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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form

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_X_ New Submission ___ Amended Submission

A. Name of Multiple Property Listing

Historic and Architectural Resources of Southeast Travis County, Texas

B. Associated Historic Contexts

Rural Development and Building Traditions in Southeastern Travis County: 1820-1946

C. Form Prepared by

Name/Title: Terri Myers, Project Director; Sara Kirtland, Associate Historian; Diane Williams, Architectural Historian
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City or town: Austin *State:* TX *Zip*: 78703

D. Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this documentation form meets the National Register documentation standards and sets forth requirements for the listing of related properties consistent with the National Register criteria. This submission meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60 and the Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archeology and Historic Preservation. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature and title of certifying official — Date 9-3-96

State Historic Preservation Officer, Texas Historical Commission
State or Federal agency and bureau

I hereby certify that this multiple property documentation form has been approved as a basis for evaluating related properties for listing in the National Register.

Linda McClelland
Signature of the Keeper — Date 10/16/96

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RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND BUILDING TRADITIONS IN SOUTHEASTERN TRAVIS COUNTY : 1846-1946

Introduction

The southeastern quadrant of Travis County was the first part of the county Europeans settled after the Spanish (and later Mexican) government opened Texas lands to colonists in the 1820s. Watered by the Colorado River, the region's rich black land promised much greater agricultural potential than the rocky hills to the west. Its first residents were farmers who plowed fields and built modest homes along the rivers and creeks that ran through the area. Despite the designation and subsequent growth of nearby Austin as the state capital and county seat, southeast Travis County remained largely an agricultural region until the construction of Bergstrom Air Force Base in 1942, during World War II. The City of Austin acquired historic farmsteads and the original townsite of Del Valle in 1942 and the United States Army subsequently leased 3,000 acres in the middle of the original 1832 Santiago del Valle land grant. The Army demolished many buildings in the area to construct the base. Housing for military personnel and their families, as well as for civilian base workers, sprang up in hastily platted subdivisions and the rural countryside to the north transformed into a semi-suburban adjunct to Austin. The influx of residents spawned new commercial development along Highway 71 in the post-war period. Although the advent of the Air Force Base altered the historic landscape of the rural community, much of the land south and east of the base has retained its predominantly rural character

Exploration and Early Settlement

Spanish Colonial Exploration: 1691 - 1820

Although explorers and missionaries passed through present Travis County during the Spanish colonial period, they did not establish major trade or emigration routes through the territory during that time. In 1691, Domingo Terán de los Ríos, the newly-appointed governor of the Téjas province, led an expedition to East Texas that crossed the Colorado River and passed through present Travis County. The exact location of Teran's crossing of the river, which he named San Pedro y San Pablo, remains unknown, but historian Carlos Castañeda concluded that it was approximately 10 to 15 miles below the present city of Austin. Teran reached the Colorado crossing on June 26, 1691. There he camped until mid-July when the party set out for its East Texas destination (Castañeda, 1976: 363-365 in Robinson and Utley, 1992: 13). His is the first known recorded expedition through the county (Webb, 1951: 796).

Teran's objectives were to explore the region, obtain intelligence on possible French intrusion into Spanish territory, and protect missionaries en route to establish missions in East Texas. Although these early missionary ventures in East Texas were ultimately unsuccessful, the Spanish renewed their efforts in 1714, following reports that the French were making incursions into Texas from Louisiana. Under the leadership of José Domingo Ramón, a Spanish expedition reached the south bank of the Colorado River, several miles below present Austin, on May 23, 1717 (Robinson and Utley, 1992: 13). The party found the river in flood stage, a condition that later settlers contended with on a regular basis. However, the expedition, which reached Williamson County on May 27, 1717, failed to check the French at the Louisiana border. In 1721, the Marquis de Aquayo led another expedition to secure East Texas from the French. Fray Juan Antonio de la Pena, who accompanied the expedition, kept a journal relating how the group crossed Onion Creek at what became known as McKinney Falls (Masson et al., 1993: 15). Later, in 1730, three missions were temporarily established near the present site of Austin's Barton Springs, en route between East Texas and San Antonio (Webb, 1951:

796). These and other brief sojourns characterized the extent of Spanish interest in present Travis County which, apparently, were limited to a favored crossing point on the Colorado River.

Pioneers of Austin's Little Colony: 1820-1846

More intensive exploration and settlement of the area did not occur until after Stephen F. Austin achieved some success with his first colony, which extended inland from the Gulf Coast along the Colorado and Brazos rivers. Authorized under Spanish law in 1820 and confirmed by the succeeding Mexican government, Austin brought 300 families to settle in his first colony. Once Austin established his colony, other empresarios obtained colonial rights and prospective settlers poured into Texas from the United States. Some of the newcomers ignored the official colonial boundaries. Travis County chronicler Frank Brown reported that prospectors who ventured into the county during the 1820s blazed a dirt road along the north bank of the Colorado River. He maintained that Stephen F. Austin further defined the trail in March 1830, when he and a survey crew followed its path along the river from Mina, now Bastrop, to the west line of the Tannehill League, about three miles east of downtown Austin (Brown, various dates: 11.21 in Robinson and Utley, 1992: 15).

Austin's trek into the Texas interior followed Mexican approval of a third colonial land grant in 1827. Several men, including Reuben Hornsby, John F. Webber, Martin Wells, William Barton, and Jesse Tannehill, accompanied Austin and two surveyors to the area to secure their headrights. Encouraged by the response to his initial efforts, Austin planned to bring 100 families to what became known as his Little Colony, which lay "north of the Old San Antonio Road and east of the Colorado River" (Robinson and Utley, 1992: 14). Josiah Wilbarger, one of Austin's surveyors and the first to settler in the Little Colony, secured his homestead at the mouth of what was later called Wilbarger's Creek, 10 miles above the point where the San Antonio and Nacogdoches Road crossed the Colorado, at Mina.

Stephen F. Austin first set up the district of Mina in January 1826, in order to consolidate the settlement of the Little Colony in one area (Hardy, 1938: 20-21). Austin laid out the town site of Mina in 1830. Miguel Archiniega, Austin's land commissioner, officially established Mina in 1832. It never flourished as a large community, but served as a point of orientation for settlers venturing into unexplored territory. Mina was one of few settlements in the area and many new settlers, who later moved into southeast Travis County, lived in or near it. Although Austin's Little Colony did not include present southeast Travis County, its establishment opened the region to further exploration. In 1830, another empresario, Benjamin Rush Milam, who later fought in the Texas Revolution, claimed a colonial contract for the "western lands" containing present southeast Travis County (Robinson and Utley, 1992: 14).

Major Land Grants in Southeast Travis County

In 1832, the Mexican government granted a large portion of the Milam Colony to Santiago del Valle, a prominent official and member of the Mexican congress. Del Valle's grant included ten leagues of land that adjoined the Colorado River and continued "along the lower part by the creek that they call Onion Creek, Burro, or Garrapatas ..." (Bergstrom Public Relations Office, 1944: 1-2). The grant included "two leagues of arable land and eight leagues in pasture land. The confluence of Onion Creek and Williamston Creek [is] near the center of the grant" (Robinson and Utley, 1992: 14). No evidence remains that del Valle ever occupied or even saw his land in present southeast Travis County.

Del Valle apparently hired Samuel May Williams, Stephen F. Austin's colonial secretary, to represent his interests. Williams traded one league of the Del Valle grant to Barlett Sims, in exchange for surveying the property. Michel B. Menard, a founder of the City of Galveston, purchased the remainder of the grant in 1835 (Robinson and Utley, 1992: 15).

The Mexican government granted another large portion of current southeast Travis County to José Antonio Navarro in 1832. Navarro, a signer of the Texas Declaration of Independence, received seven leagues of land. His holdings, in adjacent Travis and Bastrop counties, extended westward from Onion Creek, south of the Colorado River (General Land Office, Map of Travis County, 1889). Although Mexican laws forbade slavery, Navarro championed rights of the slave owners in Texas and subsequent property owners within his grant owned slaves (Webb, 1952: 262). He sold his grant to John Caldwell in 1833. Other early settlers in the area who received grants from the Mexican government were Stephen F. Slaughter and S.V.R. Eggleston. Both acquired land near the current Travis and Hays County border in 1835 (General Land Office, Map of Travis County, 1889). Subsequent settlers, like Noel M. Bain, Josephus Irvine, and Joseph Rowe, obtained smaller grants from the Republic of Texas during the 1840s.

Early Anglo-American Settlement

The earliest settlers in present Travis County clustered in the southeastern quadrant where they cleared land for farming, hunted wild game, and engaged in small trading endeavors. Land south of the Colorado River seemed to provide the best agricultural opportunities in the quadrant and the area quickly became characterized as rural. Only a few small settlements, like the early Indian trading post of Comanche, appeared south of the river near the primary crossings in the earliest settlement years.

The pioneer settlers built fortifications for protection against Comanche Indians who ranged through the territory. Early settlements were often referred to as forts even though few were official military outposts. By 1831, fortified settlements appeared throughout southeast Travis County. They included settlements at Webber's Prairie, Coleman's Branch, three miles below Webber's Prairie, Moore's Fort, on the west bank of Gilleland Creek, Comanche, on the south side of the Colorado River just below the mouth of Onion Creek, and Hornsby's Bend. As more settlers moved to the frontier, Indian raids increased and the Mexican government dispatched soldiers to protect the settlements (Barkley, 1963: 7).

By 1835, settlers in the area feared not only Indian raids, but invasion from Mexico. Early settlers used the forts to guard against Mexican incursion as well as to protect families from Indian attacks. During the revolution, Texan soldiers were sent to many of the forts to protect the settlers. In addition, community leaders organized safety committees to watch for possible Mexican advancement, secure guns and ammunition, spread information, or call out a militia. Samuel Wolfinbarger, J.W. Bunton, D.C. Barrett, John McGehee, Breed Manlove, and Edward Burleson formed the first safety committee at Mina (Hardy, 1938: 23).

The newly formed Texas government built a few official forts to establish a military presence to discourage raids. President David G. Burnett assigned Captain Robert M. Coleman to a fort named in his honor in 1836. Fort Coleman, and the surrounding community, Fort Prairie, were at the intersection of Webberville Road and 19th Street, two miles above Hornsby's Bend and one mile east of Montopolis, at the northwest corner of Jesse Tannehill's league. Sixty mounted rangers were stationed at the fort, which consisted of several cabins and a stockade. The rangers, who served on the Colorado, Brazos, and Trinity rivers, patrolled from Hornsby's settlement up to Brushy Creek, east of Austin. After Coleman drowned and Indians murdered his wife and children, the rangers disbanded and abandoned their post in 1838 (Barkley, 1963:7).

In the early settlement period, pioneers established trading communities at Hornsby's Bend and Webber's Prairie, both along the major trade and emigration routes that followed the north bank of the river (Robinson and Utley, 1992: 16). Reuben Hornsby established a settlement at a bend in the Colorado, nine miles below the site of Austin, which came to be known as Hornsby's Bend. He arrived in the area in 1832 and his settlement served as a stopping place for travelers in the area. As it was the first settlement in the county, Hornsby's Bend had the first school (Barkley, 1963:5). The fortified community, which consisted of several log cabins, saw quite a bit of hostile Indian activity. Hornsby rescued his neighbor, Josiah Wilbarger, after Wilbarger was scalped by Comanche Indians in 1833. Wilbarger family legend relates the comradeship felt among the early pioneers.

> Hornsby's house was also noted for hospitality and he, like his neighbor Wilbarger, was remarkable for those virtues and that personal courage which made them both marked men among many settlers. Young men from time to time came up to the frontier to look at the country made Hornsby's house a stopping place and were always gladly welcomed, for it was chiefly through such visits that news from the States was obtained. A more beautiful tract of land, even now, can nowhere be found than the league of land granted to Reuben Hornsby (Wilbarger, 1889: 8).

Reuben and Sarah Hornsby had the first white child born within the present Travis County limits in 1832 (Hardy, 1938: 28).

Webber's Prairie, on what later became known as the Webberville Road, five miles east of Austin, was a large frontier village established in 1839 by John F. Webber, one of the members of Austin's 1830 survey team. People who settled in Webber's Prairie, such as Noah Smithwick, Washington Anderson, his father Dr. Thomas Anderson, the Hamiltons, Joseph Duty, James Dodd, and James and Joseph Manor, built log cabins inside a fortification that protected them from Indian attacks. A colony of Mormons headed by Elder Lyman Wright also settled at Webber's Prairie in 1839. They stayed for some time and established the first jail in Travis County. In addition, Joseph Manor and Frank Nash, who later founded the community of Manor, north of the Colorado River, started a store in Webber's Prairie in 1840. Webber's Prairie became known as Webberville in 1851. When John F. Webber left the area in 1851, Colonel John Banks bought the town site (Barkley, 1963: 4).

Among the first residents who settled below the Colorado River were John Caldwell, who lived in the vicinity of the Comanche community at the mouth of Onion Creek, John McGehee and Morgan Hamilton who moved to the area in 1837, Jesse C. Tannehill, who was granted 800 acres upon which he planned to settle the town of Montopolis, and Lewis and William Hancock who established farms along Onion Creek by 1838. Other early residents included Bobby Mitchell, John Burleson, Joseph Duty, Thomas A. Moore, his father Nathaniel Moore, and James Gilleland, for whom Gilleland Creek is named. Nathaniel and Thomas A. Moore and their families arrived in Texas as early as 1821.

Thomas A. Moore's son, Robert J. Moore, would later establish a community called Moore's Crossing on the south bank of Onion Creek (Peterson, n.d.: 5).

The Period of the Republic of Texas

Austin: The Capital of the Republic of Texas

In 1839, President Mirabeau B. Lamar recommended that the Republic of Texas establish a permanent capital on the banks of the Colorado River. At that time, only two sizable communities existed in present Travis County: Edwin Waller's Waterloo and Tannehill's Montopolis townsite. Tannehill platted the town of Montopolis on the site of former Fort Coleman, which was abandoned by the time he established a permanent settlement there. Reportedly, Tannehill built his cabin of logs from Fort Coleman. Lots in Montopolis went on sale July 2, 1839, about the same time as property in Waterloo. Tannehill laid out 20 two-acre lots on one side of the main street, which led to the river bank and planned 25 acre-sized lots on the other side. All of the property sold for $11.88 per acre. He set aside additional land for churches, seminaries, and general public buildings (Barkley, 1963: 9).

Unfortunately for Tannehill's enterprise, President Lamar chose Waterloo over Montopolis. Still, Tannehill's town had the potential to be a prosperous community, if not the capital of the republic. However, since most of the economic and social emphasis in the area was in Austin, the initial enthusiasm for Montopolis diminished. In 1840, some of the Montopolis farmers sold their property back to Tannehill and by 1846, land owners in the area were dividing unsold portions of the main street property among themselves. The Montopolis townsite venture ended after that, but people continued to use the road leading from Montopolis to Austin as a common transportation route. Tannehill later deeded some of his property to his daughter Jane, who married Aaron Burleson, brother of General Edward Burleson and an important antebellum planter in southeast Travis County (Barkley, 1963:9).

As befitting the new capital, the tiny settlement of Waterloo was renamed Austin, for empresario Stephen F. Austin, and governmental agencies moved from Houston at the end of 1839. The following year, Travis County was carved from Bastrop County, claiming the new capital within its boundaries. On February 21, 1840, local citizens elected county officers and Austin became the Travis County seat as well as the capital of the Republic. As the center of both county and republic government, Austin quickly became the focal point of political and commercial activity for Travis County and all of central Texas. As Austin rose as the county's leading urban center, Montopolis and the surrounding region in southeast Travis County remained almost entirely rural in character.

Despite the demise of Montopolis as a town, county land increased in value, drawing more settlers to the region, as a result of its proximity to the new Texas capital and county seat. A local observer described the desirable land south of the Colorado River.

> To the south the scenery becomes more graceful and harmonious; hill beyond hill, and mound beyond mound, continuing in gradual succession, interspersed with verdant prairie, and beautifully diversified green groves of all shapes and various dimension, lie spread out to view (*Texas Sentinel*, 15 January 1840, in Hardy, 1938:14-15).

The Republic of Texas issued three land grants on Onion Creek before 1850. Grantees were Noel M. Bain and Josephus S. Irvine, both of whom received patents in 1841, and Jonathan Bittick, who sold his certificate to Joseph Rowe in 1844. Bain received 1,476 acres on Onion Creek, but he sold 450 acres to James Standifer and the remaining property to Thomas Clifton in 1847 for $500 (Travis County Deed Records, Volume B: 336, in Jones, n.d.). Standifer, who eventually settled on Brushy Creek in Williamson County, sold his portion of the Bain survey to William S. Wallace in 1847 for one dollar per acre (Travis County Deed Records, Volume C: 296-297, in Jones, n.d.). Other settlers, like Garner Mayes and Ayres Moody, located their grants on Onion Creek but did not receive their titles until after 1850 (*Austin American Statesman* April 1, 1971).

Despite the influx of settlers and the establishment of nearby government entities in their midst, fear of Indian attacks prevailed among rural settlers well into the 1840s. In 1839, the Chief Justice of Travis County organized the county into four military beats so that residents could better monitor Indian activities in their area. The threat was still present in 1844 when Thomas A. Moore became the overseer of beat number three, a section of southeast Travis County, extending down to the southern Travis County line (Works Progress Administration (WPA) Historical Records Survey, Travis County Commissioners Court Minutes, Volume A, March 5, 1844:42).

However, Travis County residents did live in a more secure environment and traveled between Austin and the various settlements with a greater degree of safety than was present in the 1830s. Since Austin was an important hub of trade and commerce for people in the surrounding communities, county officials began to make the capital more accessible to those living outside the city limits. In 1840, county officials and local citizens improved the Bastrop to Austin Road, and established ferry crossings at various points and built bridges at Walnut and Gilleland Creeks (WPA Historical Records Survey, Travis County Commissioners Court Minutes, Volume A, March 9, 1840:5,7). The following month, area residents established another Colorado ferry crossing south of Austin known as Stone's Ferry. In 1846, people used ferries as such a frequent form of transportation that the Travis County commissioners regulated their rates. Standard prices were 12 1/2 cents for a footman, 25 cents for a man and a horse, 50 cents for a wagon and yoke of oxen or a span of horses, with more than one yoke of oxen or extra horses and oxen, priced at one dollar and 12 1/2 cents each, respectively (WPA Historical Records Survey, Travis County Commissioners Court Minutes, Volume A, March 6, 1846:51).

Travis County experienced considerable growth between 1840 and 1850. In 1840, the county population, with most of the land owners living in southeast Travis County, totaled 856. However, by 1850, the population had tripled, with 2,336 whites, 791 slaves, and 11 free Negroes (*Texas Historical Review*, 1982: Vol.4, Number 1). With the population of the county increasing, Travis County commissioners established various mail routes. The first mail route in Travis County, set up on May 24, 1838, went from Bastrop to Reuben Hornsby's place. The next one extended from Colonel Harvey Jines' property to Comanche. By 1840, two post offices were in Travis County, one at Austin and the other at Comanche. Noah Smithwick was the postmaster for Webber's Prairie. He charged 25 cents for a letter and the service of Peter Carr's fiddle, which Carr, the first postman, carried and played at stops along the route. However, during this early period, mail was unreliable. On January 29, 1840, the *Texas State Gazette* reported no mail had come from Houston for weeks. Some mail carriers also had trouble with Indians with one postman killed on the road from Gonzales to Austin in 1841 (Barkley, 1963:251). Local law enforcement groups frequently retaliated to such depredations.

Wallace-Burleson-Moore Cabin and Life on Onion Creek ca. 1842-1848

Three pioneer families, those of Thomas A. and Mary Moore, John and Rebecca Burleson and William S. and Mary Ann Wallace, moved to southeastern Travis County between 1831 and 1842. They influenced the development of the agricultural region and left lasting contributions in and near the community that became known as Moore's Crossing, at a ford on the south side of Onion Creek. A single farmstead, the Wallace-Burleson-Moore farmstead, encompasses contributions of each family during different phases of development in the project area, from 1842 to about 1925. Wallace's homestead and early improvements stem from the pioneer settlement period; Mary Ann Wallace and John Burleson's brief union on the Wallace farmstead represents a more stable and prosperous agricultural era dependent on slave labor in the years preceding the Civil War; and the Martha Jane Burleson/Robert James Moore occupation typifies the post-war transition to landlord/tenant and share crop practices that became the mainstay of the agricultural enterprise in central Texas in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

William S. and Mary E. Wallace were typical of early southeast Travis County settlers. Drawn to the newly formed county, the couple married in Bastrop, about 1841 (Jenkins, 1958: 268), and moved to their farm on Onion Creek the following year. Although Wallace, who died prematurely in 1848, made few personal contributions to Travis County history, his homestead contains the only known dwelling that dates to the earliest period of permanent Anglo-American habitation within the project area in southeast Travis County.

William Simpson Wallace traveled to Texas from his home in White County, Tennessee, in 1836. He settled first in Bastrop County where he was elected county surveyor in 1837. During the Cordova Rebellion of 1837, Wallace served under General Edward Burleson and on May 14, 1837, reportedly killed Manuel Flores, leader of a gang of terrorists, in hand to hand combat. According to tradition, Texas President Mirabeau B. Lamar promoted Wallace from private to Lieutenant Colonel for his action. Lamar rewarded Wallace with Flores' rifle and sword by other Texans who participated in the battle (Jenkins, 1958: 268).

Bastrop County records list Wallace as a "third-class" applicant for a Texas land grant, i.e., he arrived in Texas between October 1, 1837 and January 1840 and thus, he was entitled to 320 acres of land as a single man. In order to meet the conditions of a third class grant, the Republic of Texas required settlers to live on the property and "remain a responsible citizen" for three years. According to his claim, Wallace immigrated to Bastrop County, Texas, in November 1837. He applied for a conditional land certificate for his allotted 320-acre parcel on July 11, 1839, in Bastrop County. The location of Wallace's original land grant remains unknown. Apparently Wallace had some terms of the validation waived because Bastrop County issued an unconditional certificate for the same property on April 5, 1841 (Bastrop County Clerk's Returns of the Board of Land Commissioners, n.d.: n.p.). By that date, Travis County had been carved from the larger Bastrop County.

It remains uncertain when Wallace first settled in what is now southeast Travis County. Wallace is thought to have married his wife, the former Mary Ann O'Connell, in Bastrop in 1841. His name first appeared in Travis County tax rolls in 1842, suggesting that they moved to Travis County about that time. Both secondary and traditional accounts assert that Wallace and his wife lived in Travis County as early as 1842, but tax records show little evidence of their residency until 1846. According to the earliest rolls on which his name appears, Wallace owned 260 acres of land in Travis County, valued at only $50, less than 50 cents per acre - the price of unimproved land in the region during that period. The land was almost certainly unimproved. Wallace owned 20 head of cattle in Travis County. His only taxworthy possession was a gold watch. The 1845 tax rolls show even less investment in the county as Wallace claimed ownership of only 160 acres of land valued at $80, one saddle horse, and his gold watch. Notably absent from these rolls are slaves, mules, and wagons that might indicate agricultural undertakings and actual occupation of the land (Travis County Tax Rolls, 1842).

Tax rolls for 1846, however, show a substantial increase in Wallace's Travis County property holdings among other noteworthy changes. That year, Wallace claimed several large parcels valued between 50 cents and $1 per acre, along with an additional 555-acre parcel purchased from John Caldwell. The Caldwell property was valued at $1,665 or $3 per acre. The relative value of this parcel probably reflects the addition of a substantial dwelling and possibly farmland under cultivation. This was the site of the Wallace homestead, now known as the Wallace-Burleson-Moore farmstead (Travis County Tax Rolls, 1842).

Figure 1 Early log building, similar to buildings on Wallace's property.
Source: Center for American History, University of Texas

In addition, Wallace's 1846 holdings included three slaves valued at $1,500, four horses or mules valued at $200, 20 head of cattle worth $100, and a wagon valued at $25. These increases indicate Wallace's substantial investment, probable improvements, and occupation of this parcel. In the following two years Wallace increased his investment in the subject property where he most certainly resided with his wife and children as evidenced in his 1848 will. By 1848, he owned six slaves, three horses or mules, 16 head of cattle, a wagon and carriage worth $200 with a total real and personal property of $5,064 (Travis County Tax Rolls, 1842).

When the county assessed the Wallace's property in 1842 and 1845, one possibility is that the couple either owned or claimed little property during those years. In this case, it must be assumed that Wallace built a shelter for his young wife and two-year old son upon arriving in the county. Early settlers in southeast Travis County often lived in small log houses until better accommodations could be made (Figure 1). Another possibility is that Mary Ann and the baby remained in Bastrop County until William consolidated his holdings in Travis County (Travis County Tax Rolls, 1842).

In either case, it appears almost certain that Wallace built the dwelling by 1846. The first recorded reference to a personal residence occurs in Wallace's October 2, 1848, will in which he mentions his dwelling and farm. Secondary and traditional recollections date the house variously at 1842 or 1848. Certainly it existed by 1848 when Wallace wrote his will. However, Wallace probably built the substantial three-pen dwelling referred to in secondary and traditional sources by 1846, as evidenced by his tax records.

Likewise, information about other buildings and structures may be extrapolated from the archives. Tax records show that Wallace claimed ownership of a saddle horse in 1845. In 1846 he listed four horses or mules and a wagon. Almost certainly he built a shelter for the animals and wagon near his dwelling. In addition, Wallace claimed ownership of three slaves who would have required shelter as well. Evidence of these structures and artifacts of their inhabitants dating to ca. 1846 may be found in the area.

The following table lists potential built features and uses of the subject property as interpreted from the archival investigations.

Table 1 : Archival Information and Possible Artifacts

Year	Inhabitants	Property	Artifacts
1842	First possible occupation of the subject property by William S. Wallace, wife Mary Ann Wallace, two-year-old son John	mule wagon	dwelling shelter for mule, well, and privy
1846	William S. Wallace, wife Mary Ann, six-year-old son John and two-year-old William.	slaves valued at $1,500, four horses or mules, 20 head of cattle, one wagon, and farm implements valued at $1,665—this parcel probably includes the dwelling	dwelling shelter for horses and mules, shelter for slaves, barn for cattle, wagon, farm implements, well, and privy

Year	Inhabitants	Property	Artifacts
1848	William S. Wallace, eight-year-old son John, four-year-old son William, infant daughter Mary Elizabeth	six slaves, 16 head of cattle, three horses or mules, a wagon, and a carriage (According to Wallace's 1848 will, he also owned hogs.)	dwelling shelter for horses and mules, shelter for slaves, well, privy shelter for cattle, shelter for wagon, carriage, hog pen, and farm implements

From the tax rolls it appears that the Wallace family gradually increased its possessions and was moderately successful by the standards of that time and place. However, by October 1848, William Wallace knew that he would be dead within a short time. According to an account based on traditional family stories compiled by Joanne Steger in the 1950s, Wallace was returning from a trip to Tennessee when he became ill with fever and died in Houston. A slave accompanying Wallace on the trip had him buried in Houston but Mary Ann Wallace traveled to the grave, had the coffin exhumed and carried back to the homestead, and apparently reburied it near the house. The location of the grave has been lost, according to this source (Steger, n.d.). To date, archaeologists have no evidence of a grave at the Wallace homestead site. Other accounts conflict somewhat with that of Steger. In an account based on family information, Pickrell states that Wallace and his wife both traveled to Tennessee during the construction of their house. Wallace's original will was recorded in White County, Tennessee (Travis County Probate Records, Volume A: 113-115).

Steger's account contains information concerning the house and other built features of the Wallace homestead. Steger described a house built of hand-hewn cedar with a hand-cut cedar shingles. It consisted of three large rooms, a large center bay measuring 22' by 24' with a 14' ceiling adjacent to a room measuring 22' by 16' with a 12' ceiling and a second room measuring 22' by 18' also with a 12' ceiling. Fireplaces were in each of the rooms. Windows were hinged, solid wood panels that could close in case of attack. Doors were of thick wood. According to Steger, the Wallaces built slave quarters, a corn crib, and a cooking shed behind the main house. They also built a corral and animal shelter. According to Steger, the creek provided water for people and animals, and there was no mention of a well (Steger, n.d.).

By the terms of his will, William S. Wallace left two smaller, unimproved tracts of land to his wife. The remainder of the 1,700 acre tract on which his dwelling and farm lay went to his children upon their coming of age (Figure 2). He stipulated that his wife could benefit from the use of both her own and her children's property unless she remarried. In that event, Wallace declared that his farm and slaves should be rented to others and the proceeds used to educate his children. This stipulation eventually encumbered the disposition of the Wallace property when Mary Ann later remarried (Travis County Probate Records, various, 1849-1855). It is somewhat ironic that Mary Ann Wallace struggled through the hardships of pioneer life only to be left a widow when prospects for the future of Travis County and the state of Texas appeared good. As the early settlement era came to a close and Travis County entered a period of relative stability and prosperity, Mary Ann Wallace buried her husband and faced an uncertain future.

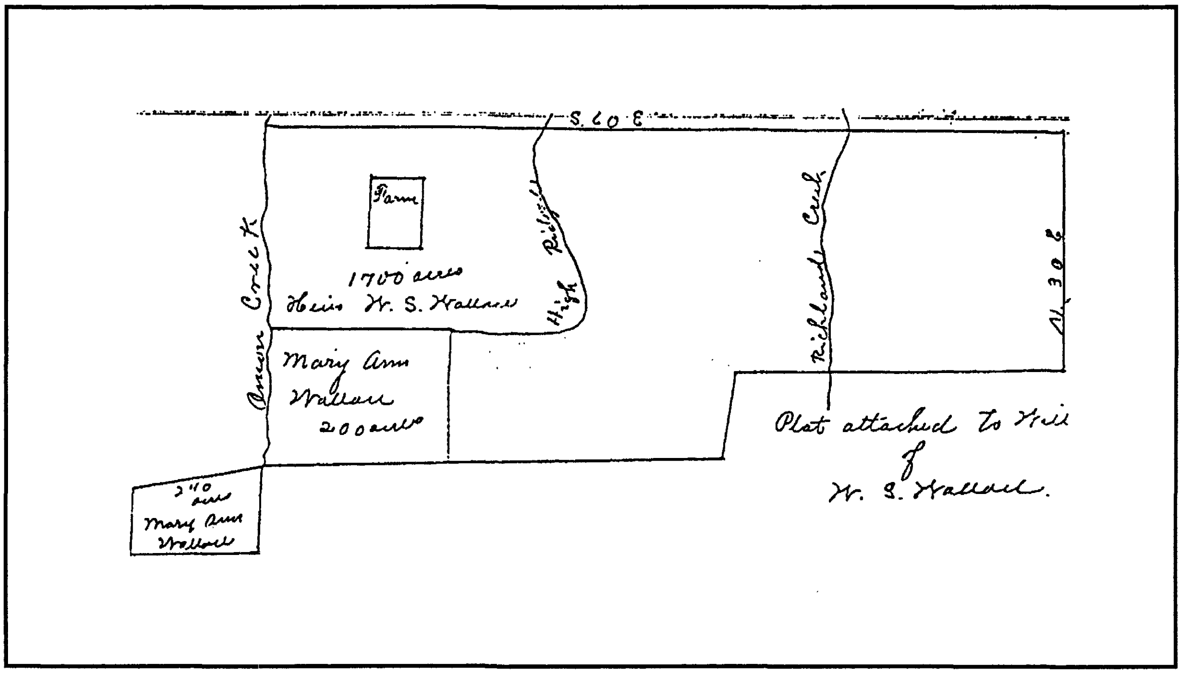

Figure 2 Wallace-Burleson-Moore Farmstead, 1848
Source: Austin History Center

Antebellum Prosperity in Texas and Southeast Travis County: 1848-1860

Social and Economic Conditions in a Rural Setting

Unlike the earliest Travis County pioneers who broke ground in a virtual wilderness, lived in log houses and battled Indians, people who arrived in Texas after 1848 represented a different type of settler. By that time, Texas had achieved a degree of economic and political stability as part of the United States, settlers in southeastern Travis County entered into a period of general prosperity. Some of the county's wealthiest landowners and most productive farmers, such as Thomas F. McKinney, Sebron G. Sneed, Albert C. Horton, Nathaniel Waltrous, Aaron Burleson, and Thomas P. Washington, lived in southeastern Travis County. These people were not the hardy pioneers of the 1830s and 1840s. Some were wealthy slave owners from southern states who came to Texas to increase their fortunes by purchasing large tracts of land. Others had come to Texas with Austin's original 300 colonists and traveled north to Travis County to speculate in further real estate ventures and profit in the new capital city. In addition, a few, like Thomas F. McKinney, who bought his land in 1839, but did not arrive in the county until 1849, came to the area as social exiles. During this period, most settlers traveled to southeast Travis County following relatives or business associates who had been successful in the area. They built several stately houses in an effort to recreate the Old South and established an antebellum system of plantation agriculture, dependent upon slave labor.

Since many of the people in southeast Travis County were of similar social stature, education, and values, they began to establish organizations and gatherings that drew them together as a community of Texas aristocrats. Most of the male voters in the area allied with the Democratic Party. Many served together as County Commissioners, members of the County Grand Jury, and helped establish roads through southeast Travis County. Roads meant progress for the area and an influx of more goods and services. Large land owners wanted accessible roads that did not cut through desirable areas of their own property. When such an infringement occurred, neighboring land owners were quick to bring their claims before the County Commissioner's Court.

> Thomas F. McKinney and Thomas Griffen filed their objection to said report objecting to a portion of said road so reviewed as aforesaid crossings their lands for reasons in their objections states, and the court having fully considered said application ... and being satisfied that said road as prayed for is intended as a change for the Austin and Lockhart road by Stone's Ferry and that to adopt said report ... would injure the lands of said objectors ... County deems it necessary that said road should be changed in part ... (WPA Historical Records Survey, Travis County Commissioners Court Minutes, August 20, 1856: 164).

In matters of property rights and business interests, southeast Travis County land owners were often in solidarity. Furthermore, County Commissioner's Court records show that these men were very influential in the county and that their opinions could effect change, such as where county officials established a road. Building roads in southeast Travis County involved all property owners. All men worked on the road nearest to their homestead. A few were overseers of the road construction, others worked on the roads themselves, while some sent "hands," probably slaves, to work in their place. It remains unclear whether or not county officials based the substitution of white men for slaves on the owner's age and ability to work or his social standing.

> Cap. Blair be and is hereby appointed overseer of Precinct No.1 of the Road leading from Austin to Lockhart via Grumbles Ferry, said precinct commencing at Blockers & ending at Boggy Creek and the following hands are designated and required by said Court to work under said overseer ... A. Blocker, W. Davidson, John Fulks, Joseph Squbener, James Hall, J.B. Thaxton, Judge Sneed's hands, Jenkins Davis' hands, Capt. Blair's hands, John A. Davis (WPA Historical Records Survey, Travis County Commissioners Court Minutes, February 16, 1857: 185).

Undoubtedly, these activities brought people in the area together and may have even sparked some resentments. Members of the community continued forming patrols to report disturbances in various precincts, often caused by conflicts between Anglo residents and Indians. There were several churches in the area as well, such as the Pleasant Hill Baptist Church, at which Sebron G. and Marinda Sneed were some of the first members (Lemke, 1958: 12).

Onion Creek Lodge Number 220, AF & AM and the Onion Creek Masonic Cemetery were near Pleasant Hill Baptist Church, north of Boggy Creek. Members of the Masonic organization originally met in Union School House, a log cabin in the area that was built in 1852. In fall of 1859, the log school house burned. Although the fire was probably the result of antics by local school children, local legend states that Comanche Indians burned the building. Local Masons, like the Slaughters and the Dittmars, began building a new lodge in late 1859. Everything from land to building materials were acquired by donation. George A. Nail donated the site and water rights and Judge S.G. Sneed donated hewn limestone, which his slaves quarried from the limestone underbluff below Sneed's house and delivered for construction (Wilcox 1965:8). Onion Creek Lodge Number 220, AF & AM, was completed in 1861, at the beginning of the Civil War. In addition to being used as a Masonic Lodge, the Methodist Church, Old School Presbyterian Church, Cumberland Presbyterian Church, and the Baptist Church, probably Pleasant Hill Baptist Church, held services there on the first floor each Sunday. The lodge activities took place on the second floor. During the week, a school held classes on the first floor that became known as Pleasant Hill School (Texas Historical Commission, Local History Programs, Sneed House Marker File).

In 1845, the State of Texas provided funds for free public schools, with no less than 10 percent of future annual revenue set aside for schools. Lawmakers did not establish public schools until 1854 because they were reluctant to institute an education tax and because revenues from school lands were insufficient to support them. On May 1, 1854, Travis County Court Commissioners Thomas F. McKinney, Nelson Merrill, and S.M. Swenson called a special session and formed the county into 19 separate school districts. After that, the state treasurer paid Travis County an annual sum to support its public schools. However, in 1856, another school law abolished all school districts and the state legislature mandated that all state special and general school funds be combined and allotted to each county, according to the number of students in attendance. School funds paid tuition for students unable to pay and the schools allotted the rest on a per capita basis. In 1857, schools at Onion Creek and Webberville, among other places, received a portion of these funds (Barkley, 1963:163).

Before this time, communities provided for most schools and by the 1850s, schools were still largely considered a matter for private citizens. To supplement the existing community schools, local educators established several private academies. Joseph Fletcher Rowe, who moved to a plantation on the del Valle grant in 1846, started a school which he called "Rowe's Select Academy." Five miles southeast of Austin, it was a frame building that residents of Burdett's Prairie and Onion Creek organized. Rowe and other teachers taught three classes at the school, which opened in 1848. The lower two studied arithmetic, English, grammar, history, and geography for $10 a semester and the upper class learned chemistry, astronomy, Greek, and Latin for $15 a term (*Austin American Statesman*, April 1, 1971). Due to wide spread economic stress after the Civil War, the State of Texas still had no public school funding and the public school system was not fully established until the 1880s. These community schools and private academies were the only schools available for students after the war.

Mary Ann Wallace and John Burleson

While this period of Travis County history was one of general prosperity and promise for men like McKinney, Sneed and Horton, it must have been a difficult time for the young widow, Mary Ann Wallace, and her household. For more than three years after her husband's death, she cared for her three small children and ran the farmstead on Onion Creek. Other women in her situation might have given up the farm and returned home. By the 1850 census, Mary Ann Wallace had neither remarried nor had she returned to the home of her brothers in Bastrop County. Instead, she remained at the homestead and continued farming with the assistance of a hired man and her slaves. The household had grown to include Mary Ann Wallace, her children, ten-year old son John, six-year old William and baby Mary Elizabeth. In addition, six slaves and a hired man lived on the farm (U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1850). It is unlikely that much new construction took place between Wallace's death in late 1848 and the 1850 census. Improvements probably included the three-room log house that Wallace built for his family, separate shelters for the slaves and hired man, a separate kitchen, several barns or sheds to protect the horses, cattle, wagon and farm implements from the weather, hog pens, a well, and privies. Perhaps William Wallace's grave lay near the house.

The 1850 agricultural schedules offer more information about crops and stock at the Wallace farm. Mary Ann Wallace claimed ownership of 2,200 acres of land, only 125 of which were improved. The cash value of the farm was $6,600 with the value of farm implements and machinery at $600. Contrary to the tax records, Mary Ann Wallace owned 14 horses, no mules, seven milch cows, 22 working oxen, 30 "other" cattle and 100 swine. Total livestock holdings were $2,381 in value. The Wallace farm produced 1,500 bushels of Indian corn and 600 bushels of sweet potatoes but no wheat, rye, oats, rice or tobacco. In addition, the milch cows produced 200 pounds of butter and the value of animals slaughtered was $500. From these figures, Mary Ann Wallace apparently relied heavily on her stock and dairy animals for income. Despite the loss of the her husband, Wallace's holdings and farm production compared favorably with other farmers in her enumeration district for 1850 (U.S. Census, Agricultural Schedule, 1850).

On November 10, 1851, Mary Ann Wallace married John Burleson, a widower of 45 with five children (Travis County Marriage Records Vol. 1: 93). Mrs. Wallace must have been considered a good "catch." She was only 26 years old when William Wallace died and was reportedly well-educated and charming (Picryl 1929: 405). She also possessed considerable property and possessions, valued at $12,000, according to the 1850 census. Her prospective groom, John Burleson, listed the value of his land and possessions at only $5,672 according to the same source. Whether Burleson knew of Wallace's stipulation regarding remarriage is unknown (U.S. Bureau of the Census, Agricultural Schedules, 1850).

It is also not known if the couple and joint household occupied the Wallace residence, although secondary sources claim that they did. The united household would have been quite large, containing the three young Wallace children and three of Burleson's children by his first wife, Rebecca Bell Burleson, who died in 1849. Mary Ann and John Burleson also had a child together, Rebecca S. Burleson, about whom little is known. It is possible that Wallace's original three-room house was enlarged during this period. In addition, both families owned slaves, and quarters may have been erected or moved to the site to accommodate those belonging to the Burlesons.

Mary Ann and John Burleson's union was short-lived however. Mary Ann died in December 1853. [Picryl states, and subsequent sources repeat, that she died in 1857, but this is not accurate. Deed and abstract records show she died in 1853.] Burleson apparently controlled some of his step-children's property and argued unsuccessfully for their guardianship. Burleson hotly contested the legality of Wallace's will regarding his widow's remarriage, leaving the ownership of the Wallace property in litigation for a number of years. Mary Ann Wallace Burleson's brother, William O'Connell, obtained guardianship of her three children by Wallace, and he made several court appearances on their behalf in this matter. Young John E. Wallace, who was about 12 years old when his mother remarried, petitioned the court for redress after her death, when he turned 14. Ultimately, the Wallace property was divided among the three Wallace children and Mary Ann's daughter, Rebecca, by Burleson. Mary Elizabeth Wallace received the portion containing the house (Travis County Probate Minutes, various 1849-1856).

From the mid 1850s through the Civil War, nothing is known about the occupation and use of the Wallace farmstead. Possibly the farm was rented for the benefit of the Wallace children, according to the provisions of William

Wallace's will, but this is not confirmed. Burleson did not occupy the property. Fairly soon after Mary Ann's death, he left Travis County. He does not appear in the 1855 tax rolls and is not counted in the 1860 Travis County census. Burleson ultimately moved to Bastrop County, where he died in 1884. He retained guardianship of his infant daughter, Rebecca S. Burleson, but she is not mentioned in later family accounts and may have died before she reached maturity (Lewis Publishing Company, 1893: 320). John and William Wallace lived on their share of the farm, on the banks of Onion Creek, after the conclusion of the Civil War. Thus, for about a decade, through the last prosperous years of the antebellum south and the hard years of the Civil War, little is known about one of southeast Travis County's most significant historic properties.

Thomas Freeman McKinney

Although both settlers were early arrivals in Austin's first colony and proponents of the Texas Revolution, John Burleson and Thomas F. McKinney had far different experiences in southeast Travis County in the 1850s. McKinney, who moved to part of the original Santiago del Valle grant in 1849, was one of the most prominent and infamous men in the area. Born in 1801 in Kentucky, he came to Texas in the early 1820s with Austin's original 300 colonists. Involvement in the Santa Fe trade brought him to Texas, but after marrying Anna Gibbs, he moved to Galveston in the early 1830s and there ended his overland trade.

In 1834, McKinney and Samuel M. Williams, Austin's colonial secretary, entered into a business partnership in Brazoria County. Together, they obtained a charter for the first legally incorporated private bank in Texas, *Banco de Commercia y Agricultura*, in 1835. The firm became one part of the financial foundation of the Texas Republic, having funded a large portion of the revolution against Mexico. McKinney and Williams also provided several ships for the Texan Navy and sponsored boat and supply runs, making Brazoria County a major arsenal for the revolution. After 1836, the government of the republic authorized the bank to circulate $30,000 in paper money, using slaves and real estate as collateral (McEachern, 1980: 17).

In 1836, McKinney, Williams, Michel Menard, and two additional business associates formed the Galveston City Company, a real estate firm. Menard became involved with McKinney and Williams after he bought nine leagues in Travis County from Santiago del Valle through Samuel Williams. McKinney also joined with several other men, including Stephen F. Austin and A.C. Horton, to form the Texas Railroad, Navigation, and Banking Company, a failed attempt to bring the first railroad line into Texas. The establishment of the *Banco de Commercia y Agricultura* and the subsequent founding of the Galveston City Company turned out to be disastrous. The bank circulated unstable paper money and was only able to escape from a constant state of settling its liabilities by making large cash advances to the government. In order to settle their public debt, creditors forced McKinney and Williams to relinquish the Galveston City Company, which was worth $2 million, in addition to a large amount of other property. McKinney and Williams are seldom mentioned in Texas history because they were reviled by many of their peers for their highly speculative real estate and currency dealings. They also separated themselves from other frontiersmen by leading affluent lifestyles. McKinney and Williams became involved in a ten-year lawsuit in 1848 which ended in the suspension of their bank by the Texas Supreme Court (McEachern, 1980: 17-18).

McKinney moved to Travis County in 1849, presumably to escape the derision of the residents of Galveston. He had purchased Menard's nine league grant on Onion Creek in 1839. By 1841, Albert C. Horton, Nathaniel H. Watrous, Bartlett Sims, and McKinney owned all of the del Valle grant. McKinney's personal finances did not suffer greatly from his previous losses as he is listed in the 1850 census as being a stock-raiser with $10,000 worth of real estate and 14 slaves on his homestead. During the 1850s, he continued to profit by selling portions of his huge tract of land to settlers like Andrew M. Davidson and others in the Del Valle community area. He served as the administrator on land sales for Watrous and Sims, who also sold portions of the Santiago del Valle grant (Bergstrom Public Relations Office, 1944: p.7-16).

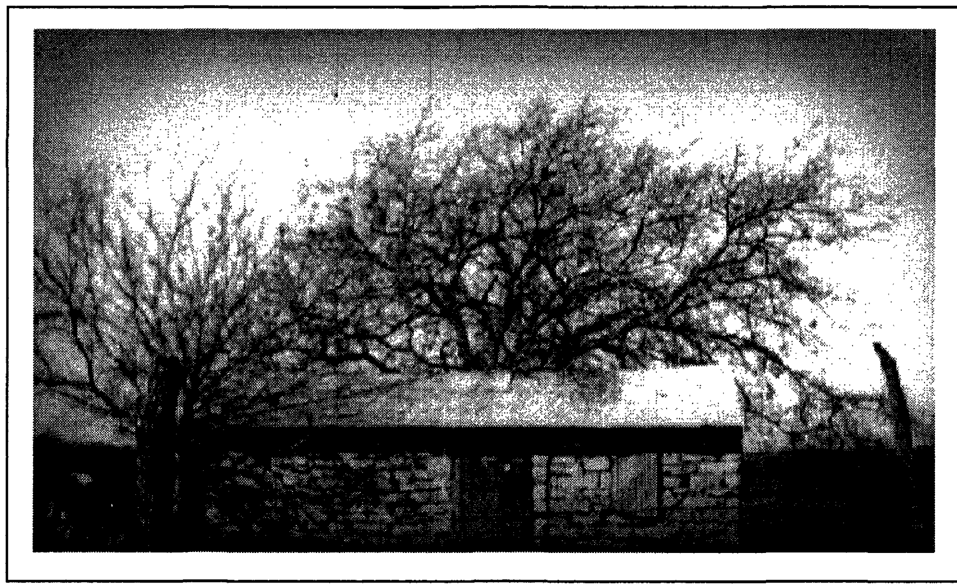

Figure 3 Horse Trainer House
Source: Center for American History, University of Texas

McKinney and his wife settled just above the falls of Onion Creek and probably lived in some temporary housing or in town while they began to build their estate. In 1851, McKinney built a small stone house (Figure 3) for his horse trainer, John Van Hagan, so that the employee might live on the land and manage McKinney's thoroughbred stock. In 1852, he built a water-powered stone mill on the bank of Onion Creek. McKinney's slaves ran the mill and processed wheat and corn. Slaves stored water used to power the mill behind a dam to the west of the mill. The dam, presumably built by McKinney's slaves, consisted of large, square, cypress logs tied to the flat rock bottom of the creek by circular rods. The rods were 1 1/2 inches in diameter, driven into holes bored into the rock for that purpose. When functioning, the mill complex also had a tributary drainage area (Sneed Photo Files, Center for American History).

The McKinneys built their own house between 1853 and 1861 from limestone their slaves quarried from nearby bluffs on Onion Creek. Limestone was also the content of the mortar holding the house together. The building originally had a galvanized, corrugated iron roof, later replaced with shingles. Construction on the two-story house, 325 feet north of the mill, ceased when the Civil War began. It was never completed. Although the McKinneys (Figure 4) were fairly wealthy and could have built their house out of a variety of materials, they used local building supplies. All of the resources, including an outdoor fireplace for cooking meat, a smoke house, a shed, and a hog pen, were limestone. They also owned a wood lot in Bastrop County from which they hauled oak, elm, sycamore, and cotton wood timber for floor boards and door and window frames (McKinney Photo Files, Center for American History).

Figure 4 Thomas F. McKinney Family, ca. 1860
Source: Center for American History, University of Texas

Although McKinney engaged in no large scale financial schemes after he arrived in Travis County, he continued to increase his personal wealth and involve himself in the public arena. During the 1850s and 1860s, McKinney was elected to the First, Third, and Seventh Legislatures, served several years as a County Commissioner, and was President of the Travis County Racing Association. By 1860, he owned 21 slaves and his personal wealth totaled $40,900, with an additional real estate value worth $48,000 (Gentry and Gracy, 1967:65). He was defeated when he ran for the Ninth Legislature in 1861, due to his surprising Unionist leanings. However, although McKinney was a slave holder and supposed slave trader, his political views stemmed from business interests as a cotton buyer for the Confederacy. Nevertheless, McKinney held several important political meetings in the house to discuss state and Confederate interests in cotton and conscription. At the outbreak of the Civil War, McKinney invested a large portion of his holdings in Confederate cotton (McKinney Photo Files, Center for American History).

Judge Sebron Graham Sneed

Sebron Graham Sneed was another large land holder in southeast Travis County. Born in 1802 in Kentucky, Sneed later moved to Missouri where he married Marinda Adkins. Sneed and his growing family moved to Fayetteville, Arkansas, in 1832. In addition to being the partner of Judge W.S. Oldham during the 1830s and 1840s, Sneed became the prosecuting attorney for the Fayetteville district in 1831 and registrar of the Arkansas U.S. Land Office and District Judge of the Fayetteville district in 1839. He was also Judge of the 4th Judicial District from 1844 to 1848. Sneed's partner, Oldham, represented Washington County, Arkansas, in the State Legislature in 1838 and 1842, but lost the 1846 Congressional race (Lemke, 1958:3).

It was in Fayetteville that Sneed acquired his reputation as a unorthodox lawyer and fierce courtroom opponent.

> Wit, humor of the most convulsing character, biting sarcasm, painful irony, powerful ridicule, all with varied combinations adjusted with the skill of a master to suit the emergencies of every case, made him a dangerous adversary in any forum admitting the display of these abilities (Lemke, 1958: 3).

Sneed did not know much traditional law. He obtained his knowledge through absorption, watching other lawyers in the Washington County courts. Because of his informal training, Sneed did not believe in the rules of the court and even became involved in "a severe fisticuff" during a trial (Lemke, 1958: 5).

Conflicting views exist about Sneed's popularity in the southeast Travis County. By some accounts, he was well liked, gregarious, and generous to a fault. He had good relationships with his family, and gave his wife somewhat equal reign over their children and estate (Sneed Family Papers, 1830-1892, Center for American History). However, some documents show that Sneed was delinquent in acquiring settlements for various clients. Although he ran a very lucrative law practice, Sneed did not always pay all monies owed to his clients and associates in court settlements. One client or business associate wrote of Sneed's lack of payment.

> I learn from Mr. John Williams that you claim that when you left here I was indebted to you ... now you know that these services were rendered and you know the charges in each case were reasonable, very reasonable, you know too that you never lost a case. Never did you pay me anything ... and was that not the price agreed upon in presence of ... several others (Sneed Family Papers, 1830-1892, Center for American History).

Apparently, although Sneed was widely liked for his many genial traits, his reputation as a professional was somewhat tarnished. It is unclear the extent to which Sneed's reputation in Arkansas followed him to Travis County. Most documentation of Sneed's life in Travis County reveals the admiration that the younger men of the Travis County bar had for Sneed. Although Sneed may have been involved in some similar financial difficulties in Texas, his colleagues did not have a bad opinion of him.

> December 12, 1856: The undersigned members of the Austin Bar believing the indictments against you found at this time of the court are without foundation and in fact here therefore tender to you our services in the depositions of said indictments in this court (Sneed Family Papers, 1830-1892, Center for American History).

These conflicting accounts allow Sneed to emerge as a more human character than his counterpart, McKinney, about whom almost nothing good was said.

Table 2: Property of S.G. Sneed, Washington County, Arkansas

Year	Acreage	Slaves	Horses/ Mules	Cattle	Transport	Total Value
1844	954	7	10 Horses 2 Mules	24	None Shown	$6428
1845	795	7	4 Horses	22	None Shown	$5535
1846	795	7	4 Horses	22	None Shown	$5535
1847	636	7	7 Horses	18	1 Pleasure Carriage	$5728
1848	None Shown	8	10 Horses	12	1 Pleasure Carriage	$4120

One of Sneed's daughters, Mary Ann, moved to Austin in 1846 with her husband, Sinnett Mussett. Sneed vowed to join his children in Texas, "If I live two more years from today, I will start from here for Austin, Texas" (Lemke, 1958: 9). Apparently, the Sneeds were a close knit family because during the next two years, Sneed prepared to leave his Arkansas practice. It is also likely that Sneed moved to Travis County to join his former partner, Oldham.

According to tax records, Sneed had amassed a great deal of property in Washington County, Arkansas (See Table 2). Tax records indicate that Sneed began selling his real estate holdings as early as 1845, possibly in anticipation of his move to Texas. Between 1844 and 1847, he divested himself of more than 300 acres and in 1848, he sold his remaining 636 acres of land. He also reduced his cattle holdings by half but acquired a few more horses for the journey. Susan Sneed Morgan, a daughter of S.G. and Marinda Sneed wrote a journal entry in 1924,

> ... we had four large wagons made, requiring six mules each to draw them. When loaded they resembled very much those used in Texas at that time called Prairie Schooners, used for hauling freight from the coast, as that was the mode of getting supplies from other points. We also had a three-seated conveyance called a hack, which mother, sister, and the smaller children used, we older ones rode horseback (Lemke, 1958: 10).

Like many other land owners who arrived in Travis County during the early period of Texas statehood, they traveled in relative comfort, having sold much of their land to simplify the transition to their new home, not merely to afford the journey. Sneed took his slaves with him.

When Sneed arrived in Travis County in 1848, he leased the house of Abner H. Cook, architect of the Governor's Mansion, while Cook was away from Austin superintending a contract. Later that year, he bought a lot between Rio Grande Street and West Avenue and Mulberry and Mesquite Streets [currently Tenth and Eleventh Streets]. By 1849, Sneed had a five room cabin on the site with slave cabins at the rear of the lot. However, Sneed needed room for his growing herds of livestock. In 1850, he bought 500 acres six miles south of Austin, within the Santiago del Valle land grant. He began work on a house on that site in 1852 and bought an additional 200 acres in 1855. Designed by Cook, the house was built near a spring known as Sneed Creek. The people and livestock on the property depended on the spring as an essential water source. Sneed also built a large underground cistern near the house and, later, an above ground cistern was installed (Wilcox, 1965:2)

Built under the direction of a man known only as Sims, a rock mason, and Miles Byrne, a carpenter, the house was rectangular with two large double chimneys on the inside walls of the east and west sides. The house was limestone Sneed's slaves quarried from a bluff east of the house. Miles Byrne and another carpenter, Christian Wilhelm, did the woodwork using Bastrop lumber and joining each window, door, and the rooftree with wood pins. The outside and inside walls were 24 and 18 inches thick, respectively. The first and second floors were identical, with large front and back halls containing two rooms on each side. Each room and hall contained 17 square feet. Each of the eight fireplaces in the house could hold one half of a cord of wood. Male slaves maintained the fireplaces and kept a ready stock of wood nearby. The third story of the house was meant to be a recreational room, but Sneed never finished it and instead, used it as an attic. Sneed stored oats, shelled corn, and wheat in the attic to dry, and his grandchildren often played there. The back hall had a stairway with a closet under the upper portion of the staircase. During Sneed's time, the closet contained food and supplies. The lowest step of the staircase had a removable board that revealed Sneed's private bank, where he kept all of his money in tin cans. Most of the currency was in $25 gold coins, which might indicate that Sneed was skeptical of the enduring value of Confederate paper money. The kitchen was east of the house, in a log cabin with a stone hearth. Five slave quarters on the property housed Sneed's 21 slaves (Gracy and Gentry, 1967: 65; Wilcox, 1965:3-5).

Although the workers never plastered a few of the rooms and did not build front and back porches, the house represents a large investment. Whereas earlier settlers built modest log cabins without the aid of outside labor, Sneed paid $1,095 for woodwork alone (Wilcox, 1965:4). On July 25, 1857, in the last phase of the house's construction, Sneed wrote to his daughter, who was living in New Orleans, about the completion of his home,

> We shall soon move out of town the new house is ready for plastering & as soon as it is done we expect to leave town. It is finished in good stile & will cost in all about thirteen (thousand) dollars including money, board, and attention. We would not undertake to build another for less than fifteen thousand dollars, (Sneed Family Papers, 1830-1892, Center for American History).

He wrote to her again on November 24, 1857, stating that they had moved into the house, "We are now living in the stone house that has cost us about thirteen thousand dollars and expect that it will be the last house we will ever live in," (Sneed Family Papers, 1830-1892, Center for American History).

The Sneeds named the house "Comal Bluff" for the native Comal plant, or Texas Mountain Laurel, which bloomed on the bluff below the house (Figure 5). It became a focal point for farmers and ranchers in the area. Sneed, who received his license to practice law in Texas in 1849, was a delegate to the Democratic State Convention held in Austin on January 15, 1856. He was president of the Travis County Democratic Convention that met in Austin in 1857. Sneed was a staunch southerner and secessionist and opposed Governor Sam Houston in his support of the Union. In addition to being a delegate to the Texas Secession Convention, Sneed was appointed Provost Marshal to the Confederate Army and the Confederacy used his home as a recruiting station, with the first floor frequently filled with soldier's pallets during the Civil War.

Judge Thomas H. Duval and James B. Thaxton

Thomas H. Duval, born in 1813, bought part of the Santiago del Valle ten league grant in 1852. Several significant southeast Travis County land holders owned the land before Duval. Santiago del Valle sold the grant, which he had purchased in 1832, to Michel Menard in 1835. In turn, Menard sold the land to Thomas F. McKinney in 1839. McKinney sold 2 1/4 leagues (9,963.88 acres) to Albert C. Horton in 1841 while McKinney was still living in the Galveston area (Texas Historical Commission, Local History Programs, Horton-Duval House Marker Files).

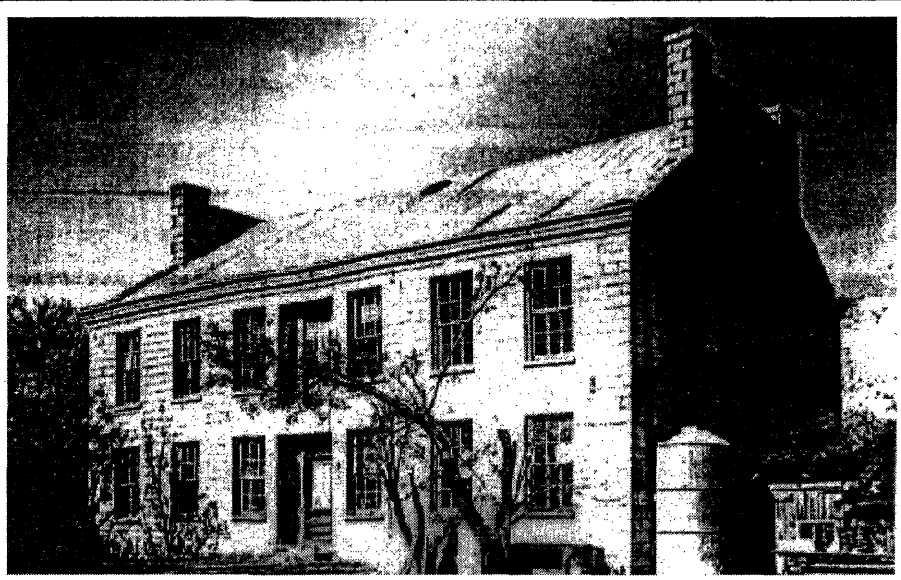

Figure 5 Sneed House, Photo ca. 1936
Source: Center for American History, University of Texas

Horton, born in 1798, was a veteran of the War for Texas Independence and elected to the convention of 1845, which met in Austin from July 5 to August 28. He was the first elected Lieutenant Governor after Texas joined the Union. While serving under Governor J. Pinkney Henderson, Horton acted as chief of state from May 19 to November 13, 1846, while Henderson was in the U.S. Army during the Mexican War. He bought the land as an investment after Mirabeau B. Lamar established Austin as the capital of the Republic of Texas (Texas Historical Commission, Local History Programs, Horton-Duval House Marker Files). Apparently Lamar appointed Horton to be one of the commissioners to select a site for the capital city. He may have been speculating about buying property in the area, when he wrote to Lamar about the characteristics of the lands around Austin on April 13, 1839.

> At a distance of eighteen miles west by South from the site on Onion Creek, a very fine stream affording fine water power is a large body of very fine cypress, which is also found at intervals up the River for a distance of forty miles, and together with immense quantities of fine cedar might readily be floated down the stream, as the falls two miles above the site present no obstruction to floats or rafts, being only a descent of about five feet in one hundred and fifty yards over a smooth bed of limestone formation very nearly resembling colored marble (Barkley 1963:29).

While he was acting as Governor, Horton brought his family to Austin from Matagorda, but was constantly apprehensive about possible Indian attacks and feared for the safety of his family. It is not known whether Horton and his family resided on their southeast Travis County land or if they lived in Austin (Texas Historical Commission, Local History Programs, Horton-Duval House Marker Files).

In 1852, Horton used his land in lieu of payment for the legal services of Judge Thomas H. Duval in a title lawsuit. His deed to Duval, dated April 18, 1852, conveyed 600 acres, adjoining the "southwest corner of a survey made for S.G. Sneed," to Williamson S. Oldham, Judge Sneed's former business partner, to be divided between both Duval and Oldham (*Austin American Statesman,* May 18, 1969). Apparently, both lawyers were involved in the legal action. Duval came to Texas in 1846 to establish a law practice and became a reporter of the Supreme Court and was Secretary of State from 1851 to 1853. From 1855 to 1856, he was Judge of the Second Judicial District and was appointed Judge of the United States Court for the Western District in 1857.

Duval probably built the vernacular stone house with Greek Revival influences on a four-acre tract of his property between 1852 and 1855. The house was native limestone, probably quarried from the same bluff as Sneed's stone. The house was on the road from Lockhart to Austin and served as one of the many watering stops for travelers on the way to Onion Creek. The road ran on the west side of the house, which faced south, and a large watering tank was on the northwest side of the house. Duval built a log barn southwest of the house. The house had two rooms, divided by a spacious central hall, locally known as a "dog run," which was common in Texas homes before the Civil War. An addition on the northwest side of the house, made it L-shaped, but it is difficult to tell if Duval built it or if it was built in the decade after Duval's ownership. Although this house was considerably smaller than those Sneed and McKinney built, it belongs to the same period of Texas architecture and may be similar to houses of other wealthy settlers of this era (Texas Historical Commission, Local History Programs, Horton-Duval House Marker Files).

Thomas H. Duval and his wife Laura Peyton lived in the house only a few years before Duval sold 115 acres (including the house and all other improvements) to James B. Thaxton in 1855. According to the 1860 Census, Duval remained in Travis County, but took up residence north of the Colorado River. He kept some land on Onion Creek, which the one slave in his possession might have farmed (Gentry and Gracy, 1967:65). The Thaxton's used the land surrounding the house to grow cotton, the primary crop in antebellum southeast Travis County. They built a separate kitchen behind the house. The house stayed in the Thaxton family until the 20th century. Thaxton was not as wealthy as his predecessor Duval or his neighbors McKinney and Sneed. Although he brought his family from Arkansas to Texas as Sneed had done, he may have been coming to Texas to make his fortune, not increase it. The census records show that Thaxton did not own any slaves and had no outside business interests, such as a law practice or real estate sales. In addition to Sneed and

McKinney, most of the land owners in the area, such as T.P. Washington, who owned 75 slaves, and Aaron Burleson, with 30 slaves, were comparatively wealthy. Thaxton was one of the first of many settlers most of whom would arrive in southeast Travis County before the Civil War, prepared to work the land themselves (Gracy and Gentry, 1967:65).

Southeast Travis County Economy at the Outbreak of the Civil War

On the eve of the Civil War, southeast Travis County contained some of the most productive agricultural land in central Texas. Still, according to a local census, of the county's 1,363,556 acres, only 44,609 acres were "improved." The land supported 470 farmers, 46 stock raisers, four herders, three ranchers and three shepherds (Barkley, 1963: 258).

Some of the area's largest agriculturists were also among the wealthiest and most influential families in the county. The county's largest slave owners lived in precincts three and four, which encompassed southeast Travis County at that time. Families in the general region that relied on slave labor included the McKinney, Sneed, Watrous, Washington and Aaron Burleson families (Gentry and Gracy, 1967: 65).

The Post-Civil War Period in Southeast Travis County

The end of the Civil War marked the beginning of enormous changes in agricultural methods, land ownership, demographic composition, and, ultimately, the way of life in southeast Travis County. Because the agricultural economy of the largely cotton growing region was labor intensive, emancipation of slaves left large farmers bereft of workers. Major antebellum property owners like Thomas P. Washington, Aaron Burleson, and Thomas F. McKinney, for instance, discovered that they were "land poor" in the years immediately following the war. Like McKinney, some of the county's largest agriculturalists incurred extensive debt to support the Confederate cause by investing in Confederate goods, such as cotton. Overwhelmed by their financial obligations, few had the capital, credit, or heart to start again. McKinney's substantial building complex ultimately fell into ruin (Figure 6). Others, like S.G. Sneed, were old men at the end of the war and remained quietly on their farms. Unlike some who tried to work the land with hired labor, Sneed's sons went into other professions in order to maintain the family property. Despite their best efforts, few large land owners were able to maintain their former lifestyles in the war's aftermath.

Personal financial reversals affected the disposition, size and subsequent value of individual properties in southeast Travis County. Large land holdings, such as McKinney's, were divided into smaller tracts of land and sold. Consequently, the cash value of farms in the area went down dramatically, as did the value of all other agricultural implements, livestock, and crops. This decrease was the result of large plantations and farms being broken up and sold to smaller land owners. Cotton remained the dominant crop in southeast Travis County but, instead of slave labor, area farmers relied on a combination of tenant farming and sharecropping.

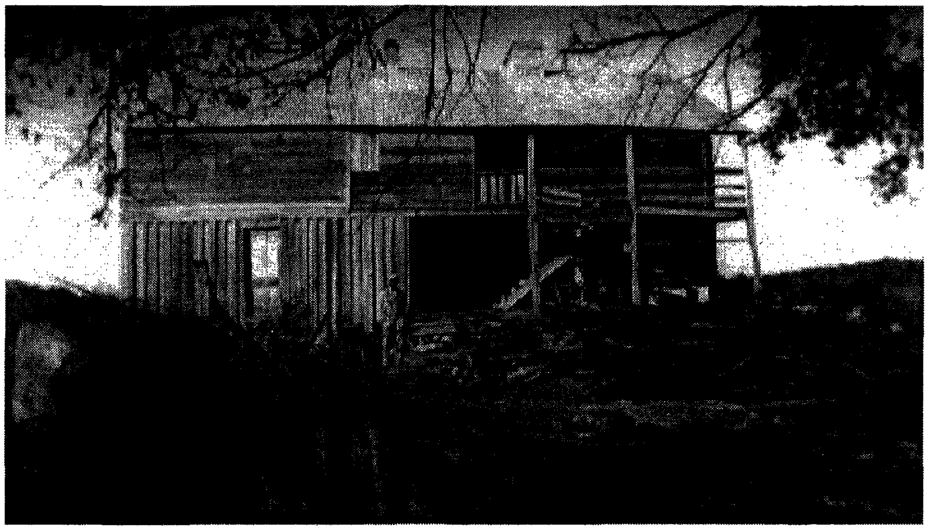

Figure 6 McKinney House ruins, ca. 1943

Although some of the largest Travis County property owners, like McKinney, lost everything they owned in the war and its aftermath, smaller property owners adapted to the new conditions. Among the most noteworthy southeast Travis County families to reemerge in the post-war period, was the Robert James and Martha Burleson Moore family. Born to Travis County pioneers, Robert James Moore and Martha Jane Burleson married in 1853 and moved to Lampasas County before Moore was called to service in the Confederate cause. When Moore returned from the war he and his family returned to southeast Travis County to start over (Lewis Publishing Company, 1893: 321). Their efforts led to the development of Moore's Crossing as the local hub of an agricultural community south of Onion Creek in the post-war period.

Robert James and Martha Jane Burleson Moore

Robert James Moore was one of the first white babies born in Travis County. His mother, Mary D. Williams of Arkansas, and his father, Tennessean Thomas A. Moore, emigrated to Texas sometime between 1821 and 1827 as colonists with Stephen F. Austin. In 1831, Moore settled on the west bank of Gilleland Creek, named for an early settler, James Gilleland, about 13 miles from Austin near the Webberville Road in present Travis County. Moore fought in the battle of Velasco in June 1833, and, in 1836, joined Captain Phil Coe's Company and served throughout the campaign that year. On September 23, 1833, Mary D. Williams Moore gave birth to her first child, Robert James, in a tent under a live oak tree on Gilleland Creek, near present day Webberville. The Moores lived a spartan existence in the early years. After the War for Texas Independence, though, Moore accumulated several thousand acres of land in Travis and Williamson counties and reportedly enjoyed his estate until his death on May 22, 1852 (Barkley, 1963: 7).

When Thomas Moore died, he left his wife Mary with eight children. She apparently did not remarry and the 1860 Census listed her as a farmer with five children. By that time, her three older children had left home. The oldest son, Robert James Moore, married a neighbor, Martha Jane Burleson, daughter of John Burleson, on October 26, 1853 (Travis County marriage records, Vol. 1: 162).

Martha Jane Burleson was John Burleson's daughter by his first wife Rebecca Bell. Martha Jane was born on June 27, 1835, in Bastrop County and moved with her parents to Travis County. She was only 13 years old when her mother died and 15 when her father remarried Mary Ann Wallace. Martha Jane Burleson probably lived in the household until her own marriage (Lewis Publishing Company, 1893: 320).

Robert J. and Martha Jane Moore began their married life together near the original Moore homestead on Gilleland Creek, in southeast Travis County. The first two of their nine children were born there. Soon after marriage, as early as 1854, Moore started buying land in Lampasas County. His family joined him by 1858 and the next three children were born in Lampasas County in 1859, 1861, and 1864. Moore engaged in farming and stock raising until the outbreak of the Civil War. In the spring of 1862, he enlisted as a state trooper, later serving the Confederate service as a lieutenant. After he mustered out of the service at the end of the war, Moore returned home to find his cattle scattered and his prospects diminished in Lampasas County. In 1866, Moore and his family returned to southeast Travis County to make a fresh start in familiar territory (Lewis Publishing Company; 1893: 320-321).

Shortly after the Moores returned to Travis County, they purchased 654 acres of land on Onion Creek, including a 200-acre tract of land from Martha Jane's stepsister Mary Elizabeth Wallace Cooper, the daughter Mary Ann and William S. Wallace. The purchase included the Wallace family house where she lived as a young woman (Travis County Deed Records, Vol. S: 265). The family settled into the former Wallace homestead where four more children were born to the Moores. Moore eventually cultivated 130 acres of the 200-acre Wallace homestead tract (Lewis Publishing Company, 1893: 321). During the nearly 30 years that followed, Moore and his children guided the development of the rural community that grew up around the low water ford on Onion Creek.

Farm Development in the Mid- to Late-19th Century

During the postwar period, Texas experienced phenomenal population growth particularly from southern states whose residents abandoned their war ravaged farms. Many of the refugees arrived in Travis County from Georgia, Alabama, Tennessee and the Carolinas. Some, attracted to potential opportunities in the Texas capitol, moved to Austin but most tried to resume their former occupations as farmers. Many moved to southeast Travis County where they either purchased or rented lands original settlers or their descendants offered.

Of course, not all the area's farmers were newcomers and not all the early settlers gave up their property. According to the partition of the Wallace-Burleson property, Wallace's children John, William and Mary Ann Wallace received title to their father's homestead. While Mary Ann Wallace Cooper and her husband Christopher Cooper sold her portion to her stepsister, Martha Burleson Moore, brothers John and William settled on their share of the land, out of their father's 1,500-acre tract from the Navarro grant, and began farming, about 1868.

John and William Wallace appear in the 1870 agricultural census. Although they shared a dwelling, the brothers had separate real estate and personal property citations. Each owned property valued at $1,000, but John held more personal property ($4,000) than William ($3,000) (U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1870). Ad valorem tax records for 1872 show that the brothers retained their portions of the Wallace homestead, but, by 1877, their farms were reduced in acreage, apparently because they had sold some property by that time.

In the 1870 agricultural census John Wallace claimed 70 acres of uncultivated woodland and 130 acres in cultivation. The cash value of the farm was $3,000 but no value appeared for implements or machinery. Wallace paid $45 in wages that year and he owned six horses, two mules, one milch cow, four working oxen, and four swine. The value of his livestock was $600. Wallace reportedly harvested 1,000 bushels of Indian corn, 40 bales of cotton, and 85 bushels of sweet potatoes the previous year, with farm production, including "stock additions and betterments" worth $700 (U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1870). For comparative purposes, this production followed the worst flood recorded to that date in Travis County history.

Despite the difficulties that accompanied the Civil War and Reconstruction in Travis County, both urban and rural population continued to grow throughout the decade. By 1880, farmland covered more than 305,000 acres in Travis County. Of that number, 139,804 acres of farmland—nearly 46 percent—were improved, according to the 1880 agricultural census. Cotton remained Travis County's principle crop. Nearly half the county's improved farmland, about 66,000 acres, was devoted to its cultivation. Grain production was the next priority for county farmers, constituting nearly a third, or 28 percent of the improved acreage. Farmers planted nearly 31,000 acres, or 22 percent of the cultivated land, in corn while other grains such as wheat, rye, and oats covered 9,000 acres, or about six percent of the improved acreage (U.S. Bureau of the Census 1880).

According to the 1880 census, John Wallace owned 500 acres, only 60 of which were in cultivation. Wallace's improved acreage, comprising only 12 percent of his total farmland, was much lower than the average for Travis County. However, he owned considerably more land than the average county farmer at that time. Further, his uncultivated land remained useful as pasture and woodland. In fact, Wallace realized a profit of $160 from the sale of 40 cords of wood that year. Doubtless, he grazed cattle on his 240 acres of "permanent meadows or pasture" and possibly cut some grass for fodder (U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1880).

While Wallace's crops—cotton, corn and wheat—were typical for Travis County farmers in that period, he grew much less cotton than his contemporaries. Only ten of his 60 acres in cultivation were devoted to cotton, with an average yield of about five bales per acre. He planted 35 acres in Indian corn, which yielded 600 bushels per acre, and 12 acres in wheat, which yielded 50 bushels per acre. Wallace may have had greater acreage in grains due to the amount of livestock he raised. He owned 11 horses, one mule, seven milch cows, six calves, 12 swine, 35 poultry, and 28 "other." He had two animals that "died, strayed or [were] stolen." His cows produced 560 pounds of butter and his hens laid 210 eggs. The farm buildings and land were valued at $25,000 with farm implements and machinery worth $175. Obviously, Wallace erected substantial buildings and added on his property since the 1870 census. Wallace's livestock was valued at $850, fences at $90, labor (52 weeks of white help) at $150. The total value of his farm products was $900 (U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1880).

German and Swedish Immigrants Arrive

Owners continued to divide large parcels of land into smaller farms through the 1880s, a trend that facilitated the growth of farms and farming communities throughout southeast Travis County. During the 1880s, the first wave of

Swedish immigrants and a new influx of German immigrants moved into southeast Travis County. Typically they purchased farms adjoining those of their countrymen, carved from large land grants or old homesteads. They brought their own social, educational and religious traditions and practices to the area. Although some of the established residents disparaged the arrival of so many "foreigners," in fact, the newcomers infused the region with renewed vigor and ambition. In the first decade after their arrival, for instance, Swedish immigrants established a small but thriving community at Elroy with a school, a church, and a post office by 1894. Although Scotsmen Donald and James McKenzie settled in the Pilot Knob area by 1866, it was the German Kieke and Sassman families who built a community school and post office in the 1880s (U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1880 and 1890; Travis County Superintendent, 1905; Kieke 1995).

Southeast Travis County had a particularly influential Swedish presence, centered around the community of Elroy in the late 19th century and spreading to all parts of the region in the early 20th century. Swedish settlement in Texas began when Sven Magnus Swenson emigrated to Texas in 1838. He was followed by his uncle, Swante Palm, in 1844. Palm, in turn, brought his sister to live with him in 1847 and the following year, his brothers Anders and Gustav Palm brought 25 Swedish immigrants to Texas. In 1850, Swenson moved to Austin, the new state capital. There he established a home, a large grocery store and a hotel. That year, the United States census recorded 48 Swedish-born residents in Texas. Virtually all of these families emigrated from Sweden's southern highlands to central Texas in and around Austin, as recruits of the Palm family (Nelson, 1943: 301).

By 1860, Swedish-born Texans numbered 153 and by 1870 that number more than doubled to 364. During the 1870s, the numbers increased until there were 1,293 Swedish-born Texans in 1880 and 2,806 in 1890. The abolition of slavery contributed to the increase in Swedish immigration in the postbellum era. Large land owners required cheap farm labor and Johan Swenson, Sven Swenson's brother, recruited young Swedish men and women as field hands to pay for their passage to the United States. The recruits sailed to New York and then on to Galveston and Houston. From Houston they traveled by train to Brenham where they began a cross-country trek to the Austin area blackland prairie. Swedish immigration in Texas reached its peak in 1900 and 1910 when 4,388 and 4,706 native Swedes were counted in the census. Swedish settlement in Texas followed a pattern of colonization in which descendants of Swedish settlers founded new colonies when the original settlements grew too large to sustain its members (Nelson, 1943: 302).

Largely due to Palm's colonization efforts and Swenson's labor recruitment, new Swedish communities were concentrated in the state's central blackland prairie for a century after their arrival in Texas. In 1930, more first and second generation Swedes lived in Travis County than in any other Texas county. That year, Travis County had 769 Swedish born residents and 1,914 Texas natives with at least one Swedish born parent. Adjacent Williamson County had the state's second highest Swedish population with 501 native Swedes and 1,258 natives of Swedish parentage (*Swedes* vertical files, Austin History Center). In fact, northeast Travis and southeast Williamson counties contained most of the state's exclusive Swedish communities including Kimbro, Manor, Round Rock, Manda, New Sweden, Palm Valley and Lund. Manor and New Sweden were settled by Swedes who came to central Texas in the early 1870s as contract laborers. Lund and Manda were subsequently established as colonies of the older New Sweden and Manor communities (Nelson, 1943: 304).

Swedish settlement in southeast Travis County resulted from the colonization efforts of earlier communities like Manor and Decker, about eight miles west of Austin. Elroy was one of the younger and most successful of the central Texas Swedish satellite settlements in the early 20th century (Nelson, 1943: 305). Austin resident R.E. Stomberg initiated its settlement when he purchased land for a new Swedish colony in the vicinity of present Elroy about 1890. Other

Swedes including A. Molund, Olof and William Palmquist, Anderson and Marcuse purchased land nearby but the colony almost died out because they could not get clear title to the land. Finally, John Magnuson leased land owned by Anderson and Marcuse and was the first Swede to move to the area in 1892. Andrew Johnson, one of the area's most successful farmers, followed in 1893. Olaus Nelson and August and John Lundell, all of Decker, bought land in the new Swedish settlement. Lundell also started a store and built the community's first gin at the turn of the century (Severin et al., 1919: 708). In fact, the community was denoted only as "Lundell's gin and store" on a map of county roads drafted between 1898 and 1902. Lundell moved to the Del Valle area near Moore's Crossing about 1900 and sold his Elroy store to brothers Walter and Andrew Hakanson.

The Elroy community prospered, largely due to its fertile land, and by 1918 it boasted 70 Swedish families in the village and surrounding farms. By that time, the community included two stores, four cotton gins, a three-room school house and a Lutheran, a Baptist and a Free Church, all of which conducted services in the Swedish language. Although it was considered one of Texas' most flourishing communities in 1918, residents were isolated by poor roads, long distances to larger towns and water shortages (Severin et al., 1919: 708).

With Elroy as a base, Swedish farmers began buying land in the larger southeast Travis County area and by 1910 they were well-represented throughout the district. John Lundell, who built the first cotton gin and store in the Elroy area, served as a real estate broker for other Swedish farmers. His many good investments allowed him to purchase land for resale to fellow Swedes who had little credit. Lundell also leased farms to tenants and built rental houses for additional income. Lundell's wealth and real estate dealings facilitated Swedish settlement in the region between the small community of Elroy and the city of Austin's southeastern boundaries (Severin et al., 1919: 245).

Within a generation, individual Swedish and German families ventured beyond their original settlements to purchase farms vacated by earlier settlers. As they spread throughout the county, they came into greater contact with Americans and immigrants of other nationalities and became assimilated into the larger society. Their children, particularly, began to adopt American customs and values as they learned English in school and socialized with children of different backgrounds. While first generation immigrants held on to their linguistic and religious traditions, they readily embraced local building and farming traditions. Most farmed cotton and corn, like their American neighbors and most built houses, institutional and rural commercial buildings according to the popular styles and trends of the time. Within a generation or two, only their names distinguished them from other white farmers in the area to the outside observer. Socially, however, most immigrant families and their descendants maintained close ties to their cultural heritage through churches and fraternal organizations.

The Community of Moore's Crossing: 1890

By 1890, the population of southeast Travis County had grown large enough to support a few small community clusters. Generally at the intersections of main county roads, clusters tended to include a grammar school, a general store that also served as a postal station, and a blacksmith shop. The low water ford on Onion Creek was well known to southeast Travis County residents and a natural location for a community to form due to the volume of traffic across the creek. As early as February 1881, the Moore family and Travis County initiated the first steps in the creation of a community at the site. The Moore's sold a half-acre parcel of land on Onion Creek at the low water crossing to Travis County for $1 to erect a school building (Travis County deed records, Vol. 48: 573-574).

The impetus behind the school is unknown. At the time, three Moore children under age of 12 still lived at home. Perhaps their adult children, who lived in the area, were starting their own families. In addition, other children living nearby would benefit from a school in the vicinity. Although several schools existed in southeast Travis County about the same time as the Moore School, notably at Creedmoor (1880) and Bluff Springs (1882), none were within walking distance of the Moore property at that time (*The Defender*, 1936: n.p.). The county erected a simple wood frame building on the south bank of Onion Creek shortly after the land transfer in 1881. Later described as a "hulk of a house by the side of the creek," it served the Moore's Crossing community for nearly 30 years before local residents tore it down, about 1909, and the property returned to the Moores as per the original deed stipulation (Travis County Superintendent, 1905: 63; Travis County Deed records, Volume 238: 405-406).

Members of the Moore family may have donated land for a school to encourage commercial business at the crossing. In 1890 or 1891, Robert J. (R.J.) Moore, his son Andrew Bell (A.B.) Moore, and their neighbor, T.M. Berry, formed a business partnership. Although the three men planned to start some kind of commercial enterprise, they were not deeply involved in the endeavor and in 1893 the company was reformed by A.B. Moore, his brother, John Burleson (J.B.) Moore, and their sister Rebecca's husband, George Berry. Together, the new partners established the mercantile firm of Berry & Moore Brothers. They probably built their first store, depicted on an 1896 U.S.G.S. map as Moore & Berry Store, at that time. According to the 1896 map and a ca. 1900 county road map, the original store lay on A.B. Moore's property, northwest and across Onion Creek from the school and the current store at Moore's Crossing. About the same time, one of the Moores, possibly J.B., built a substantial dwelling on the southwest side of the creek near the present store. Thus, the crossing linked the store on A.B. Moore's property with the Moore house and school building on the south side of the creek.

The original store carried general merchandise, but the Moore brothers also continued the family's agricultural traditions. A.B. Moore was an area cotton buyer and farmer, while J.B. Moore farmed and raised livestock. In addition, all of R.J. and Martha Jane Moore's daughters married local farmers (Lewis Publishing Company, 1893: 319-322). Two additional buildings appear in close proximity to the store on the 1896 map. All three buildings fronted directly on the main road, now Burleson Road and it is possible that other related businesses, such a blacksmith shop, may have existed alongside the store, forming a small rural commercial node. Little additional information is known about the store but it operated on the northwest side of Onion Creek until flooding probably forced the firm to relocate it in the early 20th century.

The Robert J. and Mary Jane Moore family lived in the former Wallace homestead house for nearly 30 years. In 1894, the Robert and Martha Jane Moore moved to south Austin to be closer to Robert's physician. He died there in 1901 but Martha Jane Burleson Moore, lived another 27 years, dying on July 6, 1928, also in south Austin. When their father moved to Austin in 1894, the Moore children may have leased the Wallace-Burleson-Moore House to tenants. The younger Moores eventually moved to Austin, as well (U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1900-1920).

Demographic and Agricultural Trends in the Early 20th Century

At the turn of the century, southeast Travis County remained largely rural with small nodes of community services clustered at intersections of transportation routes such as river and creek crossings and county roads to Bastrop and Lockhart. Nodes such as the one that developed at Moore's Crossing served as hubs of extended agricultural communities throughout the quadrant. They usually contained schools, churches, cotton gins, blacksmith shops and general stores, like the Berry and Moore Bros. Store. Typical area farms were family operations with several generations of a single family living and working on the site. Some family farms included long-term tenants or other non-related hired help within the household. Southeast Travis County farmers grew cotton for cash, corn to feed livestock and draught animals, and garden crops for family consumption. Building complexes consisting of a primary family dwelling, privy, cistern or well, smokehouse, hot water house, implement barns or sheds, animal barns, vehicle barns, hen houses, pig pens, water tanks and windmills. Some farms included one or two small tenant dwellings for more permanent workers. Larger operations sometimes had buildings with numerous rooms or cribs to shelter seasonal workers. Building complexes were usually set back but within sight of the nearest county road. A single lane dirt or gravel road connected each complex to the main road. Agricultural and other services not available on farms, such as cotton gins, blacksmith shops, churches, schools, post office, and dry goods stores were provided in the small community clusters like Moore's Crossing, Elroy, Garfield and Carl.

Population figures for the county as a whole do not adequately convey the demographic composition and overwhelmingly agricultural occupation of the project area. Information recorded in the 1900, 1910, and 1920 census reports for the enumeration district containing the Moore's Crossing community better ascertains conditions and changes within the southeast Travis County quadrant. Because enumeration boundaries changed from one census to the next, exact comparisons between census years are impossible to assess. However, field observations and other studies, some contemporaneous with the 1910 - 1920 censuses, substantiate the following findings.

In 1900, the census recorded a total population of 346 households and 2,074 individuals in the enumeration district that included Moore's Crossing. Nearly as many black households (144) existed in the area as those of native born whites (154). European natives living in the enumeration district emigrated primarily from the Northern countries of Germany and Sweden. At the same time, increasing numbers of Hispanic immigrant households began to appear at central Texas farms, where fewer than five were listed for the same general area in the 1880 census. In 1900, the Moore's Crossing area had a total of 16 Mexican, 16 German, 10 Swedish, and two Irish households. Switzerland, England, Scotland and France each contributed one household to complete the 1900 profile of the enumeration district. Many more people were second generation Swedes or Germans (U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1900).

Of the 186 total white (native and foreign born) households, 88 either owned their own home or farm or were paying on a mortgage, while 98 rented their home or farm. In stark contrast, only 22 of the 144 black households in the same enumeration district owned their own farms while 122 families rented. None of the 16 Mexican families living in the enumeration district owned property. One Mexican family lived in a tent. By percentage, while 47 percent of the white families owned their homes or farms, only 15 percent of the black families in the same area owned theirs. Immigrant numbers are relatively small but it is noteworthy that 56 percent of the German immigrants owned their own property in the enumeration district at the turn of the century (U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1900).

Although the enumeration district was predominantly rural, residents claimed a variety of occupations in 1900. The great majority were farmers or other agriculturists. Of 154 native born whites, 116 or 75 percent, were listed as farmers; seven were dairymen, one a stock raiser, one a cattle dealer and three farm laborers. Native born whites had the greatest variety of occupations, ranging from physicians (three) and school teachers (two), to preacher, ferryman, stone cutter, photographer and tax collector (U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1900).

First generation immigrants in the district tended to be farmers with a few exceptions. Of the 16 German families, 13 householders were farmers, one was a saloon keeper, one a carpenter, and one a general merchant. One farmer also worked as a blacksmith while one woman was a landlady and another was a housekeeper. All of the Swedish householders were farmers with one exception who ginned cotton. The Swiss, French, and Irish immigrants were farmers, but the Scot was a blacksmith and the Englishman a general merchant (U.S. Bureau of the Census,. 1900).

Black families in the district had much less variety in their occupations. Nearly all black household heads, 104 or 72 percent, were farmers. Another 31 were laborers with 13 listed as farm laborers, 17 as day laborers, and one as a home laborer. One man who owned his own farm was listed as a farm manager. Other occupations identified for black householders were sick nurse, wash woman, housekeeper, blacksmith, and teamster. Hispanic residents of the district had even fewer occupational titles. Nine were farmers, four were day laborers, and three were farm laborers (U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1900).

Overall, agricultural endeavors dominated the region of southeast Travis County that included Moore's Crossing at the turn of the century. Native born whites and, to a lesser extent, foreign born whites, had greater occupational variety than black and Hispanic residents. Although whites, blacks and Hispanics lived together throughout the district, there were enormous differences in their living conditions, much of which can be gleaned from the census records. Many of the Hispanic families could neither read nor write in any language and none of their children attended school in 1900. Among families of all ethnicities, children worked as farm laborers, but in black and Hispanic families they worked at younger ages —some as young as nine years old—than white children. In general, families that owned their own farms did not put their children to work until they were in their mid to late teen years (U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1900).

Rural Schools in Southeast Travis County

By the turn of the century rural schools served areas throughout southeast Travis County. There were separate schools for black and white children but no known schools for Hispanic children at that time. Two of the earliest schools in the quadrant were those at Moore's Crossing and Creedmoor, built in the early 1880s. However, after 20 years of use, the school at Moore's Crossing did not meet county standards. In 1905, the Travis County Superintendent condemned the school at Moore's Crossing in the Travis County School Annual.

> The children will continue to shiver in the cold when the board shutters are opened to let in the light or to ruin their eyes in the semi-darkness when the shutters are closed to keep out the cold (Travis County Superintendent, School Annual, 1905: 63).

By that time many other rural communities had risen in the farmland of southeast Travis County and nearly all had better and more modern schools than the Moore School. Notable among them were those at Pilot Knob and Elroy. In contrast to Moore School the Elroy School was described as "one of the prettiest schoolhouses in the county," while the one at Pilot Knob was lauded as "a credit to any district" (Travis County School Annual, 1905: 70).

At this time, communities were fully responsible for building and maintaining schools and individual districts taxed themselves for construction and upkeep. School taxes in 1905 ranged from ten to 20 cents, depending on the support and prosperity of the community. Better schools in the area were in Creedmoor (Figure 7), Carl, and Elroy. All of these communities imposed 20 cent school taxes on themselves. Apparently, some residents in the vicinity of Moore's Crossing "agitated" for a new school the previous year, but the Travis County School Annual intimated that local trustees rigged a special construction tax election to ensure that it would be defeated (Travis County School Annual, 1905: 63-71).

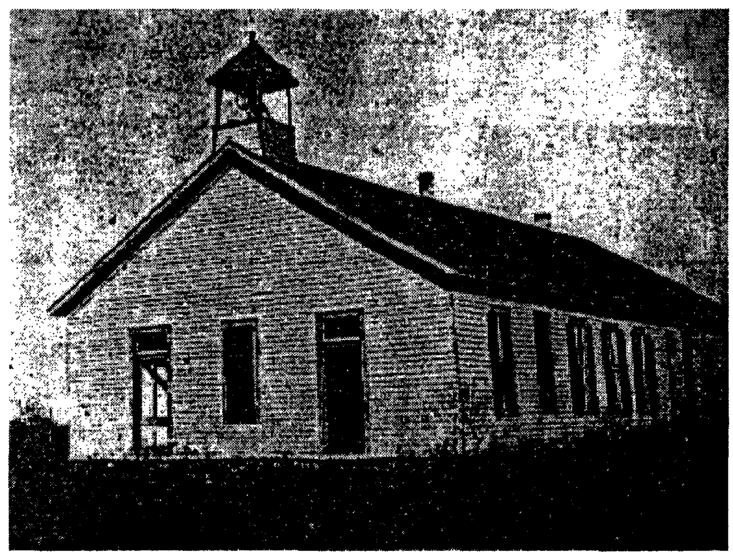

Figure 7 Creedmoor school, No. 41
Source: Travis Co. School Annual, 1905.

As a parting shot, the annual editor of the report declared that the "state of affairs is a shame on such a prosperous community," in an attempt, perhaps, to embarrass the Moore's Crossing residents into building a new school (Travis County School Annual, 1905: 63). The tactic worked only in part. By 1909 residents of Moore's Crossing abandoned the school. Rather than build a new school, however, people sent their children to school at Dry Creek, Pilot Knob, or Elroy. Both required students to walk several miles to attend grammar school (Kieke interview, 1995; Stolle interview, 1995). J.B. Moore, who took charge of activities at the store and crossing, immediately repossessed the school lot and sold it to W.T. Caswell with the stipulation that Caswell erect a "first rate" cotton gin on the site (Travis County Deed Records, vol. 239:508-509).

There were separate schools for black children scattered throughout the county with several in the southeastern quadrant. Notable among them were "Colored schools" at Garfield, Creedmoor, and Maha. Although a large number of black residents were in the Moore's Crossing area at this time, no black schools were in the area. Black students in that area traveled to Garfield or Maha to attend school. According to the Travis County School Annual for 1905, those schools were among the better black schools in the county. The Garfield Colored School was described as having "a good location on the edge of the woods and is in very good shape" while the Maha Colored "schoolhouse is a new building ... the patrons are interested and liberal ... " (Travis County School Annual 1905: 74-75).

In most cases, however, the school buildings and equipment were inferior to those of whites. The State of Texas furnished teacher salaries for both white and black schools, but district users supplied funds for buildings, fuel, improvements and supplies. The editors of the 1905 Travis County School Annual chastised the county's black residents for failing to finance improvements to their schools, declaring,

> The colored people of Travis county are slow to part with their money for school purposes, preferring to squander it during the cotton-picking season upon foolish things that have no enduring value. Many allow their children to freeze in school rather than start a subscription list to pay the wood bill (Travis County School Annual 1905: 71).

In fact, school was a luxury and its upkeep an added burden to the black residents of southeast Travis County, the great majority of whom were tenant farmers or sharecroppers. Many needed their children to work merely to make a living and time spent in school was time lost in the fields. It is noteworthy that they managed to support the number of schools they did.

Community Development in Southeast Travis County: 1910

Between 1910 and 1920, R.J. and Martha Jane Moore's son, J.B. Moore, left Moore's Crossing and moved to south Austin. However, he continued to maintain an interest in his business there. Due to extreme flooding on the north side of Onion Creek between 1900 and 1910, J.B. Moore probably decided to relocate the store to higher ground at its present location. By 1910, Moore's Crossing was a very prosperous community. In addition to the store, it boasted a blacksmith shop and a meat market. Moore replaced the school with a cotton gin on land he donated to W.T. Caswell, a local cotton seed manufacturer. Since Moore no longer lived at the crossing, he rented the store to Mr. and Mrs. A.L. Sanders, who ran it from 1911 to 1923, when they purchased their own store at Pilot Knob (Sanders, n.d.).

The gin, blacksmith shop, and stores, at a major country crossroads, constituted the essential components of a rural farming community center. This sort of cluster was typical of rural communities whose economies were based on landlord/tenant arrangements. Usually, one or more large property owners, like the Moores and Berrys, also owned the community store where tenants could charge purchases against their prospective harvests. As in the case of the Berry & Moore Bros. Store, the proprietor was often a family member who lived in a house on the store property. Additional services depended on local needs. Blacksmiths were essential to any farming community that used mules to plow and horses to pull wagons and buggies. In cotton country, people erected gins every few miles for practical considerations, if not for the convenience of the farmer (Figure 8). In nearly all cases, such communities grew up around intersections of arterial county roads accessible to the greatest number of local users (Texas Applied Economics Club, 1916: var.). Moore's Crossing had the added advantage of being at a major ford on Onion Creek, receiving more than the standard share of regional traffic for such community centers.

Moore's Crossing and Garfield were typical of the community centers that catered primarily to farm tenants in southeast Travis County during the late 19th century and early years of the 20th century. Both areas had much greater percentages of farm tenancy than owner-occupancy. Both areas had large numbers of black tenant farmers and only a handful of black farm owners (U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1900, 1910). At the same time, white tenant farmers outnumbered farm owners in both areas. Garfield held school in a church before Moore's Crossing had a school in 1881. Both schools were inadequate by 1910 but Garfield students moved to a church building that year, leaving Moore School as perhaps the worst physical plant for white students in the county (Travis County School Annual, 1905: 61). In both areas, community centers provided only small scale, basic services to residents.

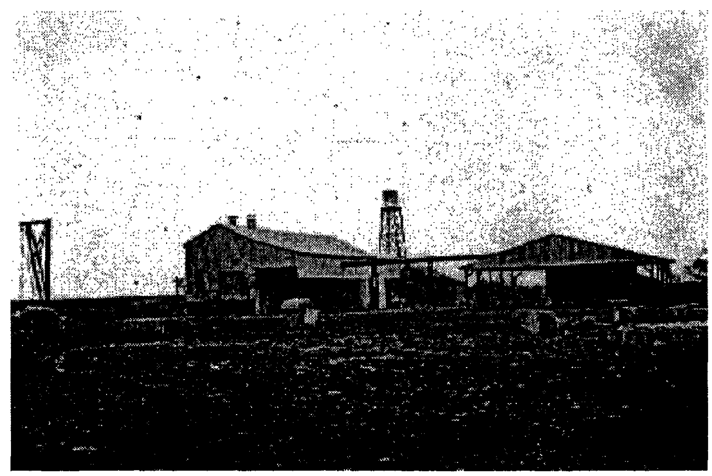

Figure 8 Southeast Travis County Cotton Gin
Source: Texas Applied Economies Club, 1916

Prosperous farming communities with higher instances of resident ownership provided more comprehensive services and amenities including schools, churches, and even recreation centers or lodge halls. Some of these communities, like Elroy and Creedmoor, had their own doctors, ministers, and other professionals who lived in the village. These more successful villages tended to be at the center of homogenous communities comprised of families who shared similar ethnic heritage or religious beliefs. Again, Elroy by 1910, was a thriving community of Swedish families. It supported three churches, several stores, a shoemaker, two cotton gins, a pharmacist, a doctor, and a blacksmith. Most of the adults were first and second generation immigrants who spoke Swedish as their primary language (Travis County Census, 1910).

In 1913, the blacksmith shop at Moore's Crossing caught fire and spread to engulf the Sanders store building, destroying everything the family owned. Moore rebuilt or rehabilitated the store and the Sanders family continued to live there until 1923 (Sanders, nd.). The rebuilt store is extant at Moore's Crossing. Although automobiles and trucks were coming into more common usage, area farmers continued to use mule and horse power to pull plows, wagons and buggies until the 1940s. Thus, blacksmith services were still required and a second blacksmith shop was built northeast of the store (near Resource No. 6), closer to Onion Creek.

Bridge at Moore's Crossing

In 1915, although Moore's Crossing was still small community, it remained a low water crossing of major importance. As the population of southeast Travis County increased during the first decades of the 20th century, County Commissioners recognized the need to establish a better bridge over Onion Creek. In 1910, Travis County officials replaced the 1884 Congress Avenue bridge with a wider one across the Colorado River. In 1915, the county brought three trusses of the former bridge from storage and erected it over Onion Creek at Moore's Crossing, about 100 feet west of the original ford. That same year, a flood destroyed the newly placed bridge (*Austin American Statesman*, March 24, 1976: 1). According to a local account, area residents collected funds to rebuild the bridge (Sanders n.d.). Fully seven years later, in 1922, the county contracted with the Austin Bridge Company of Dallas to rebuild the piers and install the remaining three trusses of the Congress Avenue bridge across Onion Creek. The bridge remained in use at the popular crossing until 1980. Although declared sound up to 12,000 pounds, gravel trucks and other heavy loads regularly ignored weight limits and the county closed the bridge for safety reasons (Texas Historical Commission, Local History Programs, Moore's Crossing Bridge Marker Files).

Demographic Factors: 1910

The 1910 census for southeast Travis County, including Moore's Crossing, recorded information for 440 households, and 2,269 individuals. By that time, almost twice as many white households (201) as black households (135) were in the district. The numbers of Mexican and mulatto households had increased from the 1900 survey totals, with 29 households designated as mulatto, and 75 Mexican households, of which 34 of the households contained family members who had immigrated to the United States between 1876 and 1908. The significant increase in both Mexican American and Mexican born residents from the 1900 census may be attributed to troubled conditions on both sides of the Texas-Mexican border at that time. Outbreaks of violence associated with the Mexican Revolution and what Anglos have called "the bandit era," from about 1905 to 1917, compelled many Mexican and Mexican American families to flee the uncertainty of the border region for a transient life in the Texas interior. Census records in 1920 show that the largest numbers of Mexican immigrants then living in southeast Travis County, arrived in the United States between 1909 and 1916 (U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1920). European immigration to the area had also increased, with four households from Sweden, four from Italy, two each from Russia, Germany, and Scotland, one Irish family and one Swiss family.

A much larger number of families in the area rented rather than owned a home or farm. Of 201 white households counted in the 1910 census, 65 percent, or 131 households, rented property, while the remaining 35 percent, or 70 households owned their property. Sixteen of these white families were western European immigrants, of which nearly an equal amount rented and owned their property. For black households, the percentages of ownership were more extreme than those for white households, with 90 percent, or 121 of the 135 black households, renting property, while only 10 percent or 14 households were owners of a house or farm. Of the 23 mulatto families, only one was listed as a home owner, while the rest rented their house or farm. Hispanic families showed similar numbers, with only a single farm owner and 74 households occupying rented houses and farms.

In 1910, 73 percent of the working population in this enumeration district were farmers, and 13 percent, or 77 individuals, listed laborer or odd jobs as their occupation. The rest of the work force in this area held various job titles from mail carrier (5) and merchant (5), to one each for constable and professional baseball player. As in the previous 1900 census, native born whites held the greatest variety of occupations, ranging from carpenter and plumber to members of the St. Edward's University faculty and staff, 36 of whom lived in the area. European immigrants in the area mostly held agricultural jobs, such as farmer, dairy owner, gardener, and manager of the St. Edward's University farm. One German immigrant was a blacksmith and one Russian couple were laborers.

A majority of black household heads, nearly 78 percent, were listed as farmers or farm laborers. The two other major occupations for black household heads were laborer, 18 total, or 13 percent, and odd jobs, 22, or 16 percent. Other jobs listed for black householders included cook, laundress and blacksmith. Most mulattos were farmers or laborers, but one mulatto woman was a public school teacher. Hispanics had even less varied job opportunities. Of the 75 Hispanic households in the enumeration district, 67 heads of household were farm laborers or farmers, four listed odd jobs as an occupation, and four heads of household were laborers (U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1910).

This part of southeast Travis County, including Moore's Crossing, continued to be a predominately agricultural community in the early part of the century. Whites, both native and foreign born, continued to hold a much greater variety of job occupations than blacks and Hispanics. Although white, black, and Hispanic surnamed residents lived in the same area, their living conditions varied greatly. Whites were much more likely to own their houses and farms and, compared to the 1900 census information, white families constituted a larger majority in what was once a more racially diverse community. In 1900, 41 percent or 144, of the families in the area were black, while an almost equal number of white families, 44 percent, or 154 lived in the area. By 1910, white families (201) made up 45 percent of the total population, while the 135 black families in the area accounted for only 30 percent of the population. [Exact comparisons and correlations within enumeration districts cannot be made because district boundaries changed from one census to the next. For instance, although most of the enumeration district that included the Moore's Crossing area in 1910 was rural was comprised of rural southeast Travis County, it also included land very near St. Edward's University in south Austin. These observations should be considered statements of the area's general trend, including Moore's Crossing, for a particular census year] (U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1910).

1915: The rise of Mexican and Mexican American farm workers in Travis County

According to a 1915 study conducted by the University of Texas, Mexican and Mexican American laborers did 40 percent of all the farm work in southern Travis County at that time. The figure is somewhat surprising, considering that there were fewer Mexican households than either black or white households. However, many of the households consisted of multiple families, often including a number of adolescents or adults who may or may not have been relatives of the householder. Entire "households" were sometimes comprised of numerous unrelated adults, all of whom worked as farm laborers. Work crews or "gangs" led by an English-speaking organizer contracted with resident farmers or absentee landowners for specific jobs. The leader dealt with the property owner and managed the hiring, firing, and payment of laborers (Watkins, 1916: 130).

The rise of Mexican farm workers can also be attributed to the abandonment of family farms by white families. By 1915, many of the farms in southeast Travis County, particularly in the vicinity of Moore's Crossing, were no longer owner occupied. Families like the Moores moved to Austin and rented their store and farms to tenants. Exceptions include German and Swedish families who continued to own and work their farms in communities they settled.

In response to the county's racial mix and prevailing attitudes about social interaction between the races, separate institutions such as churches and schools were established for white, black and Mexican use (Figure 9). The county maintained several separate "Negro" churches by the turn of the century. In virtually all cases, buildings for white congregations or classes were newer and of better quality than those for Mexican and blacks. Typically, when enrollment or building condition and/or age warranted a new facility for whites, the old school or church might be transferred to the black or Mexican community.

Virtually all Mexican and Mexican-American residents of southeast Travis County were renters in the 1900, 1910 and 1920 census records. Many were migrant farm workers who traveled in wagons following the cotton harvests from one agricultural region to the next. Most did not speak English and few could read or write. Although Hispanic households contained more adults than black or white households for the same period, they also included children, few of whom attended school (U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1900, 1910, 1920). Still, black farmers and farm laborers outnumbered Mexican Americans throughout the first half of the century (U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1900-1920).

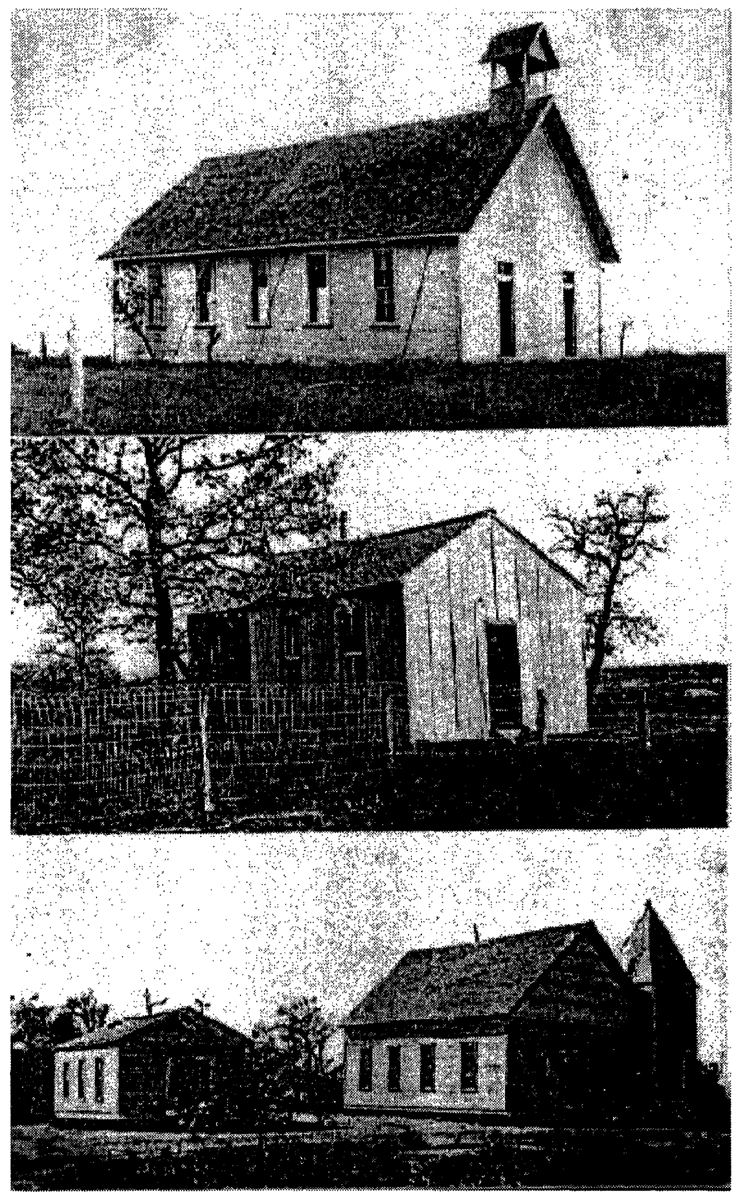

Figure 9 White, Black, and Mexican churches in SE Travis Co.
Source: *The Defender*, 1936: np

The Rise of Immigrants in the 1920s

The 1920 census for southeast Travis County, including Moore's Crossing, recorded information for 272 households, and 1,341 individuals. Total numbers of individuals and families in the enumeration district declined dramatically from 1900 and 1910 because the district boundaries were much smaller than in previous census years. Demographic numbers changed, as well. In 1900, 41 percent, or 144, of the families in the area were black, while an almost equal number (154) of white families, 44 percent, lived in the area. By 1920, however, almost twice as many white households (144) as black households (88) lived in the enumeration district. Also, mulatto households were no longer designated as such, although the census enumerator indirectly identified six mulatto families in the district. Mexican households numbered 40, with a few family members identified as having immigrated from Mexico at the turn of the century.

First and second generation European immigrants increased in numbers, if not nationalities, and accounted for the majority of white households in the district. In 1920, first generation Germans, all of whom immigrated before 1910, headed 19 households in the district while American born people of German ancestry headed another 29 families. Forty households were headed by first generation Swedes, 39 of whom immigrated to the United States prior before 1910. Second generation Swedes headed another 14 households. Three families in the district claimed Austrian heritage with immigration dates ranging from 1886 to 1903. It is not known if enumerators counted the Austrians as German or Italian in previous census enumerations, or if they moved from elsewhere in the country during the intervening years. Scottish immigrants headed two families, while second generation Scots led another three families. The only other foreign born European counted was a Russian farmer boarding with a Swedish family (U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1920).

This part of southeast Travis County, continued to be a predominately agricultural. Both native and foreign born whites continued to hold a greater variety of job occupations than blacks and Mexicans and Mexican Americans, though the vast majority of all groups still engaged in agricultural work. In 1920, 134 white working heads of households in this enumeration district were farmers. The remaining heads of households worked as merchants, a mail carrier, or had unknown occupations. The remaining work force in this area, consisting of adult children still at home, such as working wives, or boarders, held various job titles such as salesman (2), clerk (2), truck driver (1), farm manager (1), shoemaker (1), and blacksmith (1). As in the previous 1910 census, native born whites held the greatest variety of occupations, ranging from blacksmith to high school principal. European immigrants in the area mostly held agricultural jobs, such as farmer or farm laborer. One German immigrant was a blacksmith, and the lone Russian was a farmer (U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1920).

Compared with the 1900 census, when the district contained nearly equal numbers of white and black households, whites had gained a stronger foothold in what was once a more racially diverse community. Other differences including living conditions, varied greatly by ethnicity, as well. Although the majority of families in the district rented their homes and farms, whites were much more likely to own real estate than either blacks or Mexicans and Mexican Americans. Of 144 white households, 76 rented property, while 66 owned their property or were paying on a note. Sixty-four of these white families were first generation western European immigrants and nearly two-thirds, or 41 families, owned their property. For black households, the percentages of property ownership were more extreme than those for white households, with 82 of the 88 black households renting property, while only six households owned a house or farm. It is interesting to note that the six families who owned their own property were identified as mulatto — in a year when mulatto was not an official designation — by the census taker. Apparently, the enumerator felt compelled to distinguish these families.

Mexican families experienced even greater extremes, with one farm owner and 39 households who rented houses or farms. Tenancy among black and Hispanic populations increased as the century progressed (U.S. Bureau of the Census).

As mentioned earlier, whites had much greater job variety than either blacks or Hispanic residents in southeast Travis County. The lack of occupational opportunity and diversity among non-whites was profound, with implications that extended to their children. Ninety-three percent of black household heads in the district were farmers. Five were farm laborers and one was a day laborer. The only other job listed for black householders or family members was school teacher. More than 30 percent of black children between the ages of nine and twelve worked as farm or day laborers. In some of the families, children over the age of nine helped in the fields, while in others, only the sons worked. Hispanic families had even fewer job opportunities. Of the 40 Hispanic households in the enumeration district, 32 household were headed by farmers, and eight were farm laborers. Adult relatives or boarders living in the households additionally listed day laborer as an occupation. Hispanic children were also essential to the economic livelihoods of their families, though not to the same extent. Nearly 20 percent of the children in Hispanic households worked at agricultural labor (U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1920). In addition, children of several white households attended high school in Austin, while no black or Mexican families in the same enumeration district shared this privilege (U.S. Bureau of the Census).

Women participated in economic lives outside the home, with four white and four black heads of households identified as farmers. White women also held positions as nurses (1), housekeepers (1), and high school principal (1). One black woman was identified as a teacher, while four others were identified as farm laborers. Only one Hispanic woman, the daughter in one household, engaged in outside employment as a farm laborer (U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1920).

By 1925, the Moores, Berrys, Wallaces and Burlesons were gone from Moore's Crossing, but J.B. Moore continued to lease out the store buildings. Jim and Alma Smith, possibly in-laws of A.B. Moore, leased the business and lived in the house from about 1925 until 1936, when they purchased the business. Alma Smith ran the store after her husband's death until 1973 when she sold it to current owner, Reuben Michalk (Kieke interview 1995; Stolle interview 1995; deed records). With greater automobile ownership and better roads, area residents had access to larger communities for shopping and services and Moore's Crossing declined in importance. By 1925, any chance that Moore's Crossing would develop into a larger, more prosperous community center had passed. About that time, the cotton gin that replaced the Moore school was abandoned. Nearby communities such as Pilot Knob, which had two cotton gins, filled the gap. Residents of the area did their major shopping in Del Valle and Austin and only picked up small items at the community store. The store primarily catered to tenant farmers or sharecroppers, people who didn't have the means to go to town. The store offered a line of credit to farmers and laborers who shopped there (Stolle Interview, 1995).

Even as the Moore's Crossing area faded in significance, it achieved its greatest notoriety as the scene of one of the county's most heinous crimes. In 1925, three members of the Engler family—Charles, Augusta, and their 23 year old daughter, Emma—were brutally murdered at their home on Elroy Road, within sight of Moore's Crossing. Like many families in the vicinity of Moore's Crossing at that time, the elder Englers were German immigrants but their daughter was born in Texas. Initial investigation implicated the Moore's Crossing blacksmith, John Sternadl who discovered the bodies, in the murder. A black transient was also accused of the crime, a charge that escalated to vigilantism in the community. News of the murder filled local and national newspapers but ultimately no one was convicted of the crime. The murder that horrified the small community has never been solved and remains one of the most notable events associated with Moore's Crossing (Masson et al. 1994: 19; U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1920).

The Great Depression: 1929-1939

Farm families struggled through the Great Depression in southeast Travis County. Farmers who worked their own farms found it difficult enough, but life was exceedingly hard for tenant farmers and sharecroppers. In fact, conditions during the Great Depression led to the collapse of the traditional system of sharecropping and tenant farming in the county by the end of World War II.

The farm subsidy programs of the New Deal forced a decline in sharecropping and tenant farming in southeast Travis County by offering payment to land owners who let their fields lie fallow. The goal was to limit the amount of agricultural goods on the market, thereby increasing the price of remaining products. In theory, the federal government's objective was to support farmers by allowing them a profit from their reduced production. In practice, the program discouraged the long standing system of tenant farming and sharecropping that had been mutually beneficial to land owners and renters in the past. Subsidy payments discouraged both resident farm owners and absentee landlords from renting or sharing their excess farm land, leaving few opportunities for tenant farmers and sharecroppers (Masson et al., 1994: 33).

The government tried to alleviate farm worker displacement with small, monthly "relief" checks until they found work; this practice actually discouraged unemployed farm workers from finding new jobs. In effect, people received money not to work and thus, had little incentive to seek employment (Masson et al.,1994: 33). The demise of the sharecropping and tenant system also contributed to a temporary decrease in the number of native Mexicans working as farm laborers. Because relief did not extend to non-citizens, many unemployed Mexican nationals returned to their homeland during this period.

To compound unemployment problems, numerous local dairies along Onion Creek closed in the face of competition from more efficient, automated dairies elsewhere. Dairy failure reverberated throughout the regional economy. Reduction in hay and feed needed for dairy cows severely limited the type of cash crops farmers could profit from. Also, reduction in hay and feed limited crop rotation possibilities, according to longtime area farmer, Simon Ybarra (Masson et al.,1994: 33). In addition, dairy employees lost jobs and owners needed fewer hands for hay and feed cultivation and harvest, further contributing to unemployment in the area.

One exception was the Olson Dairy that opened on the former Wallace-Burleson-Moore farm site. J.B. and Elizabeth Moore apparently lost their historic family farm and other property at Moore's Crossing during the Depression. In 1936, Arthur and Hannah Olson purchased the farm where they established a dairy. Two years after they bought farm, the Olsons remodeled and enlarged the house to its current bungalow-like appearance (Maier, 1981: n.p.). They owned the property until about 1960. The Olson's dairy may have succeeded because they implemented modern dairy methods and equipment and they had an abundance of natural pasture, which was essential to support dairy operations in central Texas (Kieke interview, 1995).

In 1936, the same year the Olsons acquired the Wallace-Burleson-Moore homestead, Jim and Alma Eilers Smith purchased the complex at Moore's Crossing. The following year, declaring the gin abandoned for more than ten years, J.B. Moore reclaimed the property just as he had in 1910 when the school on that site closed. Moore relinquished the parcel to Franz Kretzschmar in 1937 (Travis County Deed Records, Volume 578: 20). With this sale, the Moore family left the area, marking the end of an extended era of Wallace-Burleson-Moore tenure on lower Onion Creek.

Despite economic hardships, some resident farm owners in southeast Travis County managed to retain their family farms and persevere during the Great Depression. Perhaps because they enjoyed strong community support, families of German and Swedish heritage persisted on their farms while others conceded defeat and sold out. Second and third generation Germans who retained their farms in the Moore's Crossing area included the Stolle, Eilers, Ollie, Reinhardt and Kieke families. According to Walter Kieke, who grew up on a family farm between Moore's Crossing and Pilot Knob, family members, including children, worked long, hard hours to make the farm succeed. They grew or made nearly everything the family required. They raised and slaughtered their own beef and hogs, grew their own fruits and vegetables, and made most of their own clothing. In some ways, farm life was superior to life in the city during the Depression. Kieke recalled that cousins and family friends made regular, day-long treks to their farm for fresh fruits, vegetables and meat, that they couldn't afford to buy in Austin (Kieke interview, 1995).

Although agricultural failure accompanied economic depression in many parts of the country, farmers in southeast Travis County enjoyed relatively good crop production with high yields during those years. Cotton remained the region's principal cash crop and in good years the two gins at Pilot Knob operated day and night. Area farmers also grew corn and sorghum cane to fatten cattle and hogs and to feed plow mules. While some area farmers owned tractors in the 1920s, others used mules to pull their plows as late as the mid 1930s. After tractors replaced plow mules, there was no longer a need to produce mule feed and farmers grew less sorghum cane. About 1935, farmers throughout the region began growing more milo maize than either cotton or cane. Those who raised beef planted Sudan grass in summer and oats in winter for feed (Kieke interview, 1995).

During the 1920s and 1930s, non-migrant black families outnumbered Hispanics of the same status. Still, very few black farmers owned farms in southeast Travis County during the 1930s and virtually no Hispanics owned property in the area. Black residents worked primarily as sharecroppers, while a large number of Hispanic day laborers lived more or less permanently on farms of more than 100 acres. If it rained, day laborers did not work and, thus, did not get paid (Kieke interview, 1995). Farmers hired extra hands during cotton harvest season and wagonloads—later carloads—of white, black and Mexican transient laborers would converge on the community for the duration. These laborers generally started picking cotton around Three Rivers, southeast of San Antonio, and moved through the Texas interior to Lubbock before they finished for the year. Although none of these laborers lived permanently in southeast Travis County, many returned annually to pick cotton (Kieke interview, 1995).

A number of white farmers worked as tenant farmers or sharecroppers in the area, as well. For some, the relationship between property owner and tenant was merely a business arrangement, although in many cases it extended across generations. For others, particularly within German and Swedish families, boys worked as tenants on their parents' farms until they could afford to buy their own property. In such cases, young men generally lived at home until they married. Upon marriage, they usually built a house on the portion of the parent farm that they intended to purchase or inherit from their parents. Occasionally, and especially if the prospective bride had no brothers, the young man might work his in-laws' property under a similar arrangement. However, most of the local German and Swedish farm families had plenty of sons and they divided large farms into smaller ones with each succeeding generation (Kieke interview, 1995).

Community life during the 1930s centered primarily around activities at church and school. People celebrated religious and national holidays, but different ethnic groups celebrated days significant to their heritage. Some invited the larger community to attend. Germans at Pilot Knob held a yearly Octoberfest and Swedes celebrated special holidays. Everyone in the region looked forward to September 16, Mexican Independence Day. Mexican and Mexican American families put on a big celebration with music, dancing and a carnival, near Moore's Crossing and people of all backgrounds attended the affair (Kieke interview, 1995).

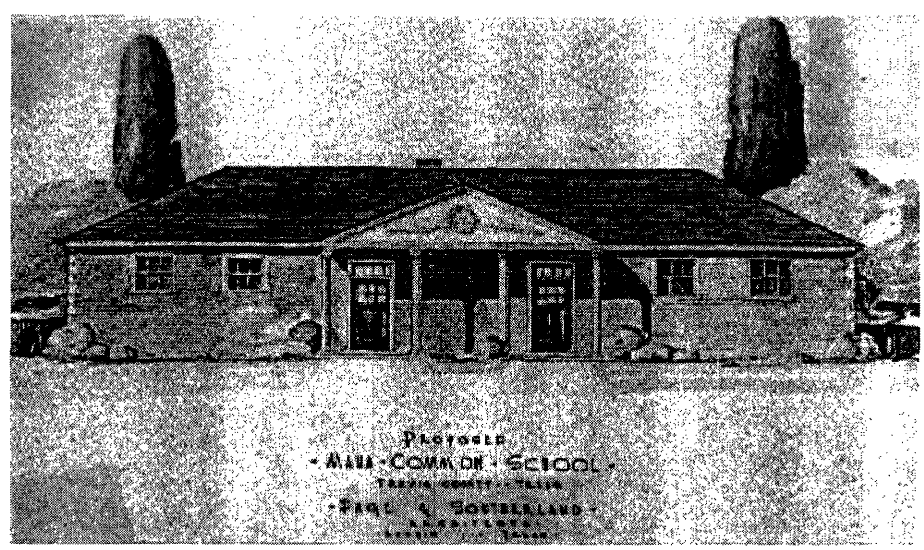

Figure 10 Maha School
Source: *The Defender*, 1936

In the area around Moore's Crossing, white children either went to school at Pilot Knob or Elroy. A number of schools for black children were scattered throughout the area and during the 1930s most attended the "colored school" in Pilot Knob. One school for Mexican students was in Maha. Most white children attended school through the eighth grade with some going on to high school in Austin. Schools for black and Hispanic children in southeast Travis County during this period generally stopped at sixth grade. Federal programs built several new rural schools, including ones at Maha (Figure 10) and Creedmoor, during this period. While a number of rural schools for white children remained two- or three-room frame buildings in the 1930s, they were generally well lighted, well ventilated buildings (Figure 11). This was not the case for Mexican and black schools (Figure 12). Usually rural schools for minority children consisted of a one or two room frame building outgrown and donated by the white community.

World War II: Bergstrom Air Force Base and Its Impact On Southeast Travis County

Although southeast Travis County residents endured difficult economic times during the Great Depression, most continued to work in agriculture and the region retained its rural character. The land supported fewer tenant farmers and sharecroppers as a result of farm subsidies and modern competition cut into the area's dairy business. In general, however, the agricultural traditions established in the late-19th century remained somewhat intact. Tenant farming and share cropping continued, if on a smaller scale, and pockets of stable family farms clustered around rural community centers like Elroy and Creedmoor. As the 1930s closed and the country's economic condition improved, the residents of southeast Travis County probably anticipated increased security for themselves and their families. The United States' entry into World War II, however, permanently changed the area's agricultural traditions.

Figure 11 Carl School
Source: *The Defender*, 1936

The family farm realized perhaps the greatest impact of the war. At the outbreak of World War II, virtually every able-bodied young man in the region who was not the sole support of his family, enlisted in the military. Farms were short-handed and had to rely on hired labor which strained family resources. At the same time, war-production and military training programs supplied an entire generation of young farm laborers with skills that enabled them to leave the back-breaking toil of the farm after the war. Upon their return, the G.I. bill offered veterans further educational opportunities and they abandoned the family farms by the hundreds. Walter Kieke, who had worked on his father's southeast Travis County farm from the time he graduated eighth grade until he was 23 years old, joined the Navy at the onset of World War II. He traveled to San Diego for basic training where he learned skills that allowed him to start his own air conditioning business in Austin upon his return (Kieke interview, 1995). At the same time, sons and daughters of sharecroppers and tenant farmers, including African Americans, also found new skills in war industries and military training. When the war was over, few were willing to return to the unrelenting toil of tenant farming.

Kieke's experience was typical of farm families throughout southeast Travis County. Neither he nor any of his brothers returned to the farm. When his father retired at the end of the war, he leased his farm to a business man who owned several tractors and hired his labor. This trend occurred throughout southeast Travis County until most of the surviving family farms were sold to large agricultural businesses. Black families left the farms in droves, as well. Few black families in southeast Travis County owned their own farms before the war so they had little commitment to the land in the postwar period. Along with the sons and daughters of white farmers, blacks found opportunities for advancement in the city. In their place, Mexican and Mexican American families moved to the area in increasing numbers until they eventually constituted a majority. According to Kieke, World War II, with its opportunity and upheaval, marked the demise of the traditional working farm in southeast Travis County.

At the same time, a major transformation took place on the rural landscape. The Del Valle area was chosen as the site of a major air base to serve the war effort. The displacement of historic farms and lifestyles and the subsequent development that grew up to support the air base, permanently altered the character of the region.

Del Valle Army Air Base to the New Austin Airport: 1942-1995

When the decade of the Great Depression came to a close, the United States began preparing for yet another national challenge: war. Military and government officials anticipated the possibility of war and acquired land throughout the country for training facilities, ordnance plants, and air bases as early as 1937. In many cases, federal officials negotiated with local authorities for city or county owned land on which to build such facilities in exchange for the token rent of $1 per year. In theory, once the emergency passed, the federal government would return the land to the local body.

After war erupted in Europe and Asia, the United States was drawn closer to the fray and land acquisition and construction at home intensified. Military construction projects boosted local economies with hundreds of jobs in both construction and civilian support once the plants or bases were in operation. Although the federal government was to spread contracts judiciously throughout the country to relieve unemployment, communities lobbied ferociously for bases, often hosting parties and sight-seeing trips for federal officials. Congressmen tried to get large projects for their districts to provide jobs for their constituents.

Figure 12 Mexican School, 1936
Source: *The Defender*, 1936

When the United States entered the war on December 7, 1941, military officials found many bases still under construction or, like Del Valle Army Air Base, still in the planning stages. On November 29, 1941, the U.S. Army contacted the Austin Chamber of Commerce to inquire about obtaining 3,000 acres. Although military officials found farmland near the Del Valle community ideal for their purposes, Mayor Tom Miller attempted to divert their attention to other possible locations. Ultimately, the Army remained firm in their choice of the Del Valle area and the Chamber of Commerce began obtaining funds for the project. On March 4, 1942, the Board of Directors of the Chamber of Commerce put a $600,000 bond issue before Austin citizens to buy the land and rent it to the Army for $1. Citizens voted 2,488 to 338 in favor of renting the land to the Army. The overwhelming vote in support of the project was typical of the patriotic fervor sweeping the country. The Austin Chamber of Commerce notified military officials of the decision on March 15, 1942. Under the contract terms, the Army would return the land to the city when they had no further use for it (Bergstrom Public Relations Office, 1944: 17-18).

Construction on the base began on May 23, 1942. During various work phases, workers moved two million yards of dirt in order to erect 10 to 15 buildings daily. The government employed more than 1,600 civilian workers for the project, with Montgomery-Page-Hemphill-Page serving as contractor. The large number of people employed relieved great economic stress that had been present in rural Travis County during the Great Depression. In preparation for construction, the City of Austin bought more than 30 houses and innumerable tenant dwellings for demolition by government contractors. In addition, the government moved schools, chapels, cotton gins, and a private telephone exchange. Many descendants of the settlers who had once cleared the vast fields of the Santiago del Valle land grant had to relocate (Bergstrom Public Relations Office, 1944: 18-19).

The 3,000 acre tract the Army received from the City of Austin was in the middle of the del Valle land grant, which was subsequently owned by Anglo American settlers like Thomas F. McKinney, Bartlett Sims, Nathaniel Watrous, and Albert C. Horton. These large land owners sold parts of their land to smaller farmers after the Civil War. One settler, William Givens, came to the area in 1874, became the first post master in Del Valle in 1878, and built a small general store. He later replaced it with a larger mercantile which his son, A.L. Givens, remodeled in 1914 into what became known as the "Round House of Del Valle" (Figure 13). The store and later house were the center of much community activity in Del Valle. Another significant dwelling was the house of James S. Shaw. Shaw bought his farm from Andrew M. Davidson, who purchased the property from Thomas F. McKinney in 1856. Shaw remodeled the two-story limestone house in 1872 and sold it to S.D. Buratti in 1915 (Figure 14) (Bergstrom Public Relations Office, 1944:9-10).

Before construction of the base began, the landscape of Del Valle was dotted with brightly-colored windmills that pumped water out of wells, water tanks, black and Mexican schools, Baptist and Methodist churches, a mill, rail fences, unpainted clapboard tenant shacks, modest farm houses, and wealthy estates (Bergstrom Public Relations Office, 1944: 10-16). Construction of the base swept away the entire community, with only two exceptions. The Givens "Round House" and the Shaw house are the only dwellings that remained. The Army remodeled the Givens house and it became the Noncommissioned Officers Mess (*Austin American* in Center for American History Bergstrom Files, n.d.). Other notable houses torn down to make way for Del Valle Army Air Base belonged to John Wirt Cloud, Judge Alexander Terrell, Dr. Frank Maxwell, James B. Norwood, and Jefferson Johnson (Bergstrom Public Relations Office, 1944:9-10).

Figure 13 W.H. Givens Round House, photo 1942
Source: Del Valle Army Air Base, 1944

On September 24, 1942, the first plane landed at the still incomplete Del Valle Army Air Base. The Army originally planned to use the base for photographic and observation training, but it became an Air Support Command Base. Ultimately, it became a station for Troop Carrier Command, due to the growth of that organization at the base. On September 29, 1942, the 316th Troop Carrier Group, with 50 transports, flew from Georgia in the largest and longest mass flight of transport planes in the history of aviation at that time. The carriers flew over Austin and landed on the new field in three second intervals. This group was later replaced by the 89th Troop Carrier Group, composed of the 24th, 25th, 26th, 30th, and 31st Troop Carrier Squadrons. The group was a training outfit designed to prepare officers graduated from cadet schools to fly large Douglas transports used in moving troops quickly to any battle location. The first commander at the base was First Lieutenant Leopold A. Strelsky, a representative of the Commanding General, III Ground Air Support Command in Birmingham, Alabama (Bergstrom Public Relations Office, 1944:21-25).

Del Valle Army Air Base was almost complete when the Army opened it to the public on January 10, 1943. The base received 30,000 visitors, attesting to its popularity. While at the base, visitors viewed new buildings: a recreation hall, a post exchange, a base theater, a library, a station hospital, and an officers club. In addition, there was a subdepot, which included a repair hangar, a machine shop, a parachute building, Air Corps warehouses, and gasoline storage. Although the base had many facilities, nothing about it was lavish. The original barracks were tar paper buildings accessed by wood sidewalks (*Austin American Statesman* in Center for American History Bergstrom Files, n.d.). They were later replaced with more permanent buildings (Figure 15). During the war, the base hosted the Uniform Service Organization (USO) and a variety of other camp shows, including some with celebrities, such as Harpo Marx, Woody Herman, Johnny Long, Jimmy Dorsey, and Glen Gray (*Austin American*, April 4, 1945). The Women's Army Corps arrived at the base on April 19, 1943, with 3rd Officer Beverly Stickney in charge of 24 auxiliaries (Bergstrom Public Relation Office, 1944: 31-33).

Figure 14 James H. Shaw House, 1942
Source: Del Valle Army Air Base, 1944

On March 3, 1943, Del Valle Army Air Base was renamed Bergstrom Army Air Field in honor of Captain John August Earl Bergstrom, the first Travis County resident killed in service during World War II. Bergstrom, part of the 93rd Bombardment Squadron, died on December 8, 1941, in a Japanese attack on Clark Field in the Philippines (Public Relations Office, 1944: 21). In many ways, Bergstrom was a product of the community surrounding the air base. Born on August 26, 1907 on a farm in southeast Travis County, he was the son of John and Mabel Bergstrom. John Bergstrom Sr., emigrated from Sweden with his brothers Charlie and Swen. The three brothers each established farms in the Del Valle area, a common place of settlement for Swedish and German emigrants at the turn of the century. After Mabel Bergstrom died in 1912, the elder John Bergstrom took his son, John, and daughter, Evelyn, to live in Austin. There the Bergstrom children attended Austin schools and John A.E. Bergstrom went on to Texas A & M University, where he graduated in 1929 with a degree in Agricultural Administration. He planned to work in the farming community in which his father had originally settled, but the Great Depression forced him to seek more lucrative employment at the Austin National Bank. Bergstrom was a member of the Army Reserves and lived with his father and sister until 1941 when he was called to active duty. News of his death arrived on December 12, 1941 (*Austin American Statesman* in Center for American History Bergstrom Files, n.d.).

Bergstrom Air Force Base served the United States war effort throughout World War II. Unlike some other bases constructed in response to the war emergency, military officials designated Bergstrom a permanent military installation at the close of the war. It served the country's defense needs in the postwar era, supporting military actions in Korea, Vietnam and, most recently, Desert Storm. The unification of Germany and the collapse of the Soviet Union brought the Cold War to a close. In 1990, Secretary of Defense Dick Cheney included Bergstrom with other military installations designated for realignment and closure as part of a national program to reduce unnecessary military spending. The former military base will become a new airport for the City of Austin.

Bergstrom Air Force Base ushered in a new era in the history of Travis County and its closure marks the end of a long relationship between the Air Force and the surrounding countryside. Set in the midst of Travis County's earliest settled agricultural region, the modern base stood in distinct contrast to the agrarian landscape. Although it displaced historic houses and farms, new businesses and housing developments sprang up to serve the base. Some people who remained in Del Valle adapted to their altered environment. Today, some area residents, like Werner and Lois Blohm who have lived near Del Valle for 41 years, have more memories related to the base than to the area's agricultural past (*Austin American Statesman*, September 7, 1993). Despite changes Bergstrom Air Force Base exacted on the immediate neighboring landscape, land south and east of the base remained largely agricultural to the present. The proposed Austin Airport and related businesses will affect that landscape much as the construction of Bergstrom Air Force Base did in 1942.

Conclusion

Permanent Anglo American settlement in Travis County first occurred in the fertile black prairie of its southeast quadrant where agricultural potential appeared most promising. After the Mexican government approved Stephen F. Austin's request for a third Texas colony in the 1820s, pioneers began to build small, fortified agricultural settlements to protect against Indian attacks. As more people entered the colony, danger from attack decreased and families settled on large, widely dispersed tracts of uncleared land throughout the region. Near streams or reliable springs, they constructed small complexes of log shelters for their families, servants and livestock. Assisted by family members and, in many cases, one or two slaves or hired help, they cleared and cultivated fields. The absence of good roads and reliable low water crossings on the Colorado River and area creeks made transportation throughout the quadrant difficult and area farms remained fairly isolated until the advent of all-weather roads and permanent bridges in the mid-20th century. This pattern of dispersed, largely self-sufficient farmsteads established by these early settlers characterized development in southeast Travis County for more than a century.

As time passed and the area became more settled, the agricultural economy evolved from a subsistence level endeavor to one based on cotton production and slave labor. As a result, life for land owners improved and by the 1850s, some settlers like Thomas F. McKinney and Sebron Sneed attained relative wealth, built large estates with substantive limestone houses and undertook more diverse occupations such as horse breeding and mill operations. The outcome of the Civil War reversed this trend as many of the wealthier families lost their labor and lands. Many farms changed hands or were broken up into smaller parcels in the late 19th century, but cotton remained the principal crop, followed by corn. Although the family farm prevailed, land owners relied increasingly on tenant farmers and sharecroppers to work their fields.

Continued lack of good roads reinforced the pattern of dispersed, isolated farmsteads but as more people arrived in the area in the late-19th century, important nodes of activity began to evolve at strategic locations such as low water crossings and transportation crossroads. A more diverse agricultural economy, largely the result of cotton production, allowed greater trading possibilities and small mercantile businesses, cotton gins and blacksmith shops, along with churches and rural schools, were established at these nodes in support of the area's largely agricultural economy. By the turn of the century, rural residents identified themselves with these small community hubs, most of which had their own postal stations. Some, like Del Valle and Elroy, grew to include several mercantile operations and more than one church, but none could be characterized as urban communities. Nearby Austin drew most of the county's professional and commercial activity, and southeast Travis County remained largely rural well into the 20th century.

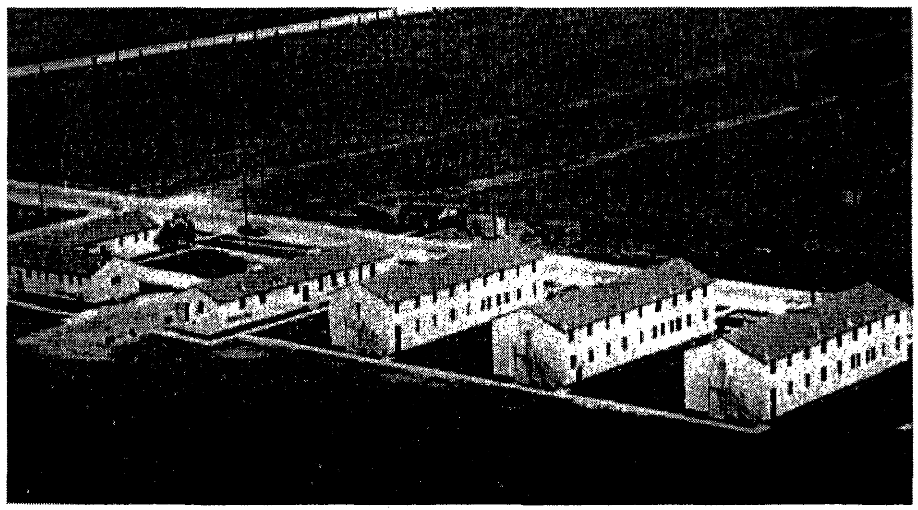

Figure 32 Bergstrom Barracks buildings, Photo 1942
Source: Del Valle Army Air Base, 1944

Significant demographic changes occurred in the area toward the end of the 19th and just after the turn of the 20th century. Early settlers were primarily Anglo Americans, followed by African American slaves. After the Civil War, many freed slaves remained in the area where they worked as tenant farmers, sharecroppers or farm laborers, as did the majority of Anglo residents. Among the few community services extended to African Americans were separate, usually inferior, school houses. Farm ownership in southeast Travis County during the postwar period was low among both Anglo and African American populations. Toward the end of the century, however, a great influx of primarily Swedish and German immigrants arrived in the region. Most worked on the farms of family members or fellow immigrants before purchasing farms and homes of their own. First and second generation Swedish and German immigrants had exceptionally high property ownership rates and their investment in the area's future reinvigorated community and agricultural development in the region. At the same time, African American populations in the area declined, possibly due to the immigrants' reliance on family and temporary labor. Their numbers were replaced by Mexican farm laborers, many of whom were transient or seasonal workers rather than tenants. Some large farmers built minimal shelters intended only for migrant use while others, particularly absentee property owners continued to use employ tenant farmers and sharecroppers who resided permanently on site.

With some improvements such as better roads, newer schools and greater trading opportunities, the rural patterns that had developed by the turn of the century prevailed until the construction of Bergstrom Air Force base in 1943. The creation of a large, modern air force base with its runways, air traffic, new roads and attendant commercial businesses in the midst of a still-isolated rural landscape had an enormous impact on the surrounding countryside. Construction of the base obliterated the core of the Del Valle community and the improvement and alteration of roads leading from Austin, now Highway 71 and 183 created new development patterns. Out-zoned businesses and those catering to the military presence extended toward the base in strands along the highway frontages. After World War II, many family farms broke up as young people moved to cities and their parents retired from farming. Today, some lie vacant while others are part of large agribusiness operations. Suburban and semi-rural development in the postwar period, particularly in areas accessible by the major highways, have also altered the former rural landscape and building patterns.

Still, some surviving historic farmsteads, most with frame dwellings, pole barns and other wood sided outbuildings continue to provide a tangible link with the area's agrarian past to the present. Among the oldest cultural resources in southeast Travis County, dating to the early settlement and antebellum periods, are the Wallace-Burleson-Moore farmstead with its log house sheathed by later renovations, and the ruins of once-stately Thomas F. McKinney, Sebron Sneed and Judge Thomas Duval estates. Later periods development are represented by the remnants of an important rural community center at Moore's Crossing on Onion Creek and the remarkably intact ca. 1900 Anna and Ernest Gustafson farmstead near the former community of Del Valle. These resources represent the lives and aspirations of pioneer agriculturists in southeast Travis County from its initial settlement to the end of the historic period.

ASSOCIATED PROPERTY TYPES

Introduction

The associated property types provide a tangible link to the historic context and include a broad range of resources that reflect the area's rich history and architecture. The buildings, structures and sites are primarily rural in character and includes farmhouses, barns and other agricultural-related resources. Other kinds of historic properties—stores, churches, schools, bridges—also reveal much about developmental patterns in southeast Travis County. All territory within the project area has not been fully scrutinized, however, the Project Architectural Historian undertook a cursory examination of southeast Travis County and observed general trends in the kinds of surviving historic and architectural resources. The only part of the project area subject to a comprehensive historic resources survey is immediately south of the former Bergstrom Air Force Base and is referred to as the "survey area." The results of this historic resources survey form the basis for developing the associated property types section of the Multiple Property nomination. As further field and research investigations are undertaken in the future, the Associated Property Types section of the nomination may be revised to include other kinds of resources identified.

Assessment of Resources in the Project Area

Overview

Primarily a rural landscape of scattered farms, ranches and small, rural communities, with intermittent suburban development and a large military installation, the project area encompasses the southeast portion of Travis County. The project area stretches from Interstate 35 on the west and Texas Highway 71 on the north east and south boundaries to the county lines and contains a mix of domestic, commercial, religious, educational, military, industrial and agricultural properties. Suburban development is near the western edge of the project area along Interstate 35. Former Bergstrom Air Force Base is at the north central edge. The rural landscape includes historic resources that are representative of the cultural patterns, building technologies and events that shaped the community from initial Anglo American settlement in the 1830s and 1840s through the end of the historic period in 1945. The suburban development and much of the military installation at Bergstrom Air Force Base was built after 1945 and, thus, is beyond the scope of this report.

Historic resources in the project area include the Wallace-Burleson-Moore Farmstead, on the south bank of Onion Creek. It dates from the mid 1840s, and is the oldest known extant property in the project area. It represents the earliest period of Anglo American settlement. In continuous operation as a farm since its construction, the Wallace-Burleson-Moore property documents changes in the local economy, agricultural practices, social structure and architectural forms. Other significant buildings from the mid 19th century in the project area include landmark buildings such as the Horton-Duval House, the Thomas F. McKinney House and the Judge Sebron G. Sneed House, all built in the 1850s and providing tangible links to the milieu of the county's early elite class. These resources are on the edge of Austin's suburban development. The Onion Creek Lodge, built in 1861, housed the local chapter of Masons and served simultaneously as a school for children of families living near the community of Bluff Springs, an area now on the south edge of Austin's suburban development. While the Onion Creek Lodge is just outside of the project boundaries, on the west side of Interstate 35, it served local residents and was important within the community.

Despite the early settlement of southeast Travis County, little architectural evidence of this history remains. Those resources discussed above are the known reminders of the initial settlement and early agricultural periods of southeast Travis County's history. The majority of farms and ranches scattered throughout the project area include resources that document the development of the area during the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

Farms, ranches, woods and open land characterize the majority of the project area, but several communities also dot the landscape. Built primarily in the 1880s and 1890s, most of these communities have ceased functioning as cohesive social and economic nodes for the surrounding farmers and ranchers. These communities were composed of core commercial and service facilities, each usually including a store, a school, a church and a cemetery. A few of the more prosperous and larger communities had cotton gins and post offices. Creedmoor had a lodge building for a fraternal organization. Economic and social changes closed the small historic country stores and schools in these communities. However, still in use throughout the project area are small churches, such as the Center Union Baptist Church, and family and community cemeteries such as those at Elroy and Carl.

None of the communities survived with all residential, commercial and service components intact. Some, such as Bluff Springs and Del Valle are absorbed into and obscured by late 20th century suburban communities. Others such as Carl and Turnerville lost population and, as a result, businesses, schools and churches closed. Communities such as Elroy and Creedmoor maintained a population base, but historic stores, gins and school facilities ceased operation or were converted to other uses.

Among the surviving communities in the project area is Moore's Crossing, at the junction of old Burleson Road and F.M. 973. In existence as early as the 1870s, Moore's Crossing, or Mooresville, is the oldest extant community in the project area. It served as an economic and social node for residents in the north central part of the project area and is adjacent to the historic low-water ford across Onion Creek. Used since at least the 1840s, the crossing was an important 19th and early 20th century point on the road to Austin from other parts of the county. By the mid 1880s, Moore's Crossing was the location of a school and about 1893, the Berry & Moore Bros. Store and an adjacent house were constructed. Other commercial enterprises included a blacksmith shop (no longer extant) and a meat market. A cotton gin built about 1909 continued in operation until the late 1920s. While the school is no longer extant and only the remains of the cotton gin survive, the store continues in operation with the adjacent house occupied by the store's proprietors. The store is the only surviving historic commercial building still in use in the project area.

While extant examples of commercial, fraternal and institutional buildings provide insight into the broader spectrum of property types in the project area, the most varied and richest component of the architectural legacy of southeast Travis County are the residential and agricultural resources that form the majority of the extant resources. A few noteworthy historic buildings date from the earliest Anglo American settlement period in the 1840s, and a number date from the late 19th century, the majority of the extant historic resources were constructed in the early 20th century. Most extant historic properties were built during prosperous periods in county history, with modifications also associated with boom periods. Thus, through their architecture, they provide insight about how the economics of agriculture and social organization changed in southeast Travis County. With this understanding, a comparison with regional and national trends reveals much about the development of the project area.

Property Types in the Survey Area

Within the project area that is the subject of the historic context portion of this report is a smaller area that was the focus of a historic resources survey that was undertaken for the City of Austin and the Federal Aviation Administration in compliance of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. The survey identified 79 historic resources at 46 properties in an area immediately south of the former Bergstrom Air Force Base. These resources can be grouped into categories based on function—domestic, commercial, institutional, agricultural and infrastructure. The categories reflect the major economic and technological events that affected the nature and appearance of the built environment in the survey area and resulted in the use of different building materials, plan, stylistic forms and exterior design embellishments. Because the survey area is a small component of the project area where no comprehensive surveys have been conducted, it is necessary to discuss and evaluate the surveyed resources within the context of extant properties, and those for which archival references exist, in the larger project area.

The project area, including the survey area, contains scattered farmsteads dating from the late 19th and early 20th centuries interspersed with small rural communities at the intersection of state and county roads. Those resources reflect the heritage of early Anglo American, German and Scandinavian settlers who migrated to the area from the southeastern United States and Europe. The oldest extant resources in the project area are in the smaller survey area. They are the Wallace-Burleson-Moore House, the log cabin at the Wallace-Burleson-Moore farmstead, and the related well. These resources date to the 1840s. In that period the area was essentially a frontier society and 1-story hand hewn log houses were the dominant building form. While the Wallace-Burleson-Moore House currently exhibits materials and styling of late 19th century rural vernacular design with Colonial Revival and Craftsman design elements, this exterior sheathing encloses a log cabin. The separate log cabin at the same property exhibits some of the construction methods and stylistic form of similar examples found in regions of the Upland South, such as Tennessee and Kentucky, and acknowledges the cultural history of the early Anglo American residents of the area. The middle-class, or yeoman, farmer and his family typically occupied dwellings of this size and type.

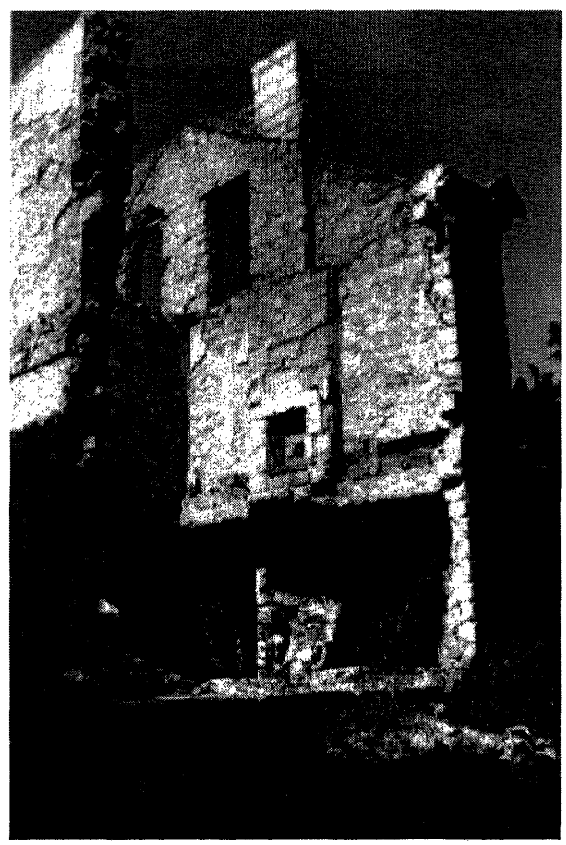

Figure 16 Judge Sebron G. Sneed House, 1995
Photo by Anna Malanka

While the oldest extant resources in the project area are in the survey area, the only surviving examples of the homes of southeast Travis County's social elite are outside the survey area. The McKinney House, now a ruin, is within McKinney Falls State Park. It and the Sneed House (Figure 16), also a ruin, and the Onion Creek Lodge are two stories in height and are built of limestone. These three buildings typify the construction, materials and form used to build dwellings and community buildings for the wealthy or those in positions of community leadership or authority. These buildings, in their mass, form and spatial relationships, reflect the building traditions of the Southern elite and draw upon Georgian and Greek Revival design. Although built far from their typical occurrence, they are expressions of a familiar cultural heritage in new place. They are perhaps best understood as one of the farthest westward extensions of Southern antebellum society not only in their architectural form but in their associations with an economy that depended on cotton as a cash crop and the labor of African American slaves.

Reflecting the difficult economic conditions immediately following the end of the Civil War, little information exists regarding construction and no known extant resources survive in the survey area from the years 1862 to about 1880. Extant buildings in the larger project area from the 1860s and 1870s are few in number.

Construction appears again on the upswing in the 1880s and 1890s with the development of several rural communities including Carl, Creedmoor and Garfield, all outside of the survey area. Extant buildings thought to date from the 1880s include the tenant house/dairy barn (Site No. 13f, Figure 17) at the Wallace-Burleson-Moore farmstead and what is thought to be a school at Turnerville (outside the survey area). In this period tenant farming became the norm in the project area with absentee landholders renting portions of their land to African American and Anglo American tenants. By the 1880s established railroad service nearby increased the opportunity for the exchange of cultural ideas. This situation was reflected in the replacement of specific regional references to cultural background and socioeconomic status of the buildings of the 1840s, 1850s and 1860s with broader national trends.

The 1890s saw construction of numerous dwellings and barns, as well as churches, schools, post offices and stores at Elroy, Carl and Moore's Crossing, among other locations. These resources are typically small scale, 1-story buildings constructed with a wood frame. Roofs are usually hipped, gable or pyramidal in form and exteriors are finished with wood siding. The most distinctive aspects of many of these buildings are their plans, which include L-plan, center passage, and simple pyramidal, front, cross or side gable roofs. Commercial buildings typically have false front stepped parapet treatments on the primary elevation that mask a simple front gable roof. An example is the store (Site No. 23a, Figure 24) at Moore's Crossing and the abandoned store at Elroy (outside the survey area). Stylistic detailing is largely absent, but when it does appear, most often references Queen Anne (Site No. 23c, Figure 19) or Classical Revival forms in the use of decorative

Figure 17 Site No. 13f, Wallace-Burleson-Moore Tenant House, 1995
Photo by Diane Williams

siding, porch treatment and fenestration embellishments. Elroy, settled by Swedish immigrants, contains some of the most substantial residential buildings from the 1890s through the 1910s extant in the project area. Farm ownership was highest among the Swedish settlers of southeast Travis County, with German settlers also owning a large percentage of their farms. The high ratio of Swedish ownership indicates a high level of prosperity, which permitted the construction of larger, more architecturally defined residences. This trend also occurs in the survey area where the German Reinhardt family settled in 1893 along McAngus Road. Residences of that family date from the 1890s through the 1920s are among the most substantial in the survey area. Extant buildings constructed in the 1890s are more numerous than those surviving from the previous two decades.

Resources dating from 1900 until the end of the historic period are the most abundant in the project and the survey areas. Resources erected in this period include dwellings, barns, cotton gins, bridges and schools. The properties usually are small, 1-story buildings constructed with a wood frame, hipped, gable or pyramidal roof and wood siding. The most distinctive aspects of many of these buildings are their bungalow forms, with front, cross or side gable roofs. Stylistic detailing is largely absent, but when it does appear in buildings constructed between 1910 and 1930, it most often references Craftsman design in the use of tapered box porch columns and wide overhanging eaves with exposed rafter tails. Two examples in the survey area are the house at Site No. 44a and the house at Site No. 2a. Toward the end of the historic period, a few buildings, such as brick or stone schools, or buildings that use some of these materials as exterior finishes were constructed. An example is the brick school in Elroy that dates from the 1930s. Buildings erected in the 1930s and 1940s are generally wood frame with wood or asbestos siding and front, cross or side gable roof forms. Domestic buildings often have a partial width integral porch. They are without stylistic references, although the basic bungalow plan remains dominant. An example is the house at Site No. 1. The modest forms of Depression era buildings reflect the economic downturn of the 1930s and the limited availability of materials in the early 1940s due to World War II. As in the 1880s and 1890s, national architectural trends continue to dominate building form and stylistic choices.

Virtually all of the historic resources in the project area and in the survey area are vernacular buildings designed and constructed by local craftsmen or building owners. No designing engineer has been associated with the three surveyed concrete bridges, but such an origin for them is likely. The six Whipple truss spans of the former Congress Street Bridge, three of which were moved to Moore's Crossing in 1915, were fabricated in 1883 by the King Iron Bridge Company of Cleveland, Ohio. The bridge is the only resource in the project area associated with a designing architect or engineer.

The oldest and among the most significant resources in the project area—the Wallace-Burleson-Moore farmstead and the extant buildings and structures at Moore's Crossing—are within the survey area. Components of each are unique to the project area and are significant because they represent 100 years of settlement in southeast Travis County. However, within the larger project area are examples of late 19th and early 20th century residences, communities and farms that provide a basis for comparison with those found in the survey area as well as information on different aspects of the county's history. While the survey area has relatively few resources built between 1880 and 1925, the remainder of the project area has many.

Reconnaissance in the project area revealed that no new farmsteads were established between 1880 and 1925 near Onion Creek. But many new farms developed away from Onion Creek. Those farms near communities that developed or expanded in the 1880s tended to remain modest in scale, like those along Onion Creek. This reflects the slowly improving economic conditions of the post Reconstruction era and the high incidence of tenant farming in the southeast part of the county. The farms established in the mid 19th century along Onion Creek and the community around Moore's Crossing remained relatively stable with no major subdivisions of larger farm parcels and no construction of new farmhouses or commercial buildings until the end of the 19th century. In the 1880s and 1890s improvements to, and modest expansion of, existing facilities occurred at Moore's Crossing. At the Wallace-Burleson-Moore farmstead a tenant house and at least one barn appear to have been built or developed from pre-existing buildings. However, farms near communities that developed or expanded in the 1890s often included more substantial residences, such as those at Elroy, reflecting a growing population and an improving economy.

Rural communities in the project area differ in size, in period of establishment, and in the number and type of specific amenities, yet they share a similar site plan and core group of buildings. Nearly all were at the junction of two roads, often where a smaller, less traveled thoroughfare created a "T" intersection with a larger highway. Clustered around or near this intersection was a store, with an adjacent house for the store owner, a school, a church, and a cemetery. Often a blacksmith shop, such as at Moore's Crossing, was near the store, since this feature was important to the successful operation of nearby tenant farms (Texas Applied Economics Club 1916: n.p.). Sometimes, as in the case of Moore's Crossing, specialized stores, such as a butcher shop were included commercial enterprises. More prosperous communities with a larger population base, such as Elroy or Pilot Knob, had a cotton gin. Creedmoor had a lodge building used by an unknown fraternal organization, and an "amusement hall" near Onion Creek provided a community gathering place for socials, such as dances and picnics (Ibid 1916:n.p.). Vital to effective functioning of the rural farms they served, these communities provided concentrated nodes where commerce, education, religion and social interaction took place. Buildings in these communities changed both in number and in use as the economy, advances in technology and farming practices, and the social organization of the surrounding area, evolved over time.

Property Types

The following property typology assesses 79 resources at 46 properties documented in the survey area and observed in the larger project area in 1995. These resources reflect the history of this agricultural area and include a variety of built forms that can be classified into eight groups or property types: domestic buildings (including single family and multiple family dwellings and auxiliary buildings such as privies, wells, water cisterns and garages); commercial buildings; agricultural buildings (including barns, sheds and agricultural products processing and support buildings such as cotton gins and blacksmith shops); social buildings; educational buildings; religious buildings, funerary sites (cemeteries), and infrastructure elements. This classification system is based primarily on the original or intended use of the building or feature and is consistent with terms and definitions used in the statewide historic context "Community and Regional Development in Texas 1690-1945" and *National Register Bulletin 16a*. Subtypes, based on plan and stylistic features, are identified within each of the building types as is possible to further distinguish the historic properties and facilitate analysis and evaluation. Table F-1 in this chapter illustrates the relative proportion of the property types in the survey area.

Domestic Properties

The property type Domestic Properties is the most common in the survey area and accounts for 51 resources or 75 percent of the total. This category includes 39 single family residences, two multiple family residences and 10 domestic auxiliary resources. In the auxiliary subcategory are one privy, two wells, two garages, and five sheds. Examples of domestic properties are in every part of the survey area. Most of these resources are 1-story wood frame buildings with gable roofs. Common alterations to the dwellings include changes to porch supports and the enclosure of porch areas to create additional interior living space, replacement of original wood frame windows with metal frame types, and construction of large additions. Other alterations include the enclosure of older domestic forms such as a mid 19th century log cabin within a larger late 19th century domicile. Alterations to auxiliary resources, such as sheds, garages and wells, are few and include such minor changes like the addition of concrete cisterns around well openings and the attachment of a wood well cover and pipe rail supported bucket winch. Domestic resources in the larger project area include types that are in the survey area. Examples with hipped and pyramidal roofs are in the project area. A small number of 1- and 2-story domestic resources constructed of limestone also are in the larger project area. Two are in ruins. The third is boarded up and vacant.

Domestic Properties, as a property type, is divided into three major categories: Vernacular Houses, Popular Houses and High Style and Revival Style Houses. Both Vernacular and Popular Houses are distinctive architectural forms that typically are modestly scaled and have minimal architectural detailing. The third category, High Style and Revival Style Houses, includes domestic buildings that utilize architectural features found in historic architectural styles as well as innovative architect-derived design concepts. Some houses in this category are the result of architect generated designs. The discussion of Domestic Properties also addresses the architectural styles and broad movements that influenced architects, contractors and homeowners. A section on Domestic Auxiliary Resources also is presented.

Vernacular Houses

The first houses built in the survey area were modest buildings that typically encompassed only a few rooms. These vernacular houses are original buildings constructed for and by ordinary people. They are defined by floor plans and forms that have remained remarkably stable in the face of stylistic change and diversity. Modest in size and typically without significant exterior architectural ornamentation, vernacular, or folk, houses were built since pre-historic times until about 1930. In the United States, the folk house category includes dwellings built by various Native American groups, those built by early European American and African American settlers in the pre-railroad era, and those belonging to folk buildings constructed in the post-railroad times period. Some folk houses, such as the log cabin, have been adapted from traditional German and Scandinavian house forms to the materials and needs of the Upper South and parts of Texas and the far west. Built primarily in the pre-railroad era, they reflect local cultural building traditions and patterns. Most were the product of pioneers who essentially replicated traditional non-standardized building forms using local materials such as hand hewn logs and native stone.

Vernacular resources continued to be constructed after the arrival of regularly scheduled transportation systems. These systems, most often a railroad or stage line, dispersed mass produced materials to formerly remote areas of the country, which encouraged standardization in construction methods, massing and aesthetic building forms. These innovations replaced to a large degree the previous, pre-railroad era emphasis on more specific, local, culturally oriented building traditions. Beginning in the 1880s planed wood was more readily available and decorative trim, such as jigsawn or lathe-turned components applied as a stylistic statement, often was purchased at a local lumberyard or ordered from a catalog. Because of the use of widely available massed produced construction materials in the post-railroad era, these buildings often incorporate elements reflective of national trends. Although most often unadorned, dwellings constructed in the post railroad era, such as the L-plan (or gable front and wing) dwelling sometimes exhibit architectural ornamentation reflective of high-style and architect built houses like those associated with Queen Anne or Eastlake designs. Other folk houses, often those with pyramidal or front gable roofs, and single width plans (shotgun houses) will exhibit elements of Classical Revival or Greek Revival designs.

Although vernacular domestic buildings in the survey area and in the larger project area exhibit a variety of plans and forms, most in the survey area are front gable and side gable massed plan houses. Only two in the survey area are L-plans and only one is a center passage house. More often than not the basic form of the vernacular house varies, especially at the rear and side elevations, where original, integral appendages or subsequent additions increase living space. In these cases, alterations may modify the original plan form to an extent that classification as a subtype is uncertain at best. The physical characteristics of each subtype described in the following paragraphs relates the spatial arrangements and configurations common within each of the plan subtypes.

The **Log Cabin**, a vernacular house from the pre-railroad era, is easily identified by its one, two, three or four room plan. Each room is a "pen." Built of hand hewn logs and chinked with mud and rock, this type of house has rooms that are rectangular in plan, with a side or front gable roof, end wall or internal chimneys and simple door and window openings. Shutters on windows provided security in place of glazing. Common in the Upland South, log cabins were frontier solutions to providing shelter in isolated places without access to planing mills and skilled carpenters. These houses developed from Germanic forms brought to Pennsylvania by German and Scandinavian settlers and later modified by Anglo, Irish and Scots inhabitants as they moved farther west and south into regions of present day Virginia, West Virginia, Kentucky and Tennessee. One log cabin was identified in the survey area. It is the cabin associated with the Wallace-Burleson-Moore Farmstead at Site No. 13b (Figure 18). A second similar cabin, with larger dimensions is incorporated within the walls of the adjacent Wallace-Burleson-Moore House.

Figure 18 Site No. 13b, Log Cabin at Wallace-Burleson-Moore Farmstead, 1995 Photo by Diane Williams

A variant on the single or multiple pen log cabin is the **Dog Trot Log Cabin** or house, which is identified by its one-, two-, three- or four-room plan intersected by a roofed, open-ended center passage, or breezeway. Configurations include double, triple and four pen designs where multiple rooms connect internally on each side of the dog trot passage. Construction methods, chimney placement, fenestration patterns and ethnic and geographic origins are similar to those of the log cabin or log house. No other extant log cabins were observed in the larger project area.

The **L-plan** dwelling is Texas' most common house form of the late 19th century and is easily identified by its L-shaped building footprint. Part of the post-railroad group of vernacular dwellings, it may have integral rear ells, or enclosed rear porches, but the most distinctive feature of L-plan houses is the front projecting wing that extends from the side gable main building mass. Wood frame construction is typical and weatherboard siding often sheaths the exterior. Because they were built during the late 19th and early 20th centuries, after mass produced siding and exterior ornamentation was readily available, L-plan dwellings sometimes display elaborate detailing or ornamentation, particularly on the porch, above windows and in the gable ends. In such cases these houses utilize some of the decorative detailing applied to high-style Queen Anne or Eastlake examples. Entry to the L-plan dwelling is made through a central hallway or passage that has several rooms in tandem on one side and a single room on the opposite side. The front projecting wing usually consists of one to two rooms in tandem, with the rear room serving as a rudimentary kitchen and dining area. Two L-plan houses are in the survey area, the most notable is the house at Site No. 23c (Figure 19) adjacent to the Berry & Moore Bros. Store. Other L-plan houses are in the larger project area.

Figure 19 Site No. 23c, L-Plan House with Queen Anne stylistic detailing
Photo by Diane Williams

The **Center Passage** house is another form widely built in Texas during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Also most often associated with the post railroad era, the center passage (also known as hall and parlor) house is one room deep and two rooms wide with a central passage or doorway between the rooms. A side gable roof covers the main house mass and a full width shed or dropped roof porch often extends along the front. Rear shed roof additions provide additional interior living space. Wood frame construction is typical and weatherboard siding often sheaths exterior walls. Built in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, center passage dwellings occasionally display detailing and ornamentation reminiscent of high style houses of the period, particularly on the porch, above windows around doors and in gable ends. Only one center passage house was identified in the survey area, the house at 11717 McAngus Road (Site No. 46a).

The **Side Gable Massed plan** is a rectangular dwelling two or more rooms wide by two or more rooms with a side gable roof capable of spanning the 2-room depth (McAlester and McAlester 1984:98). A full width shed roof porch extends along the front. Rear or side shed roof additions are common. Wood frame construction is the norm with weatherboard or board and batten siding. In locales with a good source of native stone, foundations often are rock piers or rock slab. Built in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, these dwellings utilize standardized materials and occasionally display detailing and ornamentation reminiscent of high style houses of the period, especially on the porch. Several side gable massed plan dwellings are in the project area. Two identified in the survey area include the house at the northeast corner of Johnson and Burleson roads (Site No. 10, Figure 20).[1]

Popular Houses

Although traditional vernacular building types were built well into the second quarter of the 20th century, new domestic forms promoted in the popular reading materials of middle-class Americans during the early 1900s caught the public's eye. Consequently, popular plan types such as the bungalow appeared throughout the country and became the plan of choice over the more tradition-based side gable massed plan house. Of the popular plan types built across the nation in the early 20th century, the **bungalow** was the most significant. Although the name is often thought of as a style, the bungalow should be considered a building type, for these economical dwellings were enhanced with Craftsman, Colonial Revival, Mission Revival, Spanish Colonial Revival, Classical Revival, Tudor Revival and other decorative styling. Typical bungalow elements include shallowly pitched complex rooflines that create a low-slung profile of one or one-and-one-a-half stories and incorporate a porch in an attempt to minimize the contrast between interior and exterior space. The roof form most commonly associated with bungalows is the front-facing gable roof, although cross and side gable versions and hipped roofs also were widely used. In Mission Revival and Spanish Colonial Revival style bungalows, the roof is often flat or flat with a parapet. Most are wood frame with wood

Figure 20 Site No. 10, Side Gable Massed-Plan House (Johnson House), 1995
Photo by Diane Williams

[1]Several vernacular houses without a distinct plan type are in the survey area, and others are in the larger project area. Some of these dwellings embody characteristics of two or more plan types, most often the side gabled mass plan and the front gable single width or massed plan. Alterations to these domestic buildings are extensive and often obscure original forms. Efforts to categorize them are uncertain at best. In this group are houses at 10400 (old) Burleson Road (Site No. 25) and 5800 F.M. 973 (Site No. 15), as well as several on Towery Lane, Linda Vista and F.M. 973. Others do not have a discernible plan type due to obscuring foliage, siting and distance from the public right-of-way. In these cases important character defining information was not available. Dwellings in this group include the house at 6100 F.M. 973 (Site No. 11) and several west of Johnson Road.

siding. Spanish Colonial Revival and Mission Revival bungalows generally have stucco siding. The typical plan of a bungalow divides the interior space into three components—living, sleeping and service areas—often separated by hallways. This internal arrangement results in two rows of side-by-side rooms staggered from front to back and providing room for a substantial porch. In the United States, bungalows are a common house form between 1905 and 1940, and in southeast Travis County they span the years from about 1925 to 1950. The most widely built bungalow form incorporated Craftsman-inspired details such as angular brackets (knee braces) supporting wide overhanging eaves with carved rafter tails and beam ends. Bungalows can display a variety of porch treatments, however, the most common elements are Craftsman-inspired tapered box columns that rest either on brick or stone pedestals or reach the full height of the porch. Bungalows built toward the end of the historic period are modest in form with minimal, if any, porch or eave detailing. Siding is often asbestos shingle and roof forms are a single mass. The house at 11411 McAngus Road (Site No. 44a) is an example of a dwelling with a Craftsman- influenced porch. In addition to house forms, the bungalow was popular in a variety of other building types, including churches and 1-story tourist courts.

Fourteen domestic buildings in the survey area were identified as bungalows, making this house form the most common recognizable type in the project area. Most bungalows in the survey area do not exhibit specific stylistic elements and are instead modest examples of the plan type, rather than examples with defined stylistic references. Two bungalows use Craftsman design features in their porch treatment. These are Site Nos. 2a and 44a. Nine are front gable dwellings, four are cross gable residences and one is a side gable plan. An example of a front gable bungalow is the house at Site No. 37a (Figure 21) on McAngus Road.

High Style and Revival Style Houses

Architectural styles are helpful in organizing buildings based on shared key physical characteristics that are in constant use within a specific time span. Defined by the presence of a combination of architectural details, or in the case of modern architecture, the lack of such ornament, stylistic categories are an efficient basis for ordering the built environment, and they function as a shorthand in architectural analysis. Some buildings, especially a community's largest or most important buildings, can be effectively understood using stylistic categories, but this concept falls short when applied to most domestic buildings as well as the commercial buildings that comprise the central business district and the architecture of the strip—service stations, motels, shopping centers, factories and warehouses. While a small portion of a community's total historic resources may be classified as an example of a given style, most are vernacular or popular houses that display easily applied elements associated with a style.

Building in southeast Travis County began in the 1840s in a frontier environment that precluded the availability of building materials necessary to construct architectural forms reflective of prevailing urban and small town tastes. The result was a scattering of vernacular buildings made from local materials—logs and native limestone. High style buildings were rare in southeast Travis County until the 1850s. When present, high style buildings reflected traditional forms of the American South as is seen in the design of the Sneed House and the McKinney House. These display Georgian and Greek Revival design elements. After the Civil War and the subsequent arrival of the railroad, more variety in building materials and more affordable prices for such items fostered the appearance of architectural forms based on prevailing national tastes in architecture. From the 1880s through the early 1920s southeast Travis County saw the construction of buildings that expressed a variety of stylistic features through the application of inexpensive machine made porch and window trim and siding materials. All capitalized on technological advances of the Industrial Revolution that were disseminated by the railroad.

The Queen Anne style expressed the nature of the late 19th century picturesque movement and an elaborate arrangement of ornamental details drawn from medieval English architecture gave the style its appeal. Characteristic of Queen Anne styling is its asymmetrical form expressed in wood frame construction raised to two or three stories. A collection of rounded towers, domes of many shapes, turrets and steeply pitched roofs built of conical, pyramidal and hipped shapes distinguished Queen Anne architecture. No other style exhibited such a rich variety of textures as seen in the use of smooth clapboard, imbricated shingles, polychrome roof tiles, carved brackets, turned balusters and porch supports and sawn and pierced bargeboards, all combined to create a harmonious form. A subtype of Queen Anne utilizes classical columns and other decorative elements along with more fanciful Queen Anne embellishment. The Queen Anne style was popular in the 1880s and 1890s when southeast Travis County experienced post-Reconstruction economic recovery. Reflecting wealth and influence, the most prominent and successful residents of a community often selected the Queen Anne style when they built houses. High style houses with Queen Anne detailing were constructed on the former Bergstrom Air Force Base, but are no longer extant.

The style was also popular among the less affluent, or those who wished to update an existing house. In these circumstances selected features, such as a bay window, porch brackets or other trim were added to L-plan and modified L-plan houses (those that incorporate a hipped roof section in the central portion of a L-plan house). A vernacular dwelling with Queen Anne style detailing in the survey area is Site No. 23c (see Figure 19). Several other examples are in the larger project area.

Figure 21 Site No. 37a, Front Gable Bungalow, 1995
Photo by Diane Williams

From the late 19th century well into the 20th century, the promotion of historic styles in builder's magazines, professional journals and the popular press created a demand throughout the nation for houses in the Colonial Revival, Classical Revival, and other revival styles. This design movement was a reaction to the highly decorative, eclectic late Victorian era styles based on resurgent and traditional aesthetic modes. The 1893 World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago featured an ideal city created for the fair that showcased classicism and brought it to the fore as a favored American architectural style. Architects drew ambitious and academically correct designs, while the majority of modest revival styled examples were derived from women's magazines, plan books and mail-order catalogs.

A popular architectural expression of the period between 1890 and 1915 was the Classical Revival. This style uses the classical orders as well as pediments, temple front motifs and symmetrical facade organization. Some especially well developed examples use Palladian windows to mark the interior location of stairways. A 2-story portico, which is on both private and public architecture, is the style's signature detail, although vernacular houses may have a porch with Doric or Tuscan columns that merely reflect the style. One high style Classical Revival house is in the project area near Creedmoor.

The Classical Revival style was also popular among the less affluent and those who wished to update an existing house. In these circumstances selected features, such as classical columns, boxed eave treatments in a gable end, a formal entry with a wood door flanked by sidelights and topped with a transom, or a hipped roofed dormer, were incorporated in the design of modestly scaled rectangular plan hipped roof or pyramidal roof houses. In other cases porch treatments added to L-plan and modified L-plan houses updated an older house. No Classical Revival houses are in the survey area, but a few with Classical Revival inspired elements are in the larger project area, the majority near Creedmoor and Elroy.

The Colonial Revival style also was popular nationally between the late 1870s and the early 1950s. Impetus for this architectural movement derives from the 1876 Philadelphia Centennial, which spurred interest in the country's pre-Revolutionary past and its architectural history. The balanced facades of colonial style dwellings are relatively undecorated except for the entry bay, where single story porticos or modeled door surrounds embellish the opening. Dormers enhance the hipped or gable roof as do exaggerated chimney stacks. While no Colonial Revival houses are in either the survey or project areas, the Wallace-Burleson-Moore House (Site No. 13a, Figure 22), enlarged about 1900, was modified with the construction of a new exterior sheath to enclose the original log cabin and the new portions of the house. This exterior includes some modest Colonial Revival elements such as the entry door treatment and eave returns on some gable ends.[2]

DOMESTIC AUXILIARY RESOURCES

Within the category Domestic Properties is the subcategory, Domestic Auxiliary Resources. This classification includes outbuildings intimately associated with and necessary to domestic uses in rural and small town locations during the 19th and early 20th centuries. These include features such as privies, wells, water cisterns and towers, and storage sheds. Most often, auxiliary domestic resources are 1-story high (except for wells, cisterns and water towers), no more than one or two small rooms, and are wood or corrugated metal. They are utilitarian, usually with gable or hipped roofs and simple window and door treatments. A few reflect the architectural style or construction materials used for the domestic building with which they are associated. An example is the shed (Site No. 23e) at the Berry & Moore Bros. Store. It has a front gable roof and siding identical to a nearby front gable house built (Site No. 23d). Also in this group are wells, cisterns and water towers. Wells and cisterns are another distinctive type of Domestic Auxiliary Resources in the project area. They may feature concrete or stone linings along the walls. A concrete, wood or metal cover protects the water supply. Often metal pipe or a wood frame forms a bucket and winch support for leverage in drawing water. An example is the well at the Wallace-Burleson-Moore House (Site No. 13d, Figure 23). Large and small water cisterns store water pumped from wells designated for domestic and agricultural uses. These are most often above ground concrete tanks with or without covers. Water towers serve the same function as storage cisterns, but hold water pumped from

[2]The front porch of this dwelling was further modified in the 1920s when Craftsman elements were added. These include exposed rafter tails, and presumably, the porch posts. The posts were further changed in the post-historic period to metal supports.

streams or underground wells in wood or cylindrical tanks. The tanks are of wood or metal and are elevated on metal or wood legs.

Significance

Since they represent such a large percentage of the area's historic built environment, Domestic Properties are the major component of the 19th and 20th century heritage of southeast Travis County. As such they are the most important link to the area's physical development. A domestic property can have both historic and architectural significance and may be eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A, B, C or D either individually or as part of a historic district. A domestic building with historic significance is one that is representative of important events or trends in the past (Criterion A) or is associated with an individual(s) that made noteworthy contributions to the city's historical development (Criterion B). A domestic resource with architectural significance is one that displays notable physical elements, craftsmanship or design or one that is an outstanding example of a style or an architect's or builder's work (Criterion C). A domestic resource with archeological significance is one that because of its apparent age and surviving features has the potential to significantly contribute to our understanding of the area's history (Criterion D).

Figure 22 Site No. 13a, Wallace-Burleson-Moore House, 1995
Photo by Diane Williams

An individual resource considered eligible under Criterion A most likely will be a residence erected in the mid to late 19th century or early 20th century and associated with events such as settlement, growth and prosperity in the cotton culture antebellum period, the tenant farms of the immediate post-Civil War period, increasing economic stability of the late 19th and early 20th centuries, and the introduction of new crops and agricultural techniques. An example might be a house associated with the earliest Anglo American settlement periods.

Because of the area's rural character, historically significant properties associated with the same time period will not necessarily be in one part of the survey area or along one street, as is often the case in urban environments. They will instead be scattered throughout the project area and will most likely be nominated individually or as part of a thematic group nomination. Buildings associated with tenant farming after the Civil War or with the development of small crossroads communities are examples of how resources could be eligible under Criterion A. If these resources survive in a small and well-defined area, they may be significant as a historic district. Such a district could be nominated to the National Register if it can be shown how the area and the mix of commercial, residential and institutional buildings in it are representative of the community's early architectural influences. The buildings need not be especially noteworthy architectural examples, but should retain enough integrity to be recognizable from the period in which the district achieved its significance.

Historical significance can also involve associations with individuals who were important in the history of the area (Criterion B). Such significance most often involves a dwelling that was the home of a person who achieved importance while living there. If the building is nominated under Criterion B, it must be the residence of a person who played a vital role in the area's 19th and 20th century development and be of importance at the local level. Thus the house is directly linked to its associated historic context. Such a house would be nominated when the building is the primary residence of the person during the period when he or she achieved significance and when no other extant property is more closely associated with that person. An example might be the house of a local businessman involved in the economic life of the community and in decisions affecting the development of the community.

A domestic resource also may be nominated to the National Register under Criterion C as a noteworthy example of an architectural style, type or form identified and discussed in the Description section of the property type Domestic Buildings. If nominated for this reason, the property would be considered under the Area of Significance of Architecture. The house could exhibit exceptional craftsmanship and detailing that might distinguish it from other similar examples in the community. Or a resource could be significant for its overall architectural merits, an example of a specific type or method of construction, or because it is a representative example of a once common style or method of construction, now rare.

Domestic properties also can be nominated to the National Register under Criterion C as members of a historic district that includes a concentration of similarly intact historic properties within a well defined area. Historic districts may include buildings that are not necessarily significant on an individual basis but are noteworthy because the area has few major changes or additions that post-date the period of significance. The area should convey cohesiveness and evoke a strong sense of the past, which is further reinforced by the survival of unpaved streets. When nominated as part of a historic district, domestic properties can provide a more complete cross section of the local history and can help determine the broad themes and influences that contributed to an area's growth and development.

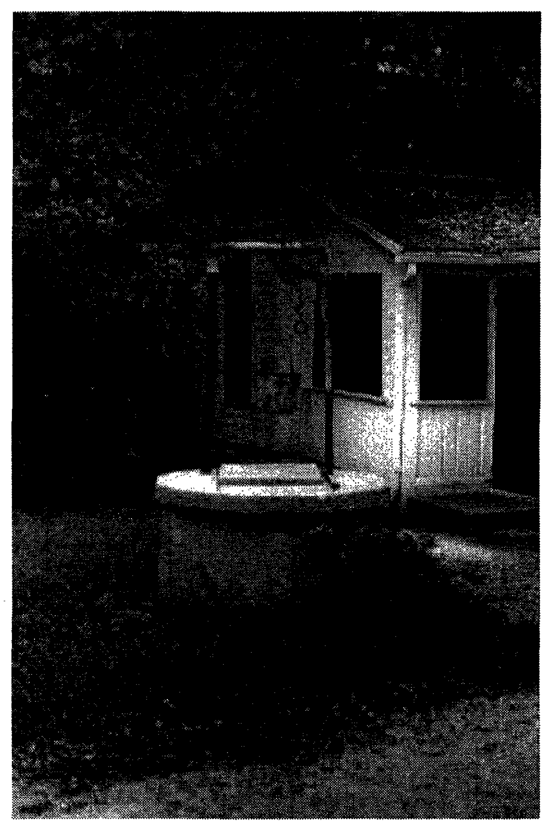

Figure 23 Site No. 13d, Well at Wallace-Burleson-Moore Farmstead, 1995 Photo by Diane Williams

In addition, groupings of domestic properties enable an understanding of how the area functioned as a whole. An analysis of architectural styles or construction methods can identify development patterns and reveal to what extent different cultural groups influenced local architecture and diverged from, or adhered to, prevailing trends in architectural design.

Finally, domestic properties may be nominated to the National Register under Criterion D when they have yielded or are likely to yield information important to understanding building technology of one period and area. Such significance involves a dwelling that dates from the 19th century, is associated with events or individuals important in the economic or social history of the community, and exists in a setting that retains a high degree of contextual integrity. An example might be an early 20th century house that was the home of a merchant or trader. It might yield important information about local construction methods and materials for a dwelling associated with a person of significant standing in the community. In addition, it might yield important information about the person and his or her occupation.

Registration Requirements

Individual Properties

Domestic properties can be considered for nomination to the National Register if they are at least 50 years old and retain a significant amount of their architectural integrity. They should be recognizable to their period of significance, which for Criteria C and D is the date or period of construction. To be listed in the National Register, a domestic resource also must meet at least one of the four National Register Criteria for Evaluation (Criteria A, B, C or D). Properties may be listed individually or as a Contributing member of a historic district or part of a thematic or Multiple Property nomination. To be listed individually, or as part of a district, a domestic property must be strongly linked with and related to the associated historic or architectural context. The Statement of Significance should discuss how the individual property or historic district meets the National Register Criteria and how it relates to the historic context.

Because an individual domestic resource nominated under Criterion A or B is one with strong historical associations, it does not necessarily have to be virtually unaltered or a particularly noteworthy example of an architectural style, type or form. It should, however, retain sufficient integrity to be recognizable from its period of significance and be closely associated with important trends or events in the past (Criterion A) or with individuals who have been historically important (Criterion B). Whether nominated under Criterion A or B, a strong case must be made to establish the significance of that trend, event or person within 19th and early 20th century development in southeast Travis County. Merely stating that a residence was the home of a locally successful merchant is not sufficient justification for listing in the National Register. The accomplishments of that individual must be articulated and related to the historic context. In addition, such a property must have been used by that person when significance was achieved or be the residence most closely associated with that individual.

Many individual historic residences are candidates for listing in the National Register under Criterion C as good examples of an architectural style, type of method of construction, or are noteworthy commissions of an architect. However, the building's relation with the historic context must be addressed and its physical integrity must be retained to a high degree. A resource's exterior appearance and detailing should appear almost exactly as it did when it was originally built, or when it was sympathetically altered 50 or more years ago. Although architectural materials deteriorate over time, restoration, rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts should be sensitive to the property's historic character and should utilize shapes, forms and materials that are compatible with the original, according to the guidelines set forth in the *Secretary of Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation.*

The installation of historically inappropriate elements can detract from a resource's physical integrity and, therefore, can make it ineligible for the National Register. Common alterations that can compromise a property's integrity include the replacement of wood sash windows with metal sash windows, the removal of the original roof type and the installation of a roof incompatible with the resource's original architectural style or construction method, or the extensive resurfacing of the exterior walls. Removal of architecturally significant details also can compromise the property's historic integrity.

Aspects of Integrity for Individual Properties

Domestic properties determined eligible for listing in the National Register under Criterion A, B, C, or D must maintain high levels of integrity as defined by *National Park Service Bulletin 15.* They should retain integrity of location, setting, materials, design, workmanship, association and feeling. Integrity of materials has been discussed above. Other aspects of integrity are detailed below.

For domestic properties to retain integrity of location they must be on their original sites or moved within the designated period of significance. If moved after the period of significance, the property could be eligible if it is re-sited in the same direction relative to the original siting, with all existing Contributing outbuildings (where applicable) and the recreation of historically significant landscaping elements. Spatial relationships between the main resource and its outbuildings should be maintained, as on the original site. Buildings that have been moved and not re-sited according to their historic placement would not be eligible for listing in the National Register. Few historic buildings in the project area have been moved so nearly all retain integrity of location.

Domestic properties considered under Criterion C should retain the landscaping features or ambient environment internal to the site, as well as any features such as walks and driveways that date from the period of significance. All of these factor into integrity of setting. In most cases, the installation of walkways and driveways not present in the period of significance are considered minor changes to the original setting and do not detract significantly from the historic setting. The design of additional buildings such as storage sheds or garages should be stylistically compatible with the eligible resource. If the resource is designed and built of materials and craftsmanship compatible with the original materials, such construction would not significantly change the setting.

The same principles apply to domestic properties considered under Criteria A and B although they would not be held to the same degree of integrity as those under Criterion C, for architectural merit. Under Criterion C a property must retain evidence of original craftsmanship and distinguishing design features such as original exterior siding, original windows, and architectural embellishment in the form of decorative trim, moldings and roof treatments. In nearly all cases, historic domestic properties are constructed of wood. Most common alterations include the application of non-original asbestos or synthetic siding to the exterior walls, the replacement of roof materials, exterior doors, and wood frame windows with aluminum and other metal frame windows. Replacement of exterior doors and no more than one third of the original windows does not effect eligibility, provided that window and door openings remain intact. While roof materials may be changed and not affect eligibility, alterations to roof form and shape will eliminate a building from National Register eligibility. Alterations to the original roof line may be acceptable if made within the period of significance. The same principles apply to domestic properties considered under Criteria A and B although they would not be held to the same degree of integrity as those under Criterion C, for architectural merit.

Historic Districts

To be eligible for listing in the National Register, a historic district must be a well defined area that contains a significant concentration of historic (pre-1946) resources that retain their architectural integrity to a high degree. Approximately 50 percent of all features in the district should be classified as Contributing, a designation that requires a property to retain enough of its original fabric to be recognizable to the district's period of significance. The property does not necessarily have to be unaltered but should retain its most important historic architectural details and materials. A Contributing property can also be a property that does not necessarily relate to the prevailing architectural character but relates to the historic function of the district, such as the ca. 1893 Berry & Moore Bros. Store.

Domestic properties classified as Contributing should still have their original roof configuration and utilize the original construction methods and materials. Most of the original windows should be in place and the exterior walls should be sheathed with original siding. The installation of contemporary metal sash windows, the addition of several rooms or wings in a manner that is incompatible with the original construction, and the residing of the exterior walls with a non-historic material are generally considered insensitive alterations and can disqualify a building for listing as a Contributing property. More superficial alterations, such as the application of non-historic colors or the installation of composition or metal roofing are less severe compromises of the resource's integrity and do not, by themselves, warrant rejection of the building as a Contributing element.

If a district is nominated for its historical associations, architectural integrity of the dwellings is not as critical as it would be for a district nominated for its architectural significance, and the integrity problems discussed in the preceding paragraph are not necessarily applicable. However, such a district should have very few non-historic buildings within its boundaries.

Associated historic outbuildings and structures also can be considered Contributing elements if they display architectural detailing that is in keeping with the overall form of the resources with which they are associated. Such outbuildings and structures may include 1-story sheds and storage buildings, garages, and wells that incorporate stylistic elements similar to those on the main house.

Noncontributing properties are those that detract from a district's historic character. They should comprise less than 50 percent of all buildings in a district. This category includes historic resources and their ancillary buildings that have lost integrity though severe exterior alterations, as discussed projecting, or were moved to a new location within the last 50 years. Post-1945 buildings comprise the other major group within the Noncontributing category; most of these display physical characteristics that have little in common with the prevailing historic character of the area.

Finally, a residential historic district, like all historic districts, must have boundaries that are logically determined and can be defended on aesthetic or historical grounds. Gerrymandering to bypass Noncontributing properties is not permitted. Instead, district boundaries must be regularly shaped, and whenever possible, follow street lines and local historical trends.

Aspects of Integrity for Historic Districts

Each domestic property within a historic district considered under Criterion A, B or C must maintain integrity of location, setting, workmanship, design, materials, feeling and association.

Domestic properties that are Contributing to the overall integrity of a historic district must be on their original sites or moved within the designated period of significance. If moved after the period of significance, the property could be eligible if it is re-sited in the same direction relative to the site, with all existing Contributing outbuildings (where applicable) and the recreation of historically significant landscaping elements. Spatial relationships between the main resource and its outbuildings should be maintained, as on the original site. Resources that have been moved and not re-sited according to their historic placement would be designated Noncontributing properties in a National Register historic district. Very few historic properties in the project area have been moved.

Historic districts should retain the landscaping features or ambient environment internal to the district as well as any features such as walks and driveways that date from the period of significance. In most cases, the installation of walkways and driveways not present in the period of significance are considered minor changes and do not detract significantly from the historic setting. Major changes in setting such as the introduction of new streets or closing off original streets, however, may have a deleterious effect on the historic district.

Within a district all properties—both historic and non-historic—should be evaluated to determine their Contributing and Noncontributing status. The majority of properties within a district should be determined Contributing properties. While new domestic construction would be designated Noncontributing, to maintain the historic setting, it should be stylistically compatible with the eligible resources within the district.

Other aspects of integrity include integrity of workmanship, design, feeling and association. Non-original construction should be designed and built with materials and with craftsmanship compatible with the original materials. Such construction would not significantly change the character of the historic setting. Under Criterion C a property must retain evidence of original craftsmanship and distinguishing design features such as wood windows, original porch treatments and original siding materials. In southeast Travis County, properties eligible under Criterion C should retain jigsawn porch braces, and lathe-turned or chamfered porch posts, original fenestration patterns and materials. In nearly all cases, historic domestic properties are wood frame covered with wood siding. The most common alterations include application of synthetic siding or asbestos shingles to exterior walls, replacement of roof materials, and replacement of exterior doors and wood frame windows with aluminum and other metal frame windows. Replacement of exterior doors and no more than one-third of the original windows does not affect eligibility, provided that window and door openings remain intact. Roof materials may be changed and not affect eligibility. Alterations to the original roof line may be acceptable if made within the period of significance. The same principles apply to domestic properties considered under Criteria A or B although they would not be held to the same degree of integrity as those under Criterion C, for architectural merit.

Commercial Properties

Only two of the properties in the survey area are categorized as commercial resources, although several are extant in the project area. Commercial development in the project area is that of scattered rural communities built between the

1870s and the early 20th century. The majority of commercial properties in the project area date from the late 19th and early 20th centuries, are 1-story wood frame construction with gable or step gable (false front) parapet roofs. These generally rectangular plan buildings served as small retail stores. Other commercial buildings are rectangular plan, flat roof service stations. All identified and observed commercial resources have minimal stylistic detailing. Their primary character defining element is a false front parapet roof, most often associated with the frontier boomtown, and common in rural communities across the country in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The majority of commercial resources in the project area are in widely disbursed rural communities along county and state roads.

The same issues of style that limit its usefulness in describing and assessing domestic properties are applicable to commercial architecture. For this reason, building-type analysis, paired with stylistic evaluation and descriptive summary provides a more precise system for assessing commercial resources. This topological analysis is based on facade organization and adapted from Richard Longstreth's seminal typology of commercial architecture in *The Buildings of Main Street* (1987). One commercial type described by Longstreth is in the project area; the One-Part Commercial Block. Longstreth's chapter on "Combinations and Exceptions" as well as chapters on other types, are helpful in further assessing commercial architecture in the project area.

The **One-Part Commercial Block**, the most common commercial form of late 19th and early 20th century rural America is a discrete, independently treated building. Free standing or part of a group, the One-Part Commercial Block facade consists of one or two windows of varying size and a doorway most commonly to one side of the windows. False parapet front roofs and brick or stone coping frequently enhance the parapet wall. A small number display detailing associated with a particular architectural style. The Berry & Moore Bros. Store (Site No. 23a, Figure 24), one of two commercial buildings in the project area, displays the character defining false parapet roof.

Commercial properties comprise a small component of the 75 resources in the survey area. They are few in number within the larger project area as well. Alterations include the expansion of the original porch on one building and the removal of the parapet and conversion of the other building to a residence. Distinguishing features are associated with variations in plan, entrance and fenestration patterns, and decorative elements, such as the parapet treatment.

Significance

Commercial resources are an important, if small, component of southeast Travis County's past and played a vital part in the economic and social life of the rural communities and surrounding farms and ranches. Therefore, they may be eligible for listing in the National Register under Criterion A, B, C or D for their historical associations, architectural significance or potential archeological deposits. A commercial resource can be nominated as an individual property or as a member of a historic district.

A commercial property under consideration for individual listing under Criterion A is one closely associated with important trends in local history. For example, it could be a building that housed a retail business that contributed to the economic development of the community in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, or one that served as a social place where various ethnic and racial groups mingled and conducted business. If a group of commercial resources is nominated as a historic district under Criterion A, the resources must collectively represent a significant period in local history, such as the role of retail businesses during the development of new agricultural practices and the introduction of new crops in the early 20th century.

A commercial property nominated under Criterion B is one that is associated with an individual who played an important role in the development of the area. It is important that the contributions of that person be clearly stated. When a commercial property is nominated for its historical associations under Criterion B, it must be a property most closely associated the individual.

Other commercial properties may be nominated for their architectural merit under Criterion C. An individual commercial building may display noteworthy craftsmanship or design features, or may be an outstanding example of an architectural style, type or form, or may be a rare surviving example of a once common building form or style. It may be an important commission of a local architect, contractor or builder. Groupings of commercial properties often possess related architectural significance that may be considered a historic district. Such buildings are usually of similar scale and massing, and utilize similar materials. Thus, they are closely related physically and aesthetically and often appear as a unified group of independent parts. Such concentrations can have several resources that are significant individually and/or can include properties that may lack significance on an individual basis but that may become more important when considered as part of a group. The overall sense of cohesion can be further reinforced if the streets retain their original width and unpaved surface.

Finally, commercial resources may be nominated to the National Register under Criterion D when they have yielded or are likely to yield information important to understanding building technology of the period and area. Often, such significance involves a commercial property that dates from the 19th century, is associated with events or individuals important in the economic or social history of the community, and is in a setting that retains a high degree of contextual integrity. An example might be a late 19th century building that served as a mercantile store serving all ethnic and social segments of the community.

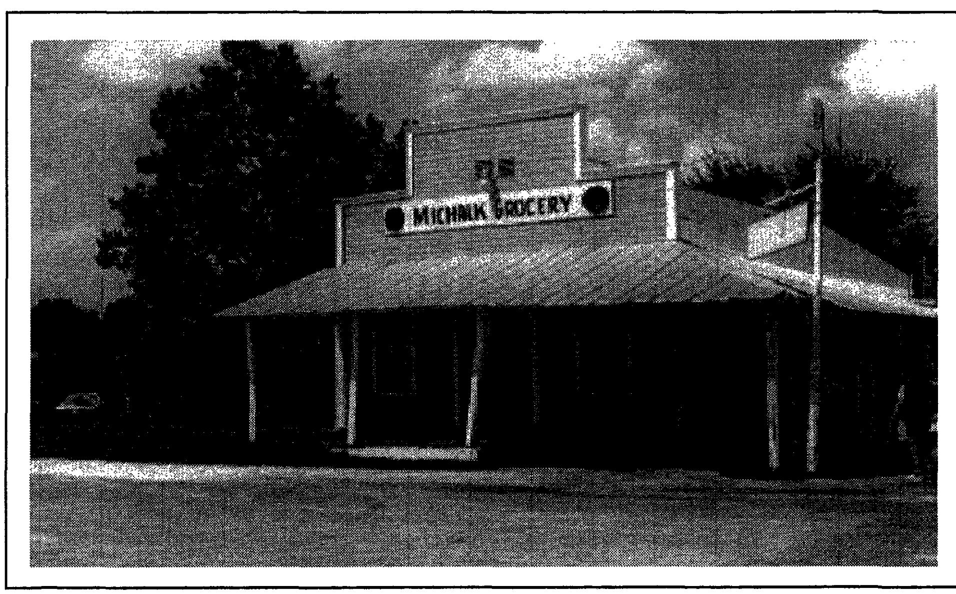

Figure 24 Site 23a, Berry & Moore Bros. Store, 1995
Photo by Diane Williams

Registration Requirements

Commercial properties can be considered for nomination to the National Register if they are at least 50 years old and retain a significant amount of their architectural integrity. They should be recognizable from their period of significance, which in most cases, is the date or period of construction. A commercial resource should retain its original fenestration pattern and its original facade. Superficial and easily reversible changes, such as the covering of original windows, are less important than major remodelings or additions that can detract from a building's overall historic character. Alterations completed more than 50 years ago may be significant in their own right and can represent the architectural evolution of the building and its uses over time. For example, a commercial building constructed in the late 19th century and remodeled in the early 1900s during an economic boom can be architecturally significant.

To be listed in the National Register, a commercial property also must meet at least one of the four National Register Criteria for Evaluation (Criteria A, B, C, and D). Resources may be listed individually or as Contributing members of a historic district. To be listed individually, or as part of a district, a commercial resource must be strongly linked with and related to the associated historic or architectural context. The Statement of Significance should discuss how the individual property or historic district meets the National Register Criteria and how it relates to the historic context.

Because an individual commercial property nominated under Criterion A or B is one with strong historical associations, it does not necessarily have to be virtually unaltered or a particularly noteworthy example of an architectural style, type or form. It should, however, retain sufficient integrity to be recognizable to its period of significance and be closely associated with important trends or events in the past (Criterion A) or with individuals who have been historically important (Criterion B). For example, a commercial building that formerly housed a locally important mercantile business need not be unaltered but must appear much as it did when the company achieved its significance. Whether nominated under Criterion A or B, a strong case must establish the relative importance of that trend, event or person within 19th and early 20th century development in the project area. The significance of the event or the accomplishments of an individual associated with a property must be articulated and related to the historic context.

Many individual historic commercial properties are candidates for listing in the National Register under Criterion C as good examples of an architectural style, type or method of construction, or are noteworthy commissions of an architect. However, the property's relation with the historic context must be addressed and its physical integrity must be retained to a high degree. A resource's exterior appearance and detailing should have few alterations and should appear much as it was when originally built or as it did when it sympathetically altered 50 or more years ago. Although architectural materials deteriorate over time, restoration, rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts should be sensitive to the building's historic character and should utilize shapes, forms, and materials that are compatible with the original, according to the recommendations of the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation*.

The installation of historically inappropriate elements can detract from a resource's integrity and, therefore, can make it ineligible for the National Register. Common alterations, which can compromise a property's integrity, include the replacement of wood sash windows with metal sash windows, the removal of the original roof type and the installation of a roof incompatible with the building's original architectural style or construction method, and the application of synthetic siding or asbestos shingles over the exterior walls. Removal of architecturally significant details can compromise the property's historic integrity.

To be eligible for listing in the National Register, a historic district must be a well defined area that contains a significant concentration of historic (pre-1946) properties that retain their architectural integrity to a high degree and relate to each other in terms of age, construction methods and materials. Approximately 50 percent of all resources in the district should be classified as Contributing, a designation that requires a property retain enough of its original fabric to be recognizable to the district's period of significance. The resource does not necessarily have to be unaltered but should retain its most important historic architectural details and materials. A Contributing property can also be one that does not necessarily relate to the architectural character of the district as a whole, but may be eligible for the National Register on an individual basis.

The small number of commercial properties in the project area precludes a historic commercial district nomination under any of the criteria, but because of their functional relationship, commercial buildings could be included in a district of historic resources like those at Moore's Crossing. There a district could include the residential, commercial and agricultural properties that comprise the historic core of the community and that convey a sense of time and place from the period of significance. Although each historic district will have its own definition of what constitutes a Contributing property, the National Park Service defines Contributing as a "Building, site, structure or object that adds to the historic architectural qualities, historic associations or archeological values for which a property is significant because a) it was present during the period of significance, and possesses historic integrity reflecting its character at that time or is capable of yielding important information about the period, or b) it independently meets the National Register criteria."

Commercial resources classified as Contributing should still have their original roof configuration and utilize the original construction methods and materials. Most of the original windows should be in place and the exterior walls should retain their original materials or those applied during the historic period. The modification of a high false parapet roof to a pitched roof, the installation of contemporary metal sash windows, the addition of several rooms or wings in a manner incompatible with the original construction, or the application of synthetic siding over the exterior walls is generally considered insensitive and can disqualify a resource for listing as a Contributing property. More superficial alterations, such as the application of non-historic colors or the installation of composition or metal roofing on an original roof form, will not warrant rejection of the resource as a Contributing element.

If the district is nominated for its historical associations, architectural integrity of the properties is not as critical as it would be for a district nominated for its architectural significance. The integrity problems discussed in the preceding paragraph are not necessarily applicable. However, such a district must be extremely intact with few non-historic properties within its boundaries.

Associated historic outbuildings can also be considered Contributing elements if they display architectural detailing that is in keeping with the overall district. Such outbuildings may include 1-story sheds and storage buildings that incorporate stylistic elements similar to those exhibited on the main resource.

Noncontributing properties are those that detract from a district's historic character. They should comprise less than 50 percent of all resources in a district. This category includes historic resources and their ancillary components that have lost their integrity through severe exterior alterations, as discussed above, or have been moved to a new location within the last 50 years. Post-1945 properties comprise the other major group within the Noncontributing category; most of these display physical characteristics that have little in common with prevailing historic character of the area.

Finally, a commercial historic district, like all historic districts, must have boundaries that are logically determined and can be defended on aesthetic or historical grounds. Gerrymandering to bypass Noncontributing resources is not permitted. Instead, district boundaries must be regularly shaped, and, whenever possible, follow street lines and local historical trends.

To determine National Register eligibility, either as an individual property or as a Contributing property within a historic district, commercial buildings should retain high degrees of integrity of location, setting, materials, design, workmanship, association and feeling. The discussion of integrity under domestic and institutional properties applies to commercial properties and should be consulted for more detailed information.

Agricultural Properties

The agricultural importance of southeast Travis County warrants the inclusion of Agricultural Properties as a property type. Many extant examples are in the project area and 22 are within the survey area. All but two of those in the survey area are barns or storage sheds. The other two are the remains of a cotton gin (Site No. 26b) and a blacksmith shop in a barn at the Wallace-Burleson-Moore farmstead. Agricultural properties comprise the second most prevalent property type in the project and survey areas. Their abundance is reflective of the importance this property type played in local history. Agricultural properties contributed to the local economy and help define the character of southeast Travis County.

For the purposes of this report, agricultural properties are those built for husbandry practices and those designed for storing, processing or manufacturing agricultural products, feed and equipment. Consequently, this property type includes a diverse collection of resources such as barns, sheds, gins and blacksmiths, and ancillary features like feed chutes and corrals. It does not include laborers quarters or other domestic properties associated with the farm complex, which are included in the domestic properties category. Despite obvious differences in scale, materials and function, agricultural resources share many associative characteristics.

Agricultural resources in southeast Travis County are on extant farmsteads, adjacent to fields and near areas of increasing suburbanization. Because of their utilitarian function, they rarely exhibit stylistic features or architectural ornamentation. Three subtypes of agricultural resources are in the survey area. Their respective functions distinguish them. The most common type is the agricultural product storage building. Examples include barns and sheds. The second type is that involved in processing an agricultural product, such as a cotton gin. The third includes blacksmith shops erected as support for agricultural activities and the manufacture of tools and implements. Closely associated with agricultural properties are auxiliary resources like feed chutes, corrals and animal training and exercising equipment. These resources are grouped in a subcategory of agricultural properties in the same way that domestic auxiliary resources are with domestic properties.

Agriculture based on cotton and dairy farming was the dominant economic force in the project area prior to the Civil War. During the latter 19th century, cotton was grown, often by tenant farmers. Dairy farming was the other primary agricultural industry. The success of farming in the post-Reconstruction era and into the first third of the 20th century led to the construction of the ubiquitous pole barn and pole shed and the less common enclosed barn with a gambrel roof. It also led to the erection of several cotton gins in the project area.

The barns identified in the survey area include those constructed of wood framing with a side gable roof, exposed rafter tails, and an open front supported by wood poles, often in the form of tree trunks. Two enclosed wood frame barns with gambrel roofs also are in the survey area. The open pole barn, sided with wood and/or corrugated metal (Site No. 12a, Figure 25) indicates the influence of the local climate where temperatures rarely fall below 30 degrees Fahrenheit, and, even more rarely, remain there for weeks or months on end. Common throughout Texas, Arkansas and parts of

Oklahoma, the pole barn is a local response to housing animals and feed in areas of relatively mild winters. The wood frame barns with gambrel roofs recall those of wetter, colder climates of the Midwest (Noble 1984:43).

Although cotton gins were once abundant in the project area, few remain standing. The gin at Moore's Crossing, built in 1909, was no longer used by the late 1920s, reflecting the increasingly hard times farmers suffered in the late 1920s and the 1930s. Only concrete foundations remain. Within the larger project area are the remains of other cotton gins, including those at Elroy and Pilot Knob. Constructed with wood or metal framing, or a combination of the two, and sided with corrugated metal and wood, gins were often the largest and most visible resources, at two, three and four stories in height, in the project area.

The blacksmith shop, locally important for supporting agricultural activities, occurred throughout the project area in the historic period. Communities, such as Moore's Crossing, Elroy and possibly Garfield, had blacksmith shops for the purpose of supporting tenant farming. Other smithies occurred on individual farms, such as the one at the Wallace-Burleson-Moore farmstead. At least two smithies were in the survey area. Fire destroyed the one at Moore's Crossing, built in the late 1890s or early 1900s. The forge at the Wallace-Burleson-Moore farm has been dismantled, but the building that sheltered it, a pole barn, is extant. From archival research and the physical evidence at the Wallace-Burleson-Moore place, it appears that smithies were in 1-story wood frame buildings, sided with wood or corrugated metal, or a combination of the two. Roofs were side or front gable accessed by an open pole front or a extra wide wood door. Alterations to the one known surviving smithy in the survey area include the repair and replacement of exterior siding over the years with wood and metal and the dismantling of the forge.

Ancillary features performed supporting agricultural functions and include elements like feed chutes, corrals and cattle loading ramps constructed of wood or metal. The corral at the Wallace-Burleson-Moore farmstead encloses a pig sty.

Significance

Agricultural properties are symbolic of the agriculturally based economy of the project area and changes to agricultural practices and technology from the mid 19th century to the mid 20th century. The operations conducted in these properties are among the most significant within the context of the historic period.

The farms associated with the barns and sheds were part of the region's economic basis and provided a livelihood and jobs for local residents, especially in the tenant farming days. Successful farming operations capitalized on the fertile soil of the area and the relatively mild climate to create a sound economy. This, in turn, stimulated development of other agricultural enterprises such as cotton gins and blacksmiths, which added to the community's economic success. These resources were the foundation of the area's prosperity for nearly 100 years.

Registration Requirements

Figure 25 Site No. 12a, Pole barn, 1995
Photo by Diane Williams

Agricultural properties can be considered for nomination to the National Register if they are at least 50 years old and retain a significant amount of their historic and architectural integrity. They should be recognizable to their period of significance. An agricultural resource should retain its original fenestration pattern and its original exterior materials, or materials applied during the historic period of significance.

Most agricultural properties will be nominated on an individual basis for their contributions to the area's historical and economic development (Criterion A) and or for their physical and architectural qualities (Criterion C). If nominated under Criterion A, an agricultural property does not necessarily need to be virtually unaltered, but it should be recognizable to its original date of construction or the period when it achieved significance. By their very nature, historic agricultural properties still in use are likely to have been altered, modernized or upgraded to permit more efficient and productive operations. Modifications, such as additions or partial demolition, may have occurred. However, if an agricultural resource is nominated under Criterion C, the exterior must retain a high degree of integrity and its overall architectural character must be intact.

Ancillary features that contributed to the success of the farming or production operation, such as a wooden feed chute adjacent to a barn, or a corral, should also be identified and evaluated and their status as Contributing or Noncontributing elements be determined. They should retain their original form, massing and exterior materials, or materials applied during the historic period.

In order for agricultural properties to be eligible for the National Register, as an individual property or as a Contributing property within a historic district, they should retain high degrees of integrity of location, setting, materials, design, workmanship, association and feeling. Factors critical in the analysis of integrity are discussed in more detail in the Registration Requirements section of the domestic properties property type. Issues central to evaluating agricultural properties for inclusion in a historic district are historical associations, physical integrity, and boundary locations. These are discussed in the Registration Requirements for domestic properties.

Institutional Properties

A few properties in the survey and project areas fall within a number of property type categories grouped together because of function, use and historical associations. These are Institutional Properties (schools, churches, government, fraternal and social buildings, and funerary buildings and sites). Although grouped together in this report for organizational purposes, each has distinctive physical attributes that set them apart from the others.

Institutional properties are for educational, governmental, fraternal or religious activities where people congregate, socialize, obtain services, or participate in other activities most often undertaken in groups. They represent the efforts of organizations such as church groups, city councils, school boards, fraternal and service organizations, cemetery boards and others to create an appropriate facility and project a suitable image to convey pride, growth, success and respect. Institutional properties are among the largest facilities in the community and are visible along county or state roads. Despite their size, most are modest in form with little or no architectural ornamentation. Although most are near the center of rural communities in the project area, some examples, such as cemeteries, are on the edge of communities away from cluster development. Most institutional buildings in the project area are wood frame and mirror the modest scale and treatment of domestic buildings in the project area. Stylistic details are minimal and generally found only on churches.

The property type Institutional Properties is divided into five subcategories: Educational Properties, Governmental Properties, Fraternal and Social Properties, Religious Properties, and Funerary Properties. Unlike those that are classified as Domestic Properties or Commercial Properties, Institutional Properties have not been systematically organized by plan and form (except for the most common types of church designs). Instead, use and stylistic influences have commonly been the primary factors in assessing and cataloging institutional architecture. While no governmental properties were identified in the project or survey areas, post offices were extant during the historic period. Therefore, a brief discussion of government properties is included. Likewise, none of the institutional properties in the project or survey areas are associated with strong stylistic references. However, a brief discussion of those most commonly used in the late 19th and early 20th centuries is included.

Architectural styles typically used for institutional properties run the gamut from classical and other historically derived styles to those developed in the mid to late 20th century. Among those popular nationally during the late 19th and early 20th centuries are the Colonial Revival, Classical Revival, Gothic Revival, Romanesque Revival, Mission Revival and Art Moderne styles. Gothic and Romanesque styles are most applied to churches and schools as to recall the medieval traditions of religion and scholarship that flourished in monastic societies. The Romanesque Revival style is based on the design traditions of Rome filtered through the medieval Romanesque style. Constructed of masonry with a gable roof and symmetrical facade with flanking towers, Romanesque Revival buildings have round arched windows and feature a large stained glass window, called a rose window, centered near the gable's peak. Doorways are usually in the center of the building or in each of two towers. Arcades composed of round arched openings are a common element.

Gothic Revival buildings feature asymmetrical massing, steep gable roofs, large, pointed arch stained glass windows, towers at or near the corners of the main facade, a large prominent rose window, and arcades composed of pointed vaulting and arches. Gothic Revival buildings are mostly of masonry or brick, although a rural American tradition, called Carpenter Gothic, is expressed in wood in houses and churches.

Mission Revival style buildings developed in the late 1880s in California and have been considered a version of the then popular Colonial Revival movement that created romanticized imagery of historic architectural forms associated with specific American locales. Distinguishing features of the Mission Revival style include low pitched red tile roofs, stucco exteriors and round arch fenestration. Facade and massing are asymmetrical with off-center front entrances. The signature element is the use of a Mission style parapet called an *espadaña.*

The Art Moderne style developed in the late 1920s and was a popular American style until the late 1940s. It utilized horizontal massing, flat roofs, horizontal bands of nearly continuous windows, and highly stylized ornamentation based on plant motifs or on mechanical forms such as airplanes, ships and locomotives. Construction was usually of concrete, stone, or wood frame with a smooth stucco exterior. The Art Moderne style was most often applied to educational, governmental and commercial buildings, and infrequently to domestic properties.

Although these aesthetic modes were used throughout the country in large urban areas, medium sized cities, smaller towns and rural communities, fully developed architectural expressions are rare in small rural centers. Often, only the most simplified references to style are applied to buildings in small rural communities such as Moore's Crossing, Creedmoor and Elroy. As with residential and commercial properties, institutional properties are more fully understood by an analysis of basic plan, roof style and materials.

Educational Properties

The category Educational Properties includes resources whose function is directly related to educational efforts. Most late 19th and early 20th century schools in cities and towns have block massing and symmetrical facades and are roughly rectangular in shape. Schools in rural areas are more modestly scaled and typically include 1-story, 1-room wood frame buildings with a small cupola to house a bell. Schools in the project area are most often near the crossroads of the various rural communities near the town center. Two surviving schools were observed in the project area. The 1-story, red brick school in Elroy dates from the 1930s. Now converted to use as a fire station, it has a rectangular plan building composed of two intersecting wings. The school in Carl is an 20th century wood frame building, now abandoned, at the junction of Carl Road and the old Lockhart Highway in Carl. No surviving school buildings are in the survey area.

Governmental Properties

Governmental Properties include city halls, court houses, jails, post offices and other resources necessary to the efficient operation of city, county, state or federal government. Governmental properties in rural areas are typically 1-story designs constructed of wood, stone or brick. Often they are topped with a false front facade or have a flat roof with a defined cornice derived from classical or other historically inspired design elements. They are usually among the most prominent in a community and are often near the center of a city block, surrounded by landscaping to form a formal park or square, or in a small rural community near the center of town. No governmental buildings were identified in the survey or project area. Several communities in the project area had post offices during the historic period. However, no photographs of free-standing post offices were identified during research and no references were uncovered in narratives. It is likely, given the isolated nature of most rural communities in the project area and the relatively small population, that this function was carried out at the local store.

Fraternal and Social Properties

Fraternal and Social Properties are buildings designed to house recreational activities such as community centers and recreation halls. Such buildings can be modest one room designs or complex arrangements organized to provide space for several activities. One extant fraternal building was identified just outside the project area on the west side of Interstate Highway 35. It is a 2-story, rectangular plan limestone Masonic Hall built in 1861. In addition to its lodge function, it also served as the location of the Pleasant Hill School until a separate school was constructed in 1936. Although outside the project area, this building served residents of the project area. In addition, a no longer extant, 1-story, wood frame rectangular plan recreation hall is known to have existed somewhere near Onion Creek, possibly in the survey area. A 2-story, wood frame, rectangular plan, lodge building was in Creedmoor. Photographs of these buildings indicate that they were built around the turn of the century. No extant fraternal or social buildings are in the survey area. None were observed in the project area.

Religious Properties

Religious Properties include churches, synagogues, temples and their related outbuildings and ancillary structures. No churches were identified in the survey area. However, three were observed in the larger project area. Those that date from the historic period are relatively small in size and display modest stylistic features. The circa 1910s church at Creedmoor is a front gable, asbestos sided, 1-room building. Its hipped roof is steeply pitched and a small cupola for a bell is mounted on top. Simple wood endboards with molded caps are reminiscent of Tuscan pilasters. The historic Haynie Chapel at Garfield dates from 1907. It has boxed eaves and a cornice return on the main elevation of the front gable, 1-room design. Gothic style side windows and a steeply pitched roof distinguish the building. Asbestos siding covers the building. A small church at Center Union mirrors those described at Garfield and Creedmoor. It appears to date from the 1940s. All have been altered with the removal of original wood frame windows and the application of asbestos siding.

Funerary Properties

Related to religious properties are Funerary Properties. These include mausoleums, crematoriums and cemeteries. Such resources often have classical or other historically derived design features. Cemeteries, as a whole, are defined by the orientation of the graves, the grave markers, landscaping or plantings, and the gates and fencing that enclose them. These features are often classically derived or display design elements common to the architecture of religious buildings. No funerary properties were identified in the survey area, nor were any observed in the project area. Several cemeteries were observed in the larger project area. They range in date from the mid 19th century through the present and reflect settlement dates of the associated communities and farms. Monuments and markers are typically of granite, marble, wood or metal. Fencing is typically metal or wire mesh.

Significance

Institutional Properties are an important, albeit minor, component of the 19th and 20th century heritage of southeast Travis County. They link the area's physical development to residents' key social, religious, educational and governmental needs and are often as important for their symbolic aspects as for their physical characteristics. Consequently, they may be significant for their historical associations (Criterion A) or for their architectural merits

(Criterion C), and may be eligible for listing in the National Register under Criterion A, B, C or D, either individually or as part of a historic district. An institutional property with historic significance is one that is representative of important events or trends in the past (Criterion A) or is associated with at least one individual who made noteworthy contributions to local historical development (Criterion B). An institutional resource with architectural significance is one that displays notable physical elements, craftsmanship or design, or one that is an outstanding example of a style or of an architect's or builder's work (Criterion C). An institutional building with archeological significance is one that, because of its apparent age and surviving features, has the potential to significantly contribute to understanding the area's history (Criterion D).

An individual property considered eligible under Criterion A most likely will be a school, church, fraternal or social hall or cemetery erected or established in the mid to late 19th century or early 20th century and associated with events such as settlement, growth and prosperity in the cotton culture antebellum period, tenant farms of the immediate post-Civil War period, increasing economic stability of the late 19th and early 20th centuries, or the introduction of new crops and agricultural techniques. One example might be a church or cemetery serving the earliest Anglo American settlers, African-American slaves or tenant farmers.

Because of the area's rural character, historically significant properties associated with the same time period will not necessarily be in one part of the survey area or along one street, as is often the case in urban environments. They will instead be scattered throughout the project area and will most likely be nominated individually. Buildings closely associated with the early settlement of southeast Travis County, tenant farming, or the development of small crossroads communities are examples of how resources could be eligible under Criterion A. Resources concentrated in well-defined areas may be eligible as a historic district because of their collective integrity and their shared historical associations. Such a district may be eligible to the National Register if it can be shown how the area and the mix of commercial, residential and institutional buildings in it are representative of the early architecture and development of the community. The properties need not be especially noteworthy architectural examples, but should retain enough integrity to be recognizable to the period in which the district achieved significance.

Historical significance can also involve associations with individuals important in the history of the area (Criterion B). Often, such significance involves a school or fraternal property associated with a person who achieved importance for their leadership. If the resource is nominated under Criterion B, it must be directly associated with a person who played a vital role in the area's 19th and 20th century development and be of importance at the local level. Thus, the resource is directly linked to its associated historic context. Such a property would be nominated when it is the primary location of the intellectual or charitable work of the person during the period when he or she achieved significance, and when no other extant property is more closely associated with that person. An example might be a teacher who contributed to the development of educational opportunities for a segment of society with little or no historical access to education.

An institutional property may be nominated to the National Register under Criterion C as a noteworthy example of an architectural style, type or form identified and discussed in the Description section of the property type Domestic Buildings. If nominated for this reason, the property would be considered under the Area of Significance of Architecture. The building could exhibit exceptional craftsmanship and detailing that might distinguish it from other similar examples in the community. Or a resource could be significant for its overall architectural merits, as an example of a specific type or construction method, or because it is a representative example of a once common style or construction method, now rare.

Institutional properties can be nominated to the National Register under Criterion C as members of a historic district that includes a concentration of intact historic resources within a defined area. Historic districts may include features that are not necessarily significant on an individual basis but that are noteworthy because the area has few major changes or additions that post-date the period of significance. The area should convey cohesiveness and evoke a strong sense of the past. When nominated as part of a historic district, institutional properties can provide a more complete cross section of the local history and can help determine broad themes and influences that contributed to an area's growth and development.

In addition, groups of institutional resources enable an understanding of how the area functioned as a whole. An analysis of architectural styles or construction methods identifies development patterns and reveals to what extent different cultural groups influenced local architecture and diverged from, or adhered to, prevailing trends in architectural design.

Finally, institutional properties may be nominated to the National Register under Criterion D when they have yielded or are likely to yield information important to understanding building technology of one period and area. Such significance often involves a late 19th or early 20th century building associated with events or individuals important in the economic or social history of the community that has survived in a setting that retains a high degree of contextual integrity. An example might be an early 20th century school that was the location of the first African American school in the area. It might yield important information about local construction methods, materials, and facility size associated with this group.

Registration Requirements

Individual Properties

Institutional properties can be considered for individual nomination to the National Register if they are at least 50 years old and retain a significant amount of their architectural integrity. They should be recognizable to their period of significance, which for Criteria C and D is the date or period of construction. To be listed in the National Register, an institutional property also must meet at least one of the four National Register Criteria for Evaluation (Criteria A, B, C or D). To be listed individually an institutional resource must be strongly linked with and related to the associated context. The Statement of Significance should discuss how the individual property meets the National Register Criteria and how it relates to the historic context.

Because an individual institutional property nominated under Criterion A or B is one with strong historical associations, it does not necessarily have to be virtually unaltered or a particularly noteworthy example of an architectural style, type or form. It should, however, retain sufficient integrity to be recognizable to its period of significance and be closely associated with important trends or events in the past (Criterion A) or with individuals who have been historically important (Criterion B). Whether nominated under Criterion A or B, a strong case must be made to establish the relative importance of that trend, event or person within 19th and early 20th century development in southeast Travis County. Merely stating that a school is where a locally successful individual was educated is not sufficient justification for listing in the National Register. The accomplishments of that individual must be articulated and related to the historic context and his or her association with the school. In addition, such a property must have been associated with that person when significance was achieved or it must have been the location of the genesis of important contributions in a particular field.

Many individual historic schools, churches and government buildings are candidates for listing in the National Register under Criterion C as good examples of an architectural style, type of method of construction, or are noteworthy commissions of an architect. However, the building's relation with the historic context must be addressed and its physical integrity must be retained to a high degree. A property's exterior appearance and detailing should appear almost exactly as when it was originally built, or as when it was sympathetically altered 50 or more years ago. Although architectural materials deteriorate over time, restoration, rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts should be sensitive to the building's historic character and should utilize shapes, forms and materials compatible with the original, according to the guidelines set forth in the *Secretary of Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation.*

The installation of historically inappropriate elements can detract from a property's physical integrity and, therefore, can make it ineligible for the National Register. Common alterations that can compromise a building's integrity include the replacement of wood sash windows with metal sash windows, the removal of the original roof type and the installation of a roof incompatible with the building's original architectural style or construction method, or the extensive resurfacing of the exterior walls. Removal of architecturally significant details also can compromise the building's historic integrity.

Aspects of Integrity for Individual Properties

Institutional properties determined eligible for listing in the National Register under Criterion A, B, C, or D must maintain high levels of integrity as defined by *National Park Service Bulletin 15.* They should retain integrity of location, setting, materials, design, workmanship, association and feeling. Integrity of materials for individual properties has been discussed above. Other aspects of integrity are detailed below.

For institutional properties to retain integrity of location they must be on their original sites or moved within the designated period of significance. If moved after the period of significance, the property could be eligible if it is re-sited in the same direction relative to the site, with all existing Contributing outbuildings (where applicable) and the recreation of historically significant landscaping elements. Spatial relationships between the main building and its outbuildings should be maintained, as on the original site. Buildings that have been moved and not re-sited according to their historic placement would not be eligible for listing in the National Register. Few historic buildings in the project area have been moved so nearly all retain integrity of location.

Institutional properties considered under Criterion C should retain the landscaping features or ambient environment internal to the site, as well as any features such as walks and driveways that date from the period of significance. All of these factor into consideration of integrity of setting. In most cases, the installation of walkways and driveways not present in the period of significance are considered minor changes to the original setting and do not detract significantly from the historic setting. The design of additional buildings should be stylistically compatible with the eligible resource. If it is so designed and built of materials and with craftsmanship compatible with the original materials, such construction would not significantly change the character of the setting.

The same principles apply to institutional properties considered under Criteria A and B although they would not be held to the same degree of integrity as those under Criterion C, for architectural merit. Under Criterion C a property must retain evidence of original craftsmanship and distinguishing design features such as original exterior siding, original windows and architectural embellishment in the form of decorative trim, moldings and roof treatments. In nearly all cases, historic institutional buildings in the project area are of wood or stone. Most common alterations include the application of non-original asbestos or synthetic siding to the exterior walls, the replacement of roof materials, exterior doors and wood frame windows with aluminum and other metal frame windows. Replacement of exterior doors and no more than one third of the original windows does not affect eligibility, provided that fenestration remains intact. While roof materials may be changed and not affect eligibility, alterations to roof form and shape will eliminate a building from National Register eligibility. Alterations to the original roof line may be acceptable if made within the period of significance. The same principles apply to institutional properties considered under Criteria A and B although they would not be held to the same degree of integrity as those under Criterion C, for architectural merit.

Historic Districts

Institutional properties also may be eligible for National Register listing as members of a historic district. Resources nominated in this fashion must meet eligibility under Criterion A, B or C. To be eligible for listing in the National Register, a historic district must be a well defined area that contains a significant concentration of historic (pre-1946) resources that retain their architectural integrity to a high degree. Approximately 50 percent of all resources in the district should be classified as Contributing, a designation that requires a property to retain enough of its original fabric to be recognizable to the district's period of significance. The property does not necessarily have to be unaltered but should retain its most important historic architectural details and materials.

Institutional properties classified as Contributing should still have their original roof configuration and utilize the original construction methods and materials. Most of the original windows should be in place and the exterior walls should be sheathed with its original siding. The installation of contemporary metal sash windows, the addition of several rooms or wings in a manner that is incompatible with the original construction and the residing of the exterior walls with a non-historic material are generally considered to be insensitive alterations and can disqualify a building for listing as a Contributing property. More superficial alterations, such as the application of non-historic colors or the installation of composition or metal roofing are less severe compromises of the building's integrity and do not, by themselves, warrant rejection of the resource as a Contributing element.

If a district is nominated for its historical associations, architectural integrity of the resource is not as critical as it would be for a district nominated for its architectural significance. The integrity problems discussed in the preceding paragraph are not necessarily applicable. However, such a district must be extremely intact with very few non-historic resources within its boundaries.

Associated historic outbuildings also can be considered Contributing elements if they display architectural detailing that is in keeping with the overall form of the buildings with which they are associated. Outbuildings may include 1-story sheds and storage buildings that may or may not incorporate stylistic elements similar to the main building.

Noncontributing properties are those that detract from a district's historic character. They should comprise less than 50 percent of all buildings in a district. This category includes historic properties and their ancillary features that have lost integrity through severe exterior alterations, as discussed above, or were moved to a new location within the last 50 years. Post-1945 resources comprise the other major group within the Noncontributing category; most of these display physical characteristics that have little in common with the area's prevailing historic character.

Finally, a historic district must have boundaries that are logically determined and can be defended on aesthetic or historical grounds. Gerrymandering to bypass Noncontributing properties is not permitted. Instead, district boundaries must be regularly shaped and, whenever possible, follow street lines and local historical trends.

Aspects of Integrity for Historic Districts

Institutional properties within historic districts considered under Criterion A, B or C must maintain integrity of location, setting, workmanship, design, materials, feeling and association similar to individually nominated properties.

Institutional properties that are Contributing to the overall integrity of a historic district must be on their original sites or moved within the designated period of significance. If moved after the period of significance, the property could be eligible if it is re-sited in the same direction relative to the site, with all existing Contributing outbuildings (where applicable) and the recreation of historically significant landscaping elements. Spatial relationships between the main property and its outbuildings should be maintained, as on the original site. Resources that have been moved and not re-sited according to their historic placement would be designated Noncontributing properties in a National Register historic district. Very few, if any, historic buildings in the project area have been moved.

Historic districts should retain the landscaping features or ambient environment internal to the district as well as any features such as walks and driveways that date from the period of significance. In most cases, the installation of walkways and driveways not present in the period of significance are considered minor changes and do not detract significantly from the historic setting. However, major changes in setting such as the introduction of new streets or closing off original street may have a deleterious effect on the historic district.

Other aspects of integrity include integrity of workmanship, design, feeling and association. If new construction, it should be designed and built with materials and with craftsmanship compatible with the original materials. Such construction would not significantly change the character of the historic setting. Under Criterion C a property must retain evidence of original craftsmanship and distinguishing design features such wood window, original porch treatments and original siding materials. Historic institutional properties in the project area typically are wood frame covered with wood siding. The most common alterations include application of synthetic siding or asbestos shingles to the exterior walls and replacement of roof materials, exterior doors and wood frame windows with aluminum and other metal frame windows. Replacement of exterior doors and no more than one third of the original windows does not affect eligibility, provided that window and door openings remain intact. Roof materials may be changed and not affect eligibility. Alterations to the original roof line may be acceptable if made within the period of significance. The same principles apply to institutional properties considered under Criteria A and B although they would not be held to the same degree of integrity as those under Criterion C, for architectural merit.

Infrastructure Properties

The property type Infrastructure Properties includes a broad range of manmade features, such as streets, bridges, underpasses and utility systems. Construction materials can be brick, concrete, asphalt, stone, iron and steel. Within the project area, streets, roads and bridges comprise the range of historic resources in this classification. Several paved state and county roads that run roughly east-west, traverse the area, as do two north-south roads. Included in the east-west roads are Burleson Road, F.M. 812, McAngus Road and Texas Highway 71. Of the north-south roads, the major thoroughfares are F.M. 973, and U.S. Highway 183. These are supplemented by a network of paved and unpaved streets, lanes, alleys and drives, some with names and others without. On the western edge of the area is Interstate Highway 35, which is accessed via selected east-west streets. All combine to form a rural transportