed the chickens, and gather and wash the eggs. Mothers then skimmed the cream and made butter, molding it into pound-sized blocks; it was kept cool in the ice box. When they had a full case of eggs – 36 dozen – they packed everything up and took them to the store for the grocer to tally while they shopped. When finished, the farm wives took their items to the checkout stand for the count; if the grocer's price for the eggs and butter didn't cover cost of the groceries, she removed items one at a time – the least practical first – until her credit from the eggs and butter equaled the cost of the remaining groceries. In this manner, many "luxury" items were put back on the shelf, leaving only the essentials on the counter.¹⁷⁰

Children rarely got toys or candy except on holidays like Christmas, and in at least one year, not even then.¹⁷¹ They seldom had "store bought" clothes; mothers collected flour sacks of the same pattern to make shirts and dresses. They did, however, have some advantages over children who lived in town. They raised their own beef, sheep, and chickens for meat, and had cows for dairy products. They also grew their own vegetables in large gardens of more than an acre in size; women and girls spent sweltering summer and fall days over hot wood stoves to can them for the winter. They also had orchards bearing peaches, pears, and apricots so the families had fresh fruit; they canned the excess to store along with the vegetables. In addition, Paul and Richard's families gathered pecans from trees planted along the creek by Amandus Stehling. They also picked wild "mustang grapes" to make homemade wine.¹⁷²

Herb Stehling remembered that his family worked every day except Sunday, which was reserved for church and rest. The Stehlings were Catholics and attended St. Mary's Catholic Church in Fredericksburg. When Richard's children were young, the family rode in a wagon for the four-mile trek into town; later they drove a Ford to town to shop and attend church. After finishing grammar school at the one-room Klein Frankreich school, the Stehling children attended St. Mary's Catholic High School in Fredericksburg.

¹⁶⁴ Henry C. Dethloff and Garry L. Nall, "Agriculture," *The New Handbook of Texas*, Vol. I: 63.

¹⁶⁵ Charles Blackwell interview with Terri Myers, December 8, 2020.

¹⁶⁶ Lucille Stehling Pape, "Important Events During the Third Generation," typescript, 2020.

¹⁶⁷ *Ibid.*

¹⁶⁸ *Ibid.*

¹⁶⁹ Herb Stehling, interview with Terri Myers, December 7, 2020.

¹⁷⁰ *Ibid.*

¹⁷¹ Ted Stehling, interview with Terri Myers, December 8, 2020.

¹⁷² Herb Stehling, interview with Terri Myers, December 7, 2020.

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A major change in the rural landscape first occurred in 1926 when Highway 87 crossed through the Stehling ranches. In the 1930s, the Texas Highway Department bought right-of-way and began new construction through the district, crossing the old Mason Highway at the Stehling ranches. During the Great Depression, the Texas Highway Department planned numerous road construction projects, in part to fill a need, especially in rural areas, but also to provide jobs for unemployed men.¹⁷³ Before the road could be completed, however, construction halted due to the demand for labor and materials as the country geared up for World War II. Highway 87 remained unfinished until after the war.¹⁷⁴

Third Generation during World War II

Though the Feuge and Stehling families struggled in the 1930s, they managed to keep their century-old farms. At the start of the 1940s, the effects of the Great Depression still lingered but when the U. S. entered World War II in December 1941, the enormous military demand for farm products resulted in high prices for farm products just as they had during World War I. Farmers were finally able to pay off their bank loans and invest in modern equipment.¹⁷⁵

In 1940, Charles and Hannah still occupied the 1901 house. By then, they were both in their sixties with only their twenty-year old daughter, Lillie, living at home. Charles continued to list his occupation as “farmer” in the 1940 census. Their son Hugo, 34, and his wife Rosa, 33, still lived in the old 1 ½-story stone house with their nine-year old daughter, Viola. Viola attended school and had completed the second grade when the 1940 census was taken. Hugo was, by then, farming on his own account but he rented his house, probably from his parents, which was common among farm families. Both Charles and Hugo estimated that they worked 60 hours per week, but both also had other sources of income. Charles may have worked part-time as a stone mason, as he had for many years, and Hugo had become known throughout the county as an expert gunsmith.¹⁷⁶ Charles’ stone block house was valued at \$600 while Hugo’s stone rubble house was valued at only \$5.00.¹⁷⁷

By 1940, the Christoph and Christine Feuge farmstead was entirely built out to its present inventory and appearance (Figure 16). The farmstead included two stone houses, two enclosed barns, one of them a log barn dating to the 1860s or 1870s, and a pole barn set against a substantial rock wall on the north side, which served as a windbreak to shelter goats. The finely made stone smokehouse now had an open-fronted lean-to addition on the side for use as a vehicle or equipment shed. At the rear of the 1901 house a wash house and stone hearth with a chimney and built-in cast iron basin for heating water had been built on one side of the yard. Behind it was a partially underground storm cellar with a gabled roof and stairs leading down to safety; the family stored canned goods on shelves along its walls and laid potatoes on its sand-covered floor.¹⁷⁸

The Feuges worked multiple fields in various places near the creeks where the ground was flat and the soil rich. All combined the cultivated fields covered about 30 acres; the largest field was about ten acres in size. The family’s income at the time came largely from the sale of livestock, mainly sheep and goats, but some calves. They raised Angora goats for their fine wool. They kept some beef cattle and milk cows for their own use. The family maintained several gardens,

¹⁷³ Kirk Kite, “Highway Development,” *Handbook of Texas Online*, accessed November 20, 2022, <https://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/entries/highway-development>. Published by the Texas State Historical Association.

¹⁷⁴ *Ibid.*

¹⁷⁵ Pape, “Important Events During the Third Generation,” typescript, 2020.

¹⁷⁶ Charles Blackwell, interview with Terri Myers, December 8, 2020; Hugo Feuge and his family later moved into the “1901 house” where he added an office to the side rear of the house for his gunsmith business.

¹⁷⁷ U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1940.

¹⁷⁸ Charles Blackwell, interview with Terri Myers, December 8, 2020.

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including a large one of about an acre on the north side of the 1901 house, near the water tank, well, and windmill; they stored canned goods on cellar shelves and laid potatoes on its sand-covered floor.¹⁷⁹

Further north and east of the Feuge households, Robert Stehling, who was 38 in 1940, and his family still occupied the stone house his father built in 1889. In the 1940 Census, Robert was listed as a farmer who worked “on his own account.” He and his wife, Elizabeth, 33, owned their home which was valued at \$1,000. Four young children lived in the household with their parents; the two older boys, Anton, 9, and Clayton, 7, attended school, while the younger children, Ellen, 6, and Clarence, 4, remained at home.¹⁸⁰

On the east side of Baron’s Creek, Richard A. Stehling 42, his wife, Ida, 39, and their five children, Norman, 16, Lucille Antonette, the only girl, 13, Harold, 11, Herbert, eight, and Richard Jr., two, still lived in the stone house built for Richard’s father about 1890. Lucille, Harold, and Herbert attended school at the one-room Klein Frankreich School. The oldest boy, Norman, was no longer in school but had completed a year at St. Mary’s High School in Fredericksburg. According to the 1940 Census, he was employed as an “unpaid family worker,” which meant that he worked on the family farm in exchange for room and board. Like Robert Stehling, Sr.’s house on the George Franz Stehling homestead, their stone house was also valued at \$1,000.¹⁸¹

Further north, Richard’s brother, Paul Stehling, 44, his wife, Nelda, 39, and their three children, sons James, 17, and Theodore (Ted), a one-year-old, and daughter Carolyn, eight, occupied the frame Craftsman style bungalow they built in 1921 on their half of the Amandus/John Stehling homestead. Likely because it was newer and more modern, Paul and Nelda’s house was the highest valued dwelling in the district, at \$2,500 in 1940.¹⁸² The house had a bathroom with a toilet and neighbors wanted to see the novelty for themselves. The bungalow fronted onto the old Mason highway, as it does today; behind the house but within the picket fenced yard, was a detached garage and a wash house with a wringer washer and an open wood stove to boil water for washing and making lye soap. Work sheds, vehicle barns, animal pens, and other outbuildings trailed behind the house yard and up the hill.¹⁸³ By 1940, Carolyn had already completed the first grade at Klein Frankreich School, the local rural school. It was in school that she and other children in the area learned to speak English. Until then, they had spoken only German at home, as had their parents.¹⁸⁴ Ted was just a baby in 1940; by the time he reached school age, the rural school was closed, so he started his education at the Catholic school in Fredericksburg.¹⁸⁵

The effects of the Great Depression lingered into the early 1940s, but when the U. S. entered World War II, farmers in the region were able to command good prices for their crops and livestock due to high military demand. At that time, most of Paul Stehling’s income came from livestock, mostly beef cattle and sheep, but he also raised Angora goats. In a good year during the war, they got as much as \$800 for sheep wool. In fact, it was sheep wool that made 1945 a watershed year for Paul and Ida; they made enough money from wool that year to make the final payment on their farm loan. But the following year, calamity struck when a tremendous storm dropped softball-sized hailstones on several hundred sheep huddled together in the field. Many were killed outright, and others had to be destroyed due to the severity of their wounds, including broken backs from the force of the hailstones.¹⁸⁶

¹⁷⁹ Charles Blackwell, interview with Terri Myers, December 8, 2020.

¹⁸⁰ U. S. Bureau of the Census, 1940.

¹⁸¹ *Ibid.*

¹⁸² *Ibid.*

¹⁸³ Ted Stehling, interview with Terri Myers, December 8, 2020.

¹⁸⁴ Carolyn Stehling Gross, interview with Terri Myers, December 7, 2020; U.S. Census, 1940.

¹⁸⁵ Ted Stehling, interview with Terri Myers, December 8, 2020.

¹⁸⁶ Carolyn Stehling Gross, interview with Terri Myers, December 7, 2020.

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In 1944, Paul Stehling diversified by going into the dairy business. He started with six cows and converted an old chicken house into a dairy barn. He and his daughter, Carolyn, milked three cows apiece twice a day – in the morning and the evening – for milk, butter, and cheese; they were valuable cash “crops” to sell to grocers in town. Ida Stehling had a separator she used to skim the cream from the milk to make the butter; the skimmed milk went to feed the hogs. When Carolyn was 14, her father got permission from the County Judge for a “hardship driver’s license,” because he needed her to deliver 5-gallons of milk to the local dairy every morning before school. After rural electrification came to Gillespie County, they bought an electric milker that could milk five cows at once. By 1948, they had 20 dairy cows – all Jerseys which were good milk producers – and hired a man to do the milking and other farm chores.¹⁸⁷

At the same time, Paul and his brother Richard, continued to grow and harvest field crops. Both had about 50 acres in cultivation, mainly corn, wheat, and oats. Paul built in-ground concrete silos starting in the late 1940s to ferment corn; he used the silage to feed his dairy cows. The families still had large vegetable gardens where they grew tomatoes, cucumbers, okra, bell peppers, onions, and potatoes. Paul Stehling’s family planted an entire acre in potatoes every year on St. Patrick’s Day. The women and girls canned enough vegetables to last through the winter. Ida Stehling stored potatoes under the house where it was cool and dark. Though others in the district, including the Richard Stehling family, had luck with fruit trees, they didn’t grow well on the Paul Stehling farm, possibly due to differences in the soil composition.¹⁸⁸

Rural electrification had been initiated with the installation of lines and wiring of farmhouses and barns in the 1930s, but the lights didn’t come on in rural parts of Gillespie County, including Klein Frankreich, until February 21, 1940. The miracle of electricity is remembered by nearly everyone who experienced its effect on rural Texas as the most important event and most beneficial technology to come to farmers and ranchers in that era. Until then, farm families had to heat water on wood stoves or in cast iron cauldrons over hot coals in “hot water” sheds for everything from bathing, house cleaning, and laundry, to butchering hogs, canning vegetables and making soap. Paul and Ida Stehling bought an electric stove and a hot water heater from a businessman who was selling his inventory before going into the military in 1942. They had to get an electric pump for the well because the windmill did not create enough water pressure to move the water from the well to the house.¹⁸⁹

Although prices for agricultural products increased significantly during World War II, farmers in the district were limited in their ability to meet their production goals due to strict rationing on farm essentials like tires, gasoline, and machinery that were reserved for the war effort. They also lost much of their labor force as young men joined the military or were drafted into service.

Postwar Era

After the war, many of the third generations’ children married and moved away to other farms or simply moved away from the farm to work at other jobs. Some found jobs in town or in other cities, like San Antonio. On the Feuge farm, Hugo and Rosa Feuge’s daughter and only child, Viola, moved to Kerrville where she got married and worked at Sid Peterson Hospital. She returned on weekends to visit her parents who had moved into the 1901 house where they lived the rest of their lives. Richard and Ida Stehling’s children had also married and moved from their parents’ farm; their son Herbert came back and worked with his father for two years before leaving for other job opportunities. Paul and Nelda Stehling’s daughter, Carolyn, moved to San Antonio, where she, too, got married and worked at Methodist Hospital. Their son, Ted, became an officer in the Army Reserves. He worked in Fredericksburg during the day but spent his late afternoons and early evenings helping his father on the ranch (Figure 22).¹⁹⁰

¹⁸⁷ Carolyn Stehling Gross, interview with Terri Myers, December 7, 2020. They sold the dairy cows in the 1960s.

¹⁸⁸ *Ibid.*

¹⁸⁹ *Ibid.*

¹⁹⁰ Ted Stehling, interview with Terri Myers, December 8, 2020.

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The elder Feuges and Stehlings continued to work their farm/ranches through the 1950s, but faced unprecedented challenges as Central Texas suffered seven years of devastating drought that drove many of their neighbors to abandon farming altogether. The gut-wrenching decision to leave their ancestral land after more than a century was worsened by the fact that many walked away with nothing to show for generations of toil; they couldn't find buyers for farmland during a prolonged drought with successive crop failures. Furthermore, bone dry conditions led to endless dust storms that stripped the fields of their topsoil. By 1957, hundreds of farmers in Gillespie County had given up farming and moved into town or looked for work elsewhere.

The water conservation efforts begun by Paul and Richard Stehling in the 1920s and 1930s and improved in the early postwar era may have been a factor in their ability to sustain their cattle and other livestock in the 1950s. The development of natural springs and placement of pipes and troughs throughout the ranches, along with creek impoundment with earthen and concrete dams, was sufficient to maintain their cattle, sheep, and goats. But without rain, the farmers couldn't produce the corn and other grains needed to fatten their cattle, sheep and goats for sale. Field crops shriveled in the heat and crumbled to dust, leaving livestock to feed on the sparse grasses that survived.

The situation grew so dire that Paul and Richard Stehling decided to try and salvage the oat hay straw and chaff to feed their cattle. They restored an old 1920s thrashing machine which left a mountain of straw in one place so it could be baled, and a McCormick Reaper (row binder) that cut and bundled the oats (Figure 21). The bundles were left in various places in the field for shocking. They also restored and customized four-wheel wagons to transport the oat shocks to the thrashing machine where they used pitch forks to feed them into the machine. Then they bagged the oats, stuffed them into three-bushel gunny sacks, sewed them shut, and hauled them to the barn. All of the work had to be done by hand to feed their livestock during the drought. As the situation continued, the government sent loose corn in boxcars to railroad depots as "drought relief;" the brothers used grain scoops to fill burlap bags with corn for transport back to their farms.¹⁹¹

By the 1960s, few of the children in the following generation wanted to farm. They adapted to a new reality: agriculture as their parents and grandparents had practiced it in the past could not sustain them or their families in the modern era. They had also seen the toll decades of demanding work had taken on their parents. Most decided, instead, to continue their education, go into business, or pursue professional careers. The fourth generation of Feuges – Hugo Feuge – and the third generation of Stehlings – Robert Stehling, Sr. and his cousins, Paul and Richard Stehling – were the last to work full-time in farming and ranching. Paul Stehling retired from farming for health reasons in 1968. Richard continued working on his farm until the day he died in 1976; he came in from his fields for a nap and didn't wake up. By then, their cousin, Robert Stehling, Sr., had sold his great-grandfather George Franz' farm; it passed through several owners before Cheri and William Rothermel bought it in 1972. The Rothermels were the first and, so far, the only non-original family members to own and occupy property in the district.

Current Trends: Fourth and Fifth Generations

Though they might not have wanted to make their living entirely from the farm/ranches, the current generations of Feuges and Stehlings still have strong ties to the land and the rural lifestyle. Several of the Stehling descendants returned to the country where they built new homes on their parents' and grandparents' farms. Among them are Lucille Stehling Pape, Richard Stehling's daughter, who built a new house on the Amandus/John/Richard Stehling farm in 1998; she and her husband, Robert Pape, also renovated an old grain barn on the site as a guest house. Others who built new houses on the Amandus Stehling farm include Randy Stehling, an architect, and his wife, Michelle, a teacher, and Randy's cousin, Keith Stehling, an insurance agent. Kent Stehling is also an insurance agent but instead of building a new house, he and his wife, Krista, renovated his grandparents' (John and Mary Stehling) c. 1890 house where they currently live and raise sheep and cattle. Hugo Feuge's daughter, Viola, also returned to home to the 1901 stone house when she retired (Figure 17); she occupied the house until her death a few years ago.

¹⁹¹ Ted Stehling, interview with Terri Myers, December 8, 2020.

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The Feuge homestead passed to Viola's son, Charles Blackwell, the current owner. A direct descendant of Christoph and Christine Feuge, Blackwell and his wife, Tammy Jo, maintain a large vegetable garden behind the 1901 house that they intend to restore.¹⁹² Blackwell works in construction but continues to farm and raise stock on the farm. He grows hay to feed cattle in the summer, and oats and wheat for deer in the winter. He reports that it is easier and cheaper to grow his own corn than buying it.¹⁹³ Today, Blackwell has numerous head of cattle that he feeds in the old barnyard; the cattle graze freely on the property but tend to stay along the creek where there is water and shade in the hot summers. His cows produced eight new calves in the spring of 2022. Blackwell also raises sheep, which is a family tradition. They are kept in the same stone-walled pen that his great-great grandfather built in the 1860s or 1870s. The homestead has no modern resources except for a pre-manufactured metal storage building; with its array of nineteenth and turn-of-the-century dwellings and agricultural resources, as well as its barnyard layout and separation from the home yard, it conveys an exceptionally strong sense of history.

In addition, each of the original farm/ranches still remain largely in agricultural production, both as crop fields for growing improved grasses and as pastureland for grazing cattle, sheep, and goats. Two major factors that have allowed the families to retain their farm/ranches and remain in the business of agriculture today, are: the introduction of improved grasses in the 1960s and outsourcing labor to contract farmers. Both factors have dramatically reduced the amount of time and labor that went into the traditional crop farming practiced by their parents and grandparents. Improved grasses re-seed themselves and require little fertilizer or maintenance, while previous generations commonly endured 60-hour work weeks planting, fertilizing, harvesting, and baling their crops just to make a living. At first, farmers in the district planted Coastal Bermuda, and some still do, but others now grow Klein Grass. Klein Grass is a South African grass that is drought resistant, requiring only 18" of rain per year. After years without rain in the 1950s, Klein Grass was an attractive choice. The farms currently have between 30 and 50 acres in grass, which is about the same amount of acreage in cultivation during the period of significance.

Most of the work of cutting and baling grass is now contracted out to farmers who own and maintain specialized machinery for the work. This arrangement relieves the burden on current property owners to buy, repair, and replace expensive equipment that can run into hundreds of thousands of dollars. Contract farming is done on all four parcels in the district. In fact, the contractor, Brad Howard, is the great-grandson of Richard Stehling, Sr., and great-great-grandson of Amandus Stehling, so contract farming is still done by family descendants. Contract farming and the use of improved grasses has allowed property owners to stay on their family farms while working at fulltime jobs in town or elsewhere for their main source of income. In addition, because of their continued use as working farms and livestock range, the properties qualify for agricultural exemptions.

All of the property owners still raise livestock. Charles Blackwell has both cattle and sheep on the Feuge farm (Parcel 1); Cheri Rothermel has sheep and some cattle on the George Franz Stehling farm (Parcel 2); Kent Stehling lives on the Amandus/John/Richard (Sr.) Stehling Farmstead (Figure 25) where he raises sheep on the western half of his great-great grandfather's farm (Parcel 3); and Ted Stehling runs cattle on the eastern half of the Amandus Stehling farm (Parcel 4), including his sister's part of the property which he leases. Of the fourth generation, Ted Stehling may be the one most invested in ranching. He has said that he never wanted to do anything other than ranch. In 1974, he and his wife Sharon came back to his parents' farm where they built a Ranch style house on his half of the property; it is clad in rock that he collected on the ranch.¹⁹⁴ His sister, Carolyn Stehling Gross, maintains their parents' 1921 Craftsman style house as a second home on her side of the property where she still raises sheep and goats (Figure 20; Figure 23-24). Ted uses the barns and other outbuildings constructed by their father for his cattle and ranching operation.

¹⁹² Charles Blackwell, interview with Terri Myers, December 8, 2020.

¹⁹³ *Ibid.*

¹⁹⁴ Ted Stehling, interview with Terri Myers, December 8, 2020.

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Few major alterations have been made to the rural landscape since the close of the period of significance in 1976. By then, the farmers had already shifted to improved grasses; the grasses are grown in the same fields where they once grew oats, wheat and corn. They continue to raise cattle, sheep, and goats but instead of herding them on horseback, they now use ATVs (All terrain vehicles). Their livestock now includes a few exotic deer as pets. All of the animals use the developed springs and troughs for fresh water. The water dams built to conserve water in the 1930s and 1950s, have always doubled as recreation sites where the families come to swim, have picnics, camp, and fish.

Possibly the biggest change with the greatest consequence on the appearance of the historic landscape has been the decline of healthy live oak trees since their peak in the late 1940s.¹⁹⁵ During the 1950s, seven years of drought took a toll on the trees, some of which are estimated to be 300-400 years old. In more recent years, they have been hard-hit by oak wilt, a plague that has killed hundreds of mature live oaks throughout the district, and thousands throughout the entire region. Piles of dead trees dot the landscape, especially east of Highway 87. The result has been the loss of shade for livestock and the loss of greenery and tree canopy in general. A few trees were lost in the big freeze of spring 2021.

Homesites and barnyards in the district maintain their historic appearance and uses to varying degrees. The Feuge homesite and barnyard is the least changed; it looks very much as it did from the 1870s through about 1935. The George Franz Stehling site may be the most altered; it once had other barns and outbuildings that have since been cleared away. However, the extant resources, such as the stone farmhouse built for Joseph Stehling, Sr. by the Feuges, the guest house (converted barn), sheep pens, water tank, low-water crossing, and surrounding pastures, though somewhat altered for modern uses, still convey a strong sense of history. Non-contributing resources on the Franz Stehling part of the rural historic landscape include an airfield, airplane hangars, a non-historic barn and corral; however, they are separated from the historic home/barn site by the creek and low-water crossing or are hidden in the woods, and are not visible from either the public highway or the historic cluster on the hill.

Most of the resources, including the fields and pastures associated with the Amandus/John/Richard Stehling farm remain largely intact, though John Stehling's stone house has been enlarged and a porch enclosed; otherwise, the workshop/wash house, stone well house, barns and barnyard resources like sheep pens, and several lengths of stone fence retain their historic fabric and design from the late-19th century through the end of the period of significance (1976), to a high degree (Figure 26). The original c. 1921 Amandus/John/Paul Stehling homesite and barnyard are remarkably intact to the early 20th century; Ted Stehling's Ranch style house and associated resources built in 1974, at the close of the period of significance, reflect the historic evolution of residential resources and architectural styles in the rural historic district.

Conclusion

The Klein Frankreich Rural Historic District is composed of four historic land tracts containing three adjacent family farms established by German Immigrants in the late 1840s and early 1850s, with extant resources dating to 1852, is nominated to the National Register of Historic Places for significance under Criterion A, in the areas of Agriculture and Ethnic Heritage: German, and under Criterion C, in the area of Architecture, all at the local level of significance.

Significance under Criterion A, in the area of Ethnic Heritage: German, is derived from the district's origins and development by German immigrants who came to Texas for the opportunity to own their own land, something they could not accomplish in their native country. They followed many German customs; they worshipped in German, celebrated German holidays, raised and preserved traditional German foods such as sauerkraut, potatoes, sausages and other smoked meats, and taught their children German values, especially the value of work, as evidenced in their building campaigns and agricultural development over 170 years. Significance under Criterion A, in the area of Agriculture, is apparent in the district's historic domestic clusters and barnyards and in the continued use of farms/ranches for grazing livestock, growing hay, small grains, and grasses, and conserving water, much as they appeared and were used in the historic age.

¹⁹⁵ Ted Stehling, interview with Terri Myers, December 8, 2020.

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Significance under Criterion C, in the area of Architecture, is found in the district's historic buildings and structures, especially its stone dwellings, smokehouses, animal enclosures and fences, most of which possess high levels of historic and architectural integrity: of design, materials, workmanship, association, setting, location, and feeling. Specific examples of architectural significance include the Feuge 1901 stone block house, stone smokehouse, and stone fences; the 1889 Joseph Stehling, Sr. stone house and water tank; and the c. 1890 John Stehling stone house, tank house, workshop/wash house, and artistically crafted stone fences. Other resources of note include the Feuge log barn, multi-purpose barns, well house, and animal pens; the John Stehling barns and animal pens; the 1921 Paul Stehling Craftsman style house and animal pens; the 1974 Ted Stehling Ranch style house; and the Richard and Paul Stehling earthen and concrete dams and concrete water troughs.

Finally, the period of significance ranges from 1852, the date of the oldest known resource in the district, stone house ruins (Resource 14e), to 1976, the death of Richard Stehling. The period recognizes the stone ruins of the Henry and Sophie Thiele dwelling built by 1852, as the oldest extant resource in the district that can be documented. The period's end in 1976 reflects the continuation of historic agricultural land uses to the death of Richard Stehling that year. Richard Stehling was the grandson of German immigrant Amandus Stehling, and the last of the district's fulltime farmer/ranchers to rely almost entirely on their crop and livestock production for a living. Richard Stehling still cultivated his fields and raised his livestock as he had his entire life; he was plowing his fields on the very day he passed away.

Of the district's 111 individual resources, 81 are contributing and 30 are non-contributing. In addition to the individual resources, the rural landscape itself conveys a strong sense of the agricultural appearance and character of Gillespie County and Hill Country counties in Texas where German immigrants settled and developed their farms and ranches from the 1840s through the nineteenth century and as their descendants continued to maintain them through much of the twentieth century. For these reasons, the Klein Frankreich Rural Historic District meets the criteria for listing in the National Register of Historic Places as a good, local example of related historic farm/ranches settled by German immigrants in the nineteenth century and maintained at a high degree of integrity by their descendants through the period of significance, 1852-1976.

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Gillespie County Deed Record: Vol. F: 335 (filed October 1, 1855).

Gillespie County Deed Records: Vol. J: 274; Vol. K: 433-434; Vol. K: 490-491; Vol. L: 145.

Government/Official Documents: State

Roman Catholic Archdiocese of San Antonio, sacramental records, 1700-1995, via ancestry.com as forwarded from Jan Williams to Terri Myers, December 7, 2021.

State of Texas Death Certificate. "Carl Theodor Feuge," October 27, 1949. https://www.ancestry.com/mediaui-viewer/tree/55917883/person/36002926905/media/35d7efa5-571c-4ec1-b332-46372e0464d7?_phsrc=Mbe1496&_phstart=successSource

Government Documents: Federal

U. S. Bureau of the Census, Population Schedules (1850-1940)

1850 Census: "in or about Fredericksburg, Gillespie County Texas," September 20, 1850 (Frances [sic] Stehling, Amandus Stehling), https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/8054/images/4191104-00612?usePUB=true&_phsrc=Mbe1075&_phstart=successSource&usePUBJs=true&pId=6972982

1850 Census: "in or about Fredericksburg," Gillespie County, Texas, September 18, 1850 (Christof Feuge family), https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/8054/images/4191104-00611?usePUB=true&_phsrc=Mbe1038&_phstart=successSource&usePUBJs=true&pId=6971224

1850 U. S. Federal Census, Fredericksburg, Gillespie County, Texas, September 16, 1850, (John and Elizabeth Preiss) accessed January 5, 2022, https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/8054/images/4191104-00600?usePUB=true&_phsrc=Mbe1038&_phstart=successSource&usePUBJs=true&pId=6971224

1860 Population Schedule: Precinct 2 (Franz Stehling). https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/35041177:7667?tid=&pid=&queryId=2e75c071690b7f4c5e54b687dcbc7468&_phsrc=Mbe1088&_phstart=successSource

1860 Census: Gillespie County, Texas Precinct 2, July 18, 1850 (Amandus Stehling) https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/35300749:7667?tid=&pid=&queryId=eec13b0e236f2948eda155389f940d3&_phsrc=Mbe1090&_phstart=successSource

Klein Frankreich Rural Historic District, Fredericksburg vicinity, Gillespie County, Texas

1860 Census, Population Schedule: Precinct 2 (Christine Feuge), Gillespie County, Texas, July 28, 1860.

https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/35193273:7667?tid=&pid=&queryId=bd670cb0ffd87ab972e1a638dd42a464&_phsrc=Mbe1092&_phstart=successSource

1870 Population Schedule: Fredericks Valley, Gillespie County (Franz Stehling), https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/10843379:7163?tid=&pid=&queryId=8d52833a022756d1827ec9c37ca8ad52&_phsrc=Mbe1093&_phstart=successSource

1870 Population Schedule: Fredericks Valley, Gillespie County (Amand [sic] Stehling)
https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/7679236:7163?tid=&pid=&queryId=501923ffd3a07f37d8bb86e4d8c034d1&_phsrc=Mbe1095&_phstart=successSource

1870 Population Schedule, Fredericks Valley, Gillespie County (Franz Stehling), https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/7679236:7163?tid=&pid=&queryId=501923ffd3a07f37d8bb86e4d8c034d1&_phsrc=Mbe1095&_phstart=successSource

1880 Population Schedule, Gillespie County, Precinct 1 (Christina [sic] Feuge and Christoph Feuge)
https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/6823634:6742?tid=&pid=&queryId=2ac941fe7fa4e5464307fa1f24a68973&_phsrc=Mbe1108&_phstart=successSource

1920 Population Schedule, Gillespie County Justice Precinct 1 (John and Mary Stehling)
https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/62782269:6061?tid=&pid=&queryId=c6c1e817104af336d4adbbe5a780efc7&_phsrc=Mbe1456&_phstart=successSource

1920 Population Schedule, Gillespie County Justice Precinct 1 (Chas Feuge), https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/62783559:6061?tid=&pid=&queryId=acb3ce385ce1339654efa813f848537f&_phsrc=Mbe1460&_phstart=successSource

1930 Population Schedule, Fredericksburg, Gillespie County (Joe Stehling) https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/63745670:6224?tid=&pid=&queryId=bb6f16fdd64b8a78df074f83e5ad3af8&_phsrc=Mbe1462&_phstart=successSource

1940 Population Schedule, Gillespie County

U. S. Bureau of the Census, Non-Population (Agricultural) Schedules

1850 Agricultural Census: Gillespie County, TX: Zodiac, Live Oak and Llano Creeks, September 12-20, 1850 (Christoph Feuge). https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/1276/images/T1134_2-00360?ssrc=&backlabel=Return

1860 Agricultural Census: Precinct 2, Gillespie County, Texas (Christine Feuge).
https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/1276/images/T1134_4-00539?ssrc=&backlabel=Return

1860 Agricultural Schedule, Gillespie County, Texas (Franz Stehling)
https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/1276/images/T1134_4-00541?ssrc=&backlabel=Return

Klein Frankreich Rural Historic District, Fredericksburg vicinity, Gillespie County, Texas

1860 Agricultural Schedule, Gillespie County (Amandus Stehling)

https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/1276/images/T1134_4-00537?ssrc=&backlabel=Return

1870 Agricultural Schedule, Fredericks Valley, Gillespie County, (Christine Feuge)

https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/1276/images/T1134_9-00058?ssrc=&backlabel=Return

1880 Agricultural Schedule, Gillespie County, Precinct 1 (Christoph Feuge).

https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/1276/images/T1134_24-00562?ssrc=&backlabel=Return

Oral Histories

Blackwell, Charles. Interview with Terri Myers: Fredericksburg, Texas, December 8, 2020.

Gross, Carolyn Stehling. Interview with Terri Myers: Fredericksburg, Texas, December 7, 2020.

Pape, Lucille Stehling. Interview with Terri Myers: Fredericksburg, Texas, December 7, 2020.

Pape, Lucille Stehling. Interview with Terri Myers: Fredericksburg, Texas, December 8, 2020.

Stehling, Herb. Interview with Terri Myers: Fredericksburg, Texas, December 7, 2020.

Stehling, Randy. Personal Communication with Terri Myers, Gillespie, County.

Stehling, Ted. Interview with Terri Myers: Fredericksburg, Texas, December 8, 2020.

Stehling, Ted. Interview with Terri Myers: Gillespie County, December 9, 2020

Stehling, Randy, Ted Stehling, and Lucille and Robert Pape, group interview with Terri Myers, March 11, 2022.

Klein Frankreich Rural Historic District, Fredericksburg vicinity, Gillespie County, Texas

Verbal Boundary Description:

The boundary is drawn to encompass contiguous legal parcels currently owned by descendants of the Feuge and Stehling families. The boundary begins at a point immediately east of Highway 87. This point is 5.41 miles (as the crow flies) northwest of downtown Fredericksburg. The boundary then jogs east and then proceeds north for approximately 1.06 miles through grazing land to a point immediately east of residential parcels along Cherry Mountain Loop. The boundary then proceeds approximately 1.21 miles east/northeast along a fence line and jogs slightly before reaching a point immediately west of a ranch road and stock pond located near Fares Ranch Road. The boundary then follows fence lines along the edges of grazing land south, slightly southeast, then south again for a total of approximately 2.45 miles to a point just southwest of a water tower and northeast of houses along Derwin Drive. The boundary then follows fence lines and the edge of grazing fields for approximately 1.37 miles in an undulating, southwesterly direction to a point along Highway 87 at the north edge of the property containing 4076 N Hwy 87. The boundary then proceeds south/southeast for approximately 0.5 miles along the east edge of Highway 87 to a point along the highway. The boundary then proceeds roughly southwest for approximately 0.77 miles between two agricultural fields, then turns northward and runs north through juniper trees in a jagged line for approximately 0.48 miles, before turning west and running for 0.31 miles to a point within juniper trees at the west edge of Parcel 1. The boundary then follows the edge of Parcel 1 north for 0.28 miles near a ranch road, then turns east/northeast for 0.49 miles until reaching Barons Creek, then turns north and proceeds in an undulating line for approximately 1.33 miles along the edge of an agricultural field, across Old Mason Road, along fence lines and a grazing field, and across Highway 87 to the point of beginning.

Each legal parcel included in the nominated property is identified on the following pages.

Boundary Justification:

The district boundaries directly correspond to the boundaries of the four parcels associated with the Feuge and Stehling families and their collective history ranching and farming this land. The four parcels, and by extension the historic district boundaries, contain the land and historic resources associated with the adjacent farmsteads of Christoph and Christine Feuge (Parcel 1), George Franz and Margaretta Stehling (Parcel 2), and Amandus and Barbara Stehling (Parcels 3 & 4). The boundaries encompass the families' settlement, development, farming, and ranching activities throughout the 1952-1976 period of significance. The boundaries reflect both historic and modern land ownership boundaries.

The boundaries exclude adjacent parcels owned by other families. For example, nearby excluded parcels include the modern "ranchette" estates on Boot Ranch (the former Roos and Metzger farmsteads), a modern subdivision along W. Oak Drive opposite the Franz Stehling farmstead, and properties to the north, west, and south of the district that were owned by other families and developed differently throughout history.

Klein Frankreich Rural Historic District, Fredericksburg vicinity, Gillespie County, Texas

Legal Parcels within the Nomination Boundary

Source: Gillespie Central Appraisal District

Property ID 181831

17.1 acres ABX A0474 W. Moehle #325

Property ID 181829

17.1 acres ABS AO474 W. Moehle #325

Property ID 181830

17.1 acres ABS A0474 W. Moehle #325

Property ID 30763

182.58 acres ABS A-Multiple Tract A330, A971, A1247; A1272

Property ID 69516

5.06 Acres ABS AO284 P. Huirase #194

Property ID 33930

ABS AO284 P. Huirase #194

Property ID 17451

88.4 acres ABS AO507 P. Metzger # 383

Property ID 17453

ABS A0975 A STEHLING #858, 281.5 ACRES

Property ID 26932

ABS A0484 C MEYER #785, 84.9 ACRES

Property ID 26935

ABS A0606 V RAMOS #366, 90.645 ACRES

Property ID 3779

ABS A0284 P HUIRASE #194, 22.25 ACRES

Property ID 3786

ABS A0284 P HUIRASE #194, .5 ACRES, SMALL RENT HOUSE

Property ID 3606

ABS A0284 P HUIRASE #194, .5 ACRES, HOMESITE

Property ID 5185

ABS A0971 A STEHLING #409, 1.7 ACRES

Property ID 17453

281.5 acres ABS AO975 A. Stehling #858

Property ID 17454

30.6 acres ABS A)272 A. Stehling #384

Property ID 17432

84.9 acres ABS AO484 C. Meyer #784

Property ID 17435

90.645 acres ABS AO606 V. Ramos #366

Property ID 3606

5.0 acres ABS AO284 P. Huirase #194

Property ID 3779

22.25 acres ABS AO284 P. Huirase #194

Property ID 3786

5.0 acres ABS AO294 P. Huirase #194

Property ID 5185

1.7 acres ABS AO971 A. Stehling #409

Property ID 16311

3723 N. U. S. Highway 87, TX
51.81 acres ABS AO229 H. Feuge #228

Property ID 16312

2.27 acres ABS AO284 P. Huirase #194

Property ID 16313

5.0 acres ABS AO466 Dan Murchison #137

Property ID 16314

19.8 acres ABS AO836 GC SF RR Co #347

Property ID 33229

0.5 acres ABS AO D. Murchison #137

Property ID 16315

13.3 acres AO1344 H. Evers #348

Property ID 3608

174.13 acres ABS AO466 D. Murchison #137

Property ID 2089

17.97 acres ABS AO284 P. Huirase #194

Klein Frankreich Rural Historic District, Fredericksburg vicinity, Gillespie County, Texas

Property ID 35448
3.73 acres ABS AO284 P. Huirase # 194 Tract 1 to 3

Property ID 104330
52.34 acres P. Huirase #194

Property ID 73355
1.0 acres ABS AO284 P. Huirase #194

Property ID 26963
92.05 acres ABS A-Multiple Tract A284 & A606

Property ID 2092
196.56 acres ABS A-Multiple ABS A330 & A708

Property ID 26925
21.85 acres ABS AO284 P. Huirase #194

Property ID 35530
6.6 acres ABS A1272 A. Stehling #384

Property ID 35528
32 acres ABS AO330 Hooper & Wade 879

Property ID 35531
50.86 acres ABS A1247 C.F. Priess #880

Property ID 65004
4.6 acres ABS AO474 W.F. Moehle #325

Property ID 35532
43.78 acres ABS A0975 A. Stehling #858

Property ID 65005
3.1 acres ABS A0284 P. Huirase #194

Property ID 35533
46.0 acres ABS AO971 A. Stehling #409

Property ID 65006
62.1 acres ABS AO484 C. Meyer #785

Property ID 35535
3.28 acres ABS AO484 C. Meyer #785

Property ID 67453
ABS AO289 P. Huirase # 194 homesite only

Property ID 35536
36.08 acres ABS AO330 Hooper & Wade #879

Property ID 103227
1.66 acres ABS A-Multiple Tract A330 & A474

Property ID 3607
4.09 acres ABS AO284 P. Huirase #194

Property ID 26956
129.5 acres ABS AO888 Stone & Kyle #351

Property ID 35447
1.0 acres ABS AO284 P. Huirase #194

Property ID 32131
49.64 acres ABS AO330 Hooper & Wade #879

Property ID 35537
6.472 acres ABS AO284 P. Huirase #194

Property ID 4955
2.8 acres ABS AO484 C. Meyer #785

Property ID 104331
273 acres ABS A-Multiple ABS Tract A284 & A606

Property ID 4957
60.2 acres ABS AO330 Hooper & Wade #879

Property ID 26965
2.07 acres ABS Multiple ABS 284 & A606

Property ID 59166
0.2 acres ABS AO484 C. Meyer #785

Property ID 104275
211.2 acres ABS 975 A. Stehling #858

Property ID 9364
2.8 acres ABS AO484 C. Meyer #785

Property ID 104328
61.8 acres ABS AO606 V. Ramos #366

Property ID 9365
60.2 acres ABS AO330 Hooper & Wade #879

Klein Frankreich Rural Historic District, Fredericksburg vicinity, Gillespie County, Texas

Property ID 9457

2.0 acres ABS AO330 Hooper & Wade #879

Property ID 9458

2.8 acres ABS AO330 Hooper & Wade #879

Property ID 26958

24.2 acres ABS AO655 SA & MG RR CO #737

Property ID 26959

175.62 acres ABS A1219 H. Jones #532

Property ID 3790

2.8 acres ABS AO484 C. Meyer #785

Property ID 3791

60.2 acres ABS AO330 Hooper & Wade #879

Property ID 26924

35.4 acrs ABS AO 284 #194 P. Huirase #194

Property ID 35528

0.5 acres ABS AO284 P. Huirase #194

Property ID 35525

5.65 acres ABS AO606 V. Ramos #366

Property ID 35526

29.5 acres ABS AO484 C. Meyer #325

Property ID 35527

2.4 acres ABS AO474 W.F. Moehle #325

Property ID 87264

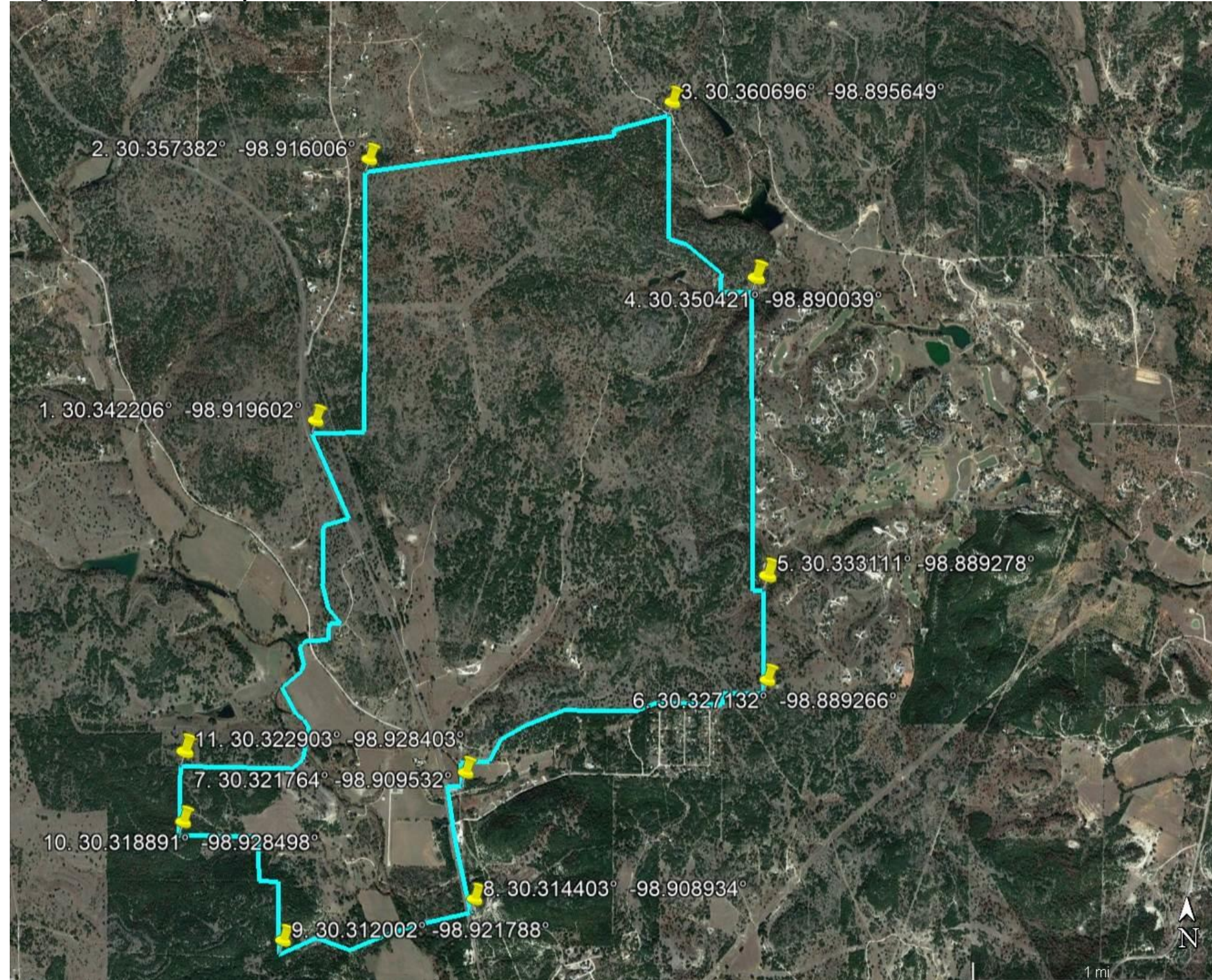
1.0 acre ABS AO606 V. Ramos #366

Property ID 181832

17.1 acrs ABS A-Multiple ABSt Tract A330 & A474

Klein Frankreich Rural Historic District, Fredericksburg vicinity, Gillespie County, Texas

Google Earth Map, accessed May 1, 2023.



Coordinates		
1.	30.342206°	-98.919602°
2.	30.357382°	-98.916006°
3.	30.360696°	-98.895649°
4.	30.350421°	-98.890039°
5.	30.333111°	-98.889278°
6.	30.327132°	-98.889266°
7.	30.321764°	-98.909532°
8.	30.314403°	-98.908934°
9.	30.312002°	-98.921788°
10.	30.318891°	-98.928498°
11.	30.322903°	-98.928403°

Klein Frankreich Rural Historic District, Fredericksburg vicinity, Gillespie County, Texas

Figure 1: Map of Germany showing Stehling Brothers' Route from Fulda to Bremen 1845



Courtesy of the author, Lucille Stehling Pape, *The Incredible Journey of the Stehling Brothers*, 2020, page 73.

Klein Frankreich Rural Historic District, Fredericksburg vicinity, Gillespie County, Texas

Figure 2: George Franz and Ship's Manifest on the Brig Garonne with Stehling Party (red underline)

47 List of Emigrants who arrived here on
 Brig Garonne, Trader Master from Bremen
 for the German Emigration Company and
 who are hereby entered at the U.S. Department
 of Texas at Galveston on the Grand Ledger to Messrs.
 Knapp, Fisher & Buechler - Millers, under date Washington
 October 11th 1845. transferred to said Company as per
 Contract of 24th June 1844 and extended as per
 Joint Resolution of the 9 Congress of July 15th.

	Names	Native Country	Occupation	Age	
1	Conrad Kirschbauer	Germany	farmer	Madon	43 years
104	Christian Morch	"	farmer	35	35
105	Louis Kuhn	"	farmer	32	36
106	William Wenzel	"	farmer	34	37
107	George McIntony	"	farmer	22	38
108	Amundus Stehling	"	farmer	21	34
109	Peter Knapp	"	farmer	38	40
110	Sophia "	"		28	
111	Arny Wehler	"	farmer	34	41

136 Persons

Number of families
 and of single men } 59

Total number of Persons - 136
 Among whom are 26 families
 And 35 single men above } Total 59
 the age of seventeen

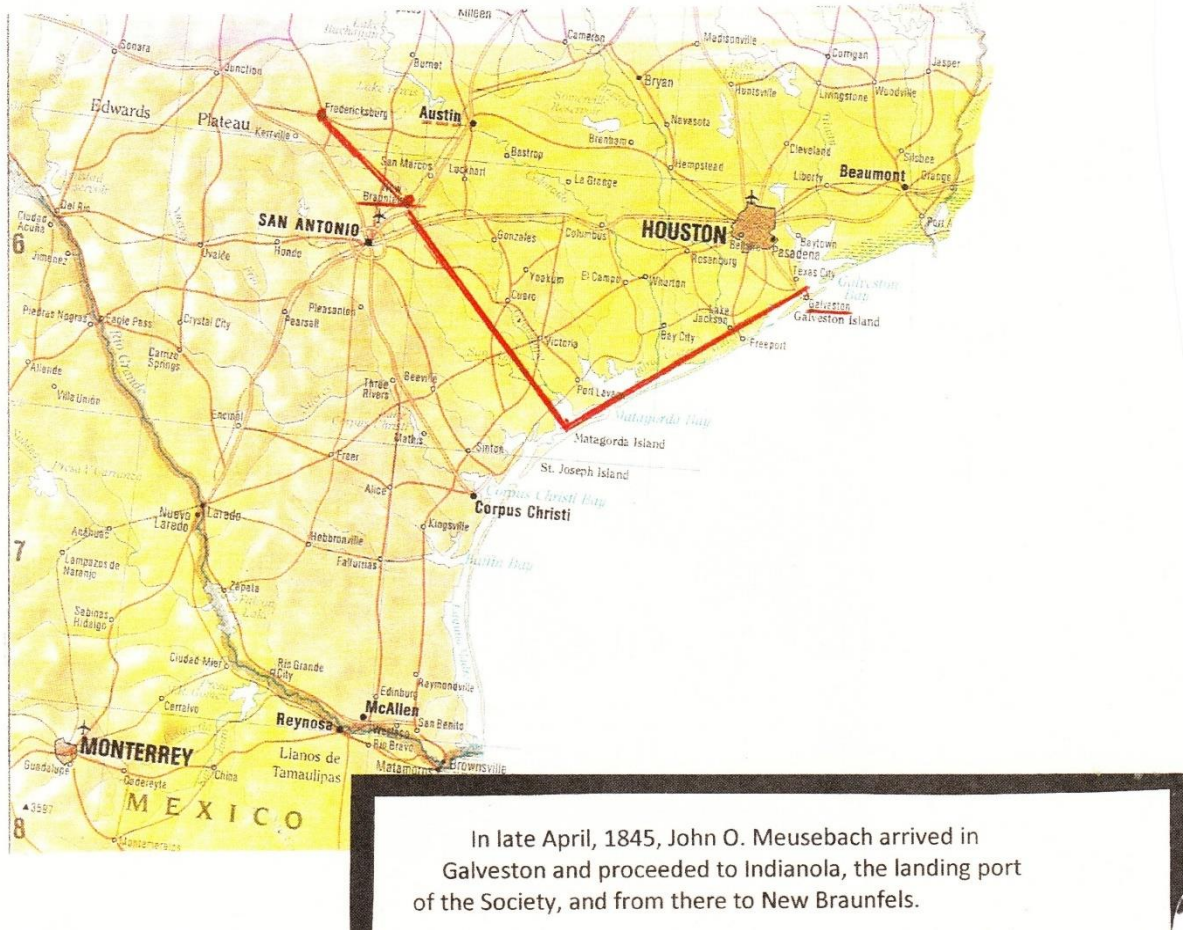
Galveston 6 Decr. 1845
 J. Schaefer
 Agent for the German Emigration
 Company

Copy of official document - The Weigand party
 signs in at Galveston, Texas, Dec. 6, 1845.

Courtesy of the author, Lucille Stehling Pape, *The Incredible Journey of the Stehling Brothers*, 2020, page 81.

Klein Frankreich Rural Historic District, Fredericksburg vicinity, Gillespie County, Texas

Figure 3: Map of Texas showing Stehling Brothers in Galveston and debarkation at Indianola



Courtesy of the author, Lucille Stehling Pape, *The Incredible Journey of the Stehling Brothers*, 2020, page 34.

Klein Frankreich Rural Historic District, Fredericksburg vicinity, Gillespie County, Texas

Figure 4: Amandus Stehling and Barbara Vogel about the time of their marriage in 1852



Amandus Stehling
Born: 10-27-1823
Died: 08-05-1913



Barbara Vogel Stehling
Born: 06-12-1835
Died: 01-26-1920

Courtesy of the author, Lucille Stehling Pape, *The Incredible Journey of the Stehling Brothers*, 2020, page 106.

Klein Frankreich Rural Historic District, Fredericksburg vicinity, Gillespie County, Texas

Figure 5: George Franz Stehling and Margaretha Fuchs about the time of their Marriage in 1851

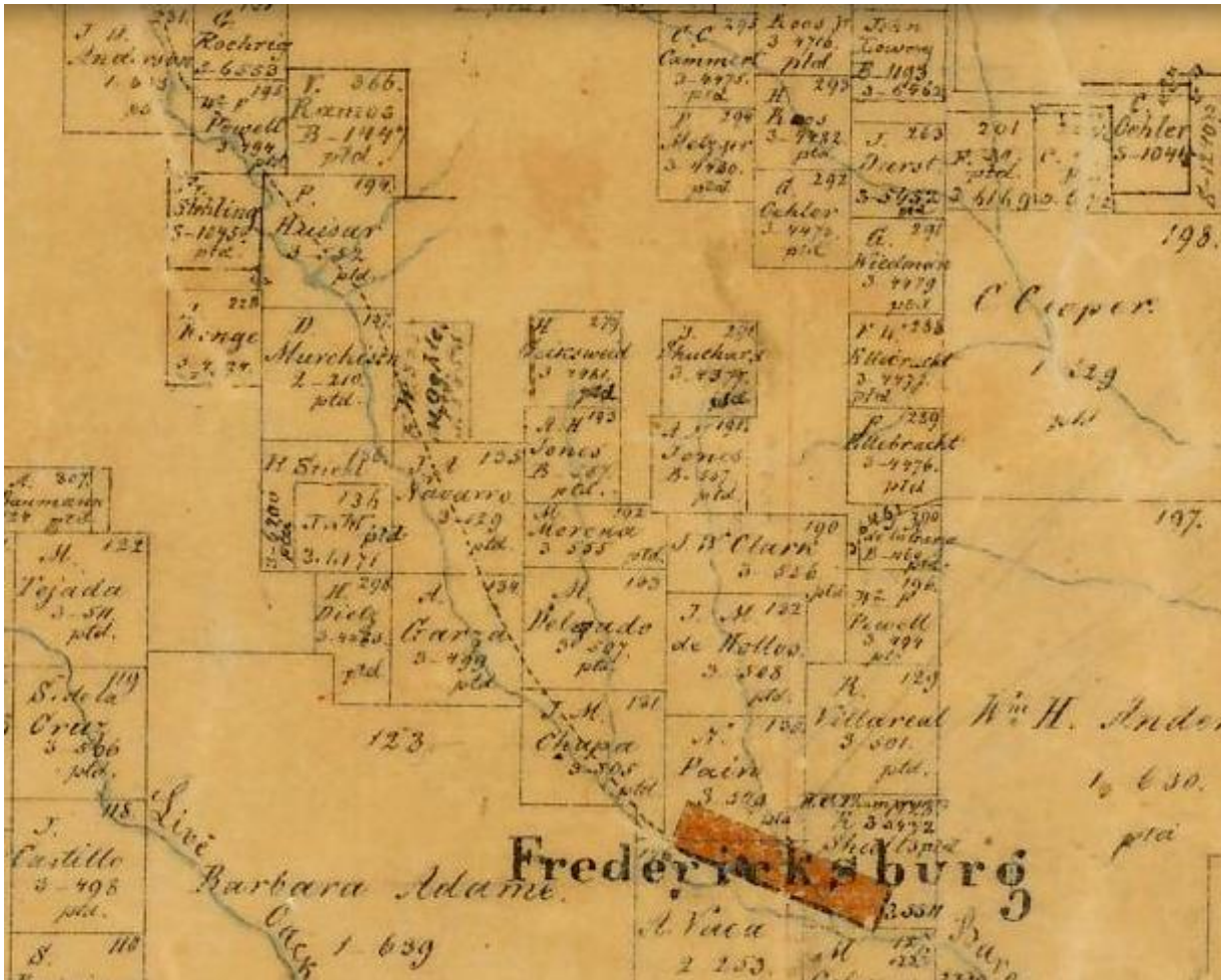


Mr. & Mrs. George Franz Stehling

Courtesy of the author, Lucille Stehling Pape, *The Incredible Journey of the Stehling Brothers*, 2020, page 130.

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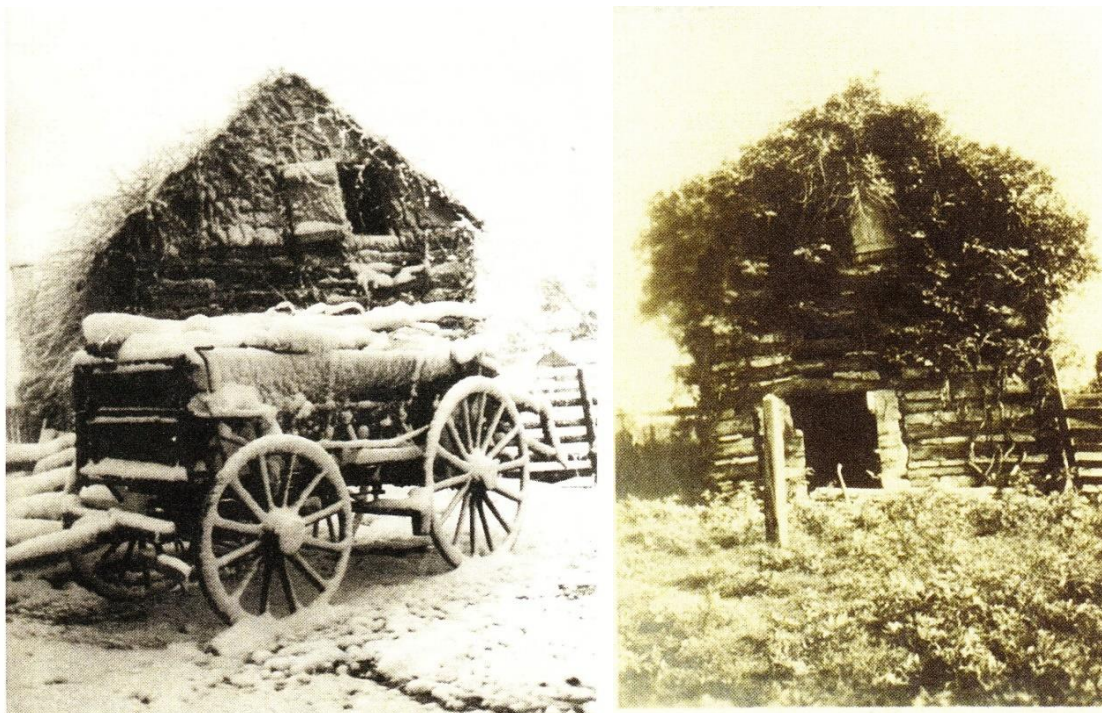
Figure 6: Map of Gillespie County (cropped), Von Rosenberg, 1857, with town of Fredericksburg (bottom center) and dashed line (Mason Road) going north/northwest through the Dan Murchison, Feuge, Fr. Stehling, and Huisar Surveys settled by the Feuge and Stehling families, 1848-1852.



Von Rosenberg, W. Gillespie County, map, March 23, 1857; downloaded from Portal to Texas History, (<https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph88582/m1/1/>; accessed April 7, 2022), University of North Texas Libraries, The Portal to Texas History, <https://texashistory.unt.edu>; crediting Texas General Land Office.

Klein Frankreich Rural Historic District, Fredericksburg vicinity, Gillespie County, Texas

Figure 7-8: Amandus and Barbara Stehling's Log House built c. 1852 and enlarged to 3 in-tandem rooms and an upper half-story sleeping room for children. Photos c. 1930; demolished for safety reasons c. 1935



Courtesy of the author, Lucille Stehling Pape, *The Incredible Journey of the Stehling Brothers*, 2020, page 109.

Klein Frankreich Rural Historic District, Fredericksburg vicinity, Gillespie County, Texas

Figures 9-10: Stone Fences on Amandus Stehling Farm built from early 1850s - 1870s before barbed wire became common.



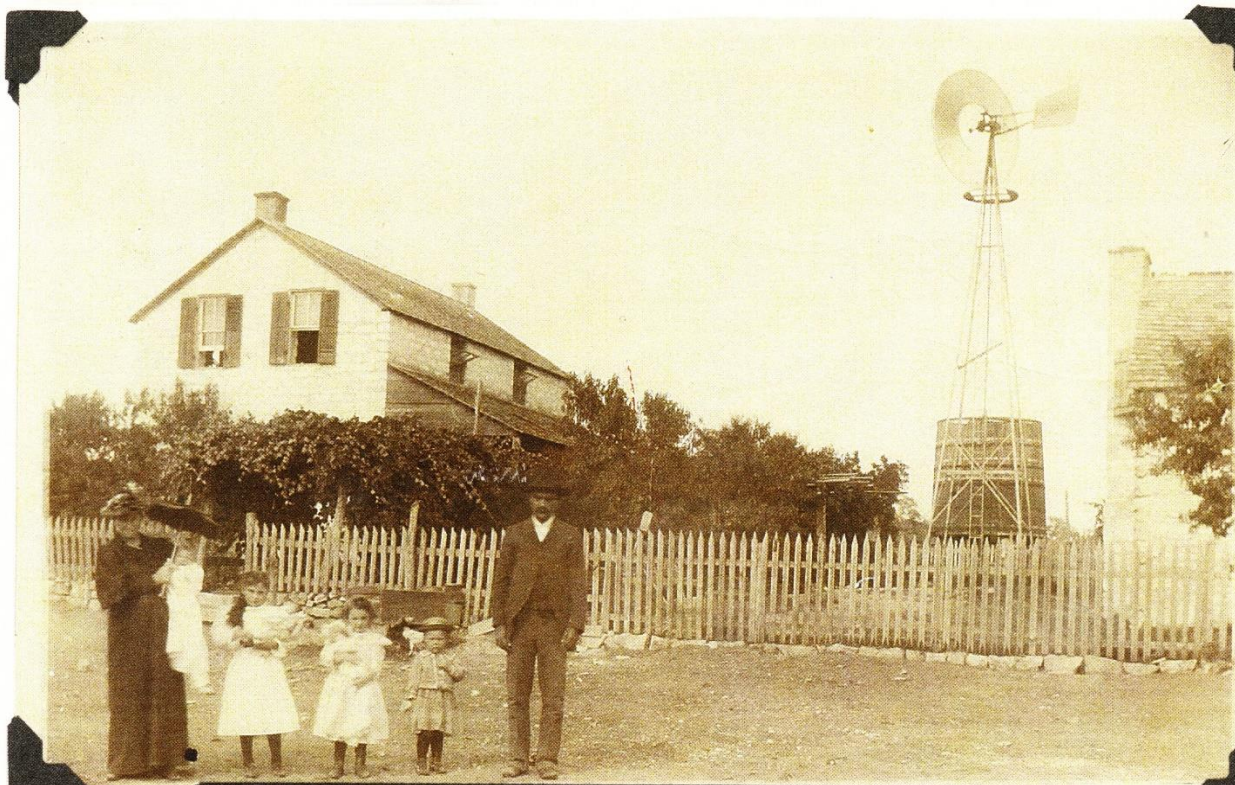
Beautiful rock fences built by Amandus Stehling on his ranch beginning in the 1850s. These fences are still standing proudly and still in use on the Stehling Ranch today, in the year 2020.



Courtesy of the author, Lucille Stehling Pape, *The Incredible Journey of the Stehling Brothers*, 2020, page 107.

Klein Frankreich Rural Historic District, Fredericksburg vicinity, Gillespie County, Texas

Figure 11: John and Mary Stehling and children by c. 1890 stone dwelling. Photo taken in 1897
(Note water tank and windmill, and log house of Amandus and Barbara Stehling on right).



Courtesy of the author, Lucille Stehling Pape, *The Incredible Journey of the Stehling Brothers*, 2020, page 117.

Klein Frankreich Rural Historic District, Fredericksburg vicinity, Gillespie County, Texas

Figure 12: John and Mary Stehling and their Children, photo 1917



The John Stehling Family – Second Generation Owner of the Amandus Stehling Ranch

Seated: John and Mary (Lewis) Stehling

Standing, L to R: Adella (Sister Mary John),

Richard Stehling Sr., Christina (Mrs. Louis Knopp)

Paul Stehling, Arthur Stehling, Cecelia (Mrs. Max Kunz)

Courtesy of the author, Lucille Stehling Pape, *The Incredible Journey of the Stehling Brothers*, 2020, page 118.

Klein Frankreich Rural Historic District, Fredericksburg vicinity, Gillespie County, Texas

Figure 13: Grandsons of George Franz Stehling, sons of Joseph Stehling Sr., photo 1920



Robert, Adolph, Louis, Joseph Jr., Oscar, Alfred,
Anton, Lawrence, Bernhard

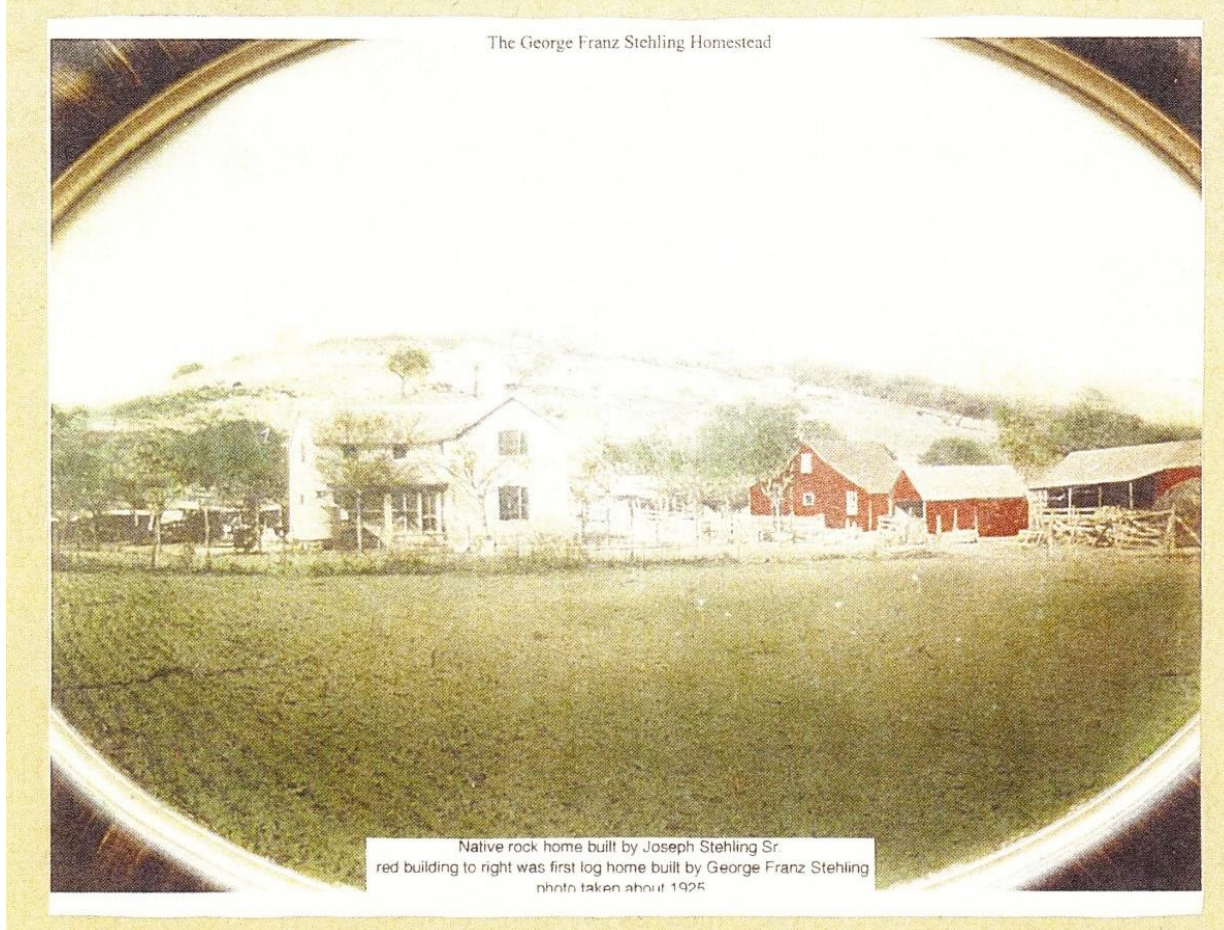
Brothers – Photo of 9 of the 12 sons of Joseph Stehling Sr.,
grandsons of George Franz Stehling. Photo taken on Feb. 3,
1920, at brother Louis Stehling’s wedding.

Photo courtesy Johann Schmidtzinsky family history by
Erline Jenschke.

Courtesy of the author, Lucille Stehling Pape, *The Incredible Journey of the Stehling Brothers*, 2020, page 134.

Klein Frankreich Rural Historic District, Fredericksburg vicinity, Gillespie County, Texas

Figure 14: George Franz Stehling Homestead c. 1925, then owned by his son, Joseph Stehling Sr.



Courtesy of the author, Lucille Stehling Pape, *The Incredible Journey of the Stehling Brothers*, 2020, page 131.
(Mrs. Pape credited photo to Johann Schmitzinsky family history by Erline Jenschke).

Klein Frankreich Rural Historic District, Fredericksburg vicinity, Gillespie County, Texas

Figure 15: Hugo Feuge, son of Carl, grandson of Christoph, great-grandson of Christoph Sr., photo c. 1925



Courtesy Charles Blackwell, grandson of Hugo Feuge, and sixth generation of Feuge family

Klein Frankreich Rural Historic District, Fredericksburg vicinity, Gillespie County, Texas

Figure 16: Feuge Family on Christoph & Christine Feuge Farmstead, date unknown, possibly 1920s or 1930s



Courtesy Charles Blackwell, sixth generation Feuge family on Christoph & Christine Feuge homestead.

Klein Frankreich Rural Historic District, Fredericksburg vicinity, Gillespie County, Texas

Figure 17: Viola Feuge, great-great granddaughter of Christoph and Christine Feuge, 1901 House c. 1955



Courtesy Charles Blackwell, son of Viola Feuge who was fifth generation on Feuge homestead

Figure 18: Paul and Nelda Stehling at time of their marriage, 1917



Courtesy Carolyn Stehling Gross, daughter of Paul and Nelda Stehling

Klein Frankreich Rural Historic District, Fredericksburg vicinity, Gillespie County, Texas

Figures 19-20: Paul & Nelda Stehling homestead established 1921. Photo on left: Carolyn & Ted Stehling in the back yard of their parents' house, c. 1939; on right, Carolyn Stehling Gross, in same yard, 1955.



Both photos Courtesy Carolyn Stehling Gross

Klein Frankreich Rural Historic District, Fredericksburg vicinity, Gillespie County, Texas

Figure 21: “The Last Oil-up – the old binder finishes another season” – Paul and Ted Stehling and Mr. Wallendorf, and Hay Binder, March 22, 1955.



Figure 22: Ted Stehling and son Jeff on Paul Stehling farm/ranch, 1963



Courtesy Carolyn Stehling Gross

Klein Frankreich Rural Historic District, Fredericksburg vicinity, Gillespie County, Texas

Figure 23: Carolyn Stehling Gross with ewe and lamb, Paul Stehling farmstead



Figure 24: Goats on Paul Stehling farm/ranch



Photos courtesy Carolyn Stehling Gross

Klein Frankreich Rural Historic District, Fredericksburg vicinity, Gillespie County, Texas

Figure 25: Amandus Stehling Farmstead, aerial photo c. 1975



Courtesy of the author, Lucille Stehling Pape, *The Incredible Journey of the Stehling Brothers*, 2020, page 108.

Figure 26: Amandus/John/Richard Stehling Farmstead from U.S. Highway 87. Occupied by Kent and Krista Stehling. From left to right: Dogtrot Workshop/Blacksmith/Wash House, Water Tank and Windmill, c 1890 John Stehling House.



Courtesy of the author, Lucille Stehling Pape, *The Incredible Journey of the Stehling Brothers*, 2020, page 125.

Klein Frankreich Rural Historic District, Fredericksburg vicinity, Gillespie County, Texas

Photo 1: Contributing Building. Carl Feuge House, aka “1901 House,” (Resource 2a), quarried limestone house with Folk Victorian porch posts and trim. Photo by Terri Myers, March 10, 2022, camera facing northwest.



Klein Frankreich Rural Historic District, Fredericksburg vicinity, Gillespie County, Texas

Photo 2: Inscription on lintel above door, "1901 House" (Resource 2a). Photo by Terri Myers, March 10, 2022.



Klein Frankreich Rural Historic District, Fredericksburg vicinity, Gillespie County, Texas

Photo 3: Contributing Building. Christoph Feuge (Jr.) House (Resource 2e), 1 ½-story limestone block and remnant house, c. 1870. Photo by Terri Myers, March 10, 2022, camera facing southeast.



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Photo 4: Contributing Building. Smokehouse (Resource 2f), limestone block and remnant with smoke vent, c. 1870, Feuge Farm. Photo by Terri Myers, March 2021, camera facing southeast.



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Photo 5: Log Barn (Resource 2d), V-notch timbers, c. 1860; frame shed addition c. 1900, Feuge Farm. Photo by Terri Myers, March 10, 2022, camera facing northwest.



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Photo 6: Contributing Building. Multi-purpose (hay, vehicle, equipment) Frame Barn (Resource 2i), c. 1900, Feuge Farm.
Photo by Terri Myers, March 10, 2022, camera facing northwest.



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Photo 7: Contributing Building. Stone Storm/Root Cellar (Resource 2j), built 1902, Feuge Farm. Photo by Terri Myers, March 10, 2022, camera facing northwest.



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Photo 8: Contributing Structure. Goat Pen/Stone Wall, shelter against cold north wind, (Resource 2h), c. 1900, Feuge Farm. Photo by Terri Myers, March 10, 2022, camera facing east.



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Photo 9: Contributing Building/Structure. Wash House aka “Hot Water House” with stone fireplace/hearth and cast iron basin for boiling water (Resource 2k), c. 1900, Feuge Farm. Photo by Terri Myers, March 10, 2022, camera facing north.



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Photo 10: Contributing Building. Pole Barn supported by timbers (Resource 2g), c. 1930, Feuge Farm. Photo by Terri Myers, March 25, 2021, camera facing north.



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Photo 11: Contributing Structures. Well House and Water Tanks c. 1920s (foreground) and view of Feuge Barnyard.
Photo by Terri Myers, March 10, 2022, camera facing south/southeast.



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Photo 12: Contributing Building and Structure. Two-story Limestone House (Resource 3a) built 1889 for Joseph Stehling Sr., and Windmill, George Franz Stehling Farm. Photo by Terri Myers, March 11, 2022, camera facing northwest.



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Photo 13: Contributing Building. Joseph Stehling Sr. House (Resource 3a), primary façade, built 1889, George Franz Stehling Farm. Photo by Terri Myers, March 11, 2022, camera facing west.



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Photo 14: Stone Barn c. 1889, with stone and frame additions (Resource 3c), George Franz Stehling Farm. Photo by Terri Myers, March 11, 2022, camera facing north/northwest.



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Photo 15: Contributing Building/Structure. Stone Fence/Sheep Pen (Resource 3e), c. 1890, on George Franz Stehling Farm. Photo by Terri Myers, March 11, 2022, camera facing north.



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Photo 16: Contributing Building. Stone Barn converted to guest house (Resource 3b), c. 1890, on George Franz Stehling Farm. Photo by Terri Myers, March 11, 2022, camera facing southwest.



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Photo 17: Contributing Building. Stone Barn converted to guest house with wood siding on primary façade (Resource 3c), c. 1890, George Franz Stehling Farm. Photo by Terri Myers, March 11, 2022, camera facing southeast.



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Photo 18: Contributing Structure. Stone Water Tank (Resource 3d), c. 1889, George Franz Stehling Farm. Photo by Terri Myers, March 11, 2022, camera facing northwest.



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Photo 19: Contributing Building. John Stehling Stone House with historic intersecting wing (Resource 6a), c. 1890, Amandus Stehling Farm. Photo by Terri Myers, March 12, 2022, camera facing south/southwest.



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Photo 20: Contributing Building/Structure. Tank House and Water Tank (Resource 6b), also used to hand smoked meats, c. 1881, Amandus Stehling Farm. Photo by Terri Myers, March 12, 2022, camera facing northeast.



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Photo 21:Contributing Structure. Hand-dug, stone-lined Well (Resource 6d), c. 1860, Amandus Stehling Farm. Photo by Terri Myers, March 2021.



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Photo 22: Contributing Building. "Dogtrot" Kitchen/Blacksmith Shop/Wash House (Resource 6c), c. 1881, Amandus Stehling Farm. Photo by Terri Myers, March 12, 2022, camera facing east.



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Photo 23: Contributing Building. Stone and Frame Livestock Shed (Resource 6f), c. 1860/1928, Amandus Stehling Farm.
Photo by Terri Myers, March 25, 2021, camera facing southeast.



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Photo 24: Contributing Object. Gas Pump in Barnyard (Resource 6q), 1930, Amandus Stehling Farm. Photo by Terri Myers, March 25, 2021, camera facing west.



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Photo 25: Contributing Structure. Stone Fence on Amandus Stehling Farm (Resource 5c), c. 1860. Photo by Terri Myers, March 12, 2022, camera facing north.



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Photo 26: Contributing Building. Paul Stehling House (Resource 13a), built 1921, Amandus Stehling Farm. Photo by Terri Myers, March 12, 2022, camera facing northeast.



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Photo 27: Garage and Sheds (Resource 13b), c. 1935, on Paul Stehling Farm out of Amandus Stehling homestead. Photo by Terri Myers, March 12, 2022, the camera facing northwest.



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Photo 28: Contributing Buildings. Barns (Resource 13c, 1972, on left; 13d, c. 1921), on Paul Stehling Farm/Amandus Stehling farmstead. Photo by Terri Myers, March 12, 2022, camera facing north.



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Photo 29: Contributing Site. Ruins of Thiele House (Resource 14e), c. 1852, on land later acquired by Amandus Stehling. Photo by Terri Myers, March 25, 2021, camera facing northeast.



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Photo 30: Contributing Structure. WPA Bridge on Old Mason Road (Resource 7a), c. 1935, Paul Stehling/Amandus Stehling Farm. Photo by Terri Myers, March 12, 2022, camera facing east/southeast.



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Photo 31: Contributing Building. Hunting Cabin (Resource 7d), 1965, on Amandus Stehling land east of N Highway 87.
Photo by Terri Myers, March 10, 2022, camera facing east.



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Photo 32: Contributing Structure. Concrete Dam (Resource 10a), c. 1937, hand-mixed and poured by Stehling brothers east of N Highway 87. Photo by Terri Myers, March 25, 2021, camera facing east.



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Photo 33: Reservoir behind dam (Resource 10a), c. 1937, Amandus Stehling land east of N Highway 87. Photo by Terri Myers, March 25, 2021, camera facing east.



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Photo 34: Contributing Structures. Family Picnic area above Dam and Reservoir, est. 1930s, east of N Highway 87. Photo by Terri Myers, March 10, 2022, camera facing northwest.



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Photo 35: Contributing Structure. Developed Spring with stone-lined pools, metal pipe on Paul Stehling/Amandus Stehling pastures east of N Highway 87. Photo by Terri Myers, March 10, 2022.



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Photo 36: Livestock Trough concrete basin; water piped from developed spring, 1930s, Paul Stehling/Amandus Stehling pasture east of N Highway 87. Photo by Terri Myers, March 10, 2022.



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Photo 37: Contextual View. Low-Water Crossing over Barons Creek on Christoph Feuge Farm. Photo by Terri Myers, March 10, 2022, camera facing northwest.



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Photo 38: Contextual View. Amandus/John/Richard Stehling Farmstead, est. 1852; Resources shown date to 1870s-1890s. Photo by Terri Myers, March 11, 2022, N Highway 87, camera facing northwest.



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Photo 39: Contextual View. Sheep grazing in pasture on Amandus Stehling Farm. Photo by Terri Myers, March 10, 2022, from Old Mason Road, camera facing northeast.



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Photo 40: Contextual View. Multi-purpose (hay, horse, vehicle) Barn (Resource 6g) and shed in Amandus/John/Richard Stehling barnyard; stone basement c. 1870, frame upper stories c. 1935. Photo by Terri Myers, March 2021, from domestic yard, camera facing north/northeast.



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Photo 41: Contextual View. Early domestic and agricultural cluster (log barn c. 1860; limestone house c. 1870), on Feuge Farm. Photo by Terri Myers, March 10, 2022, camera facing south/southeast.



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Photo 42: Contextual View. Domestic Cluster. 1 ½ story stone house (Resource 2e); stone smokehouse with vehicle shed addition (Resource 2f), both c. 1870. Photo taken from barnyard by Terri Myers, March 25, 2021, camera facing north.



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Photo 43: View – Second generation Feuge domestic cluster: 1 ½ story stone house, smokehouse, and fence (Resources 2e, 2f, and 2c), 1870. Photo by Terri Myers, March 25, 2021, camera facing south.



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Photo 44: Contextual View. Building Cluster. Two stone barns; stone house (Resources 3c, 3b, & 3a), c. 1889, Joseph Stehling Sr./George Franz Stehling Farm. Photo by Terri Myers, March 11, 2022, camera facing west.



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Photo 45: Noncontributing Building. Modern carport and stone wall, Amandus Stehling Farm. Photo by Terri Myers, March 25, 2021, camera facing northwest.



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Photo 46: Noncontributing Building. Historic age grain barn converted to guest house (Resource 6j), Amandus Stehling Farm. Photo by Terri Myers, March 11, 2022, camera facing north.



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Photo 47: Noncontributing modern house (Resource 5a), Amandus Stehling Farm. Photo by Terri Myers, March 12, 2022, camera facing northwest.



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Photo 48: Noncontributing Building. Modern house (Resource 9a), Amandus Stehling land east of N Highway 87. Photo by Terri Myers, March 10, 2022, camera facing southeast.



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Photo 49: Noncontributing Building. Modern workshop (Resource 5b), Amandus Stehling Farm. Photo by Terri Myers, March 12, 2022, camera facing west.



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Photo 50: Excluded from District. Boot Ranch Estates, upscale “ranchette” community on adjacent property east of district. Photo by Terri Myers, March 10, 2022, camera facing southeast.



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Photo 51: Excluded from District, DAV Center, east side of N Highway 87, southeast of district. Photo by Terri Myers, March 11, 2022, camera facing east.



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Photo 52: Materials and Methods. V-notched rough-hewn logs chinked with stones, c. 1860; type associated with German immigrant settlers in Texas Hill Country. Photo by Terri Myers, March 10, 2022, camera facing north.



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Photo 53: Materials and Methods. 1 ½ story Christoph Feuge Jr. House began as log house; c. 1870 lower logs replaced with stones, upper walls with shaped and remnant stone, chiseled corners. Shed-roofed addition of stone block/remnant. Photo by Terri Myers, March 25, 2021, camera facing southeast.



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Photo 54: Materials and Methods. Christoph Feuge (Jr.) House, c. 1870, window detail. Cut stone lintels with row of small stones as chinking. Photo by Terri Myers, March 10, 2022.



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Photo 55: Materials and Methods. Stone remnants fitted to fill gaps in ad hoc fashion. Photo by Terri Myers, March 10, 2022.



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Photo 56: Materials and Methods. Carl Feuge “1901 House.” Feuge, a skilled stonemason, built his 2-story stone house next to his father’s 1 ½ story stone house. Craftsmanship is evident in its finely chiseled, tightly fitted stone blocks, and razor-sharp edges. Photo by Terri Myers, March 10, 2022.



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Photo 57: Materials and Methods. Original barn burned in the 1930s, but the stone foundation and some of the stone basement walls survived (left side). New walls built with remnant stone. Photo by Terri Myers, March 25, 2021, camera facing west.



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Photo 58: Materials and Methods. Farmers removed stone from crop fields and used it to build walls and animal pens throughout the district. Many display a high degree of skill and artistry in construction and design. Photo by Terri Myers, March 12, 2022, camera facing northeast.



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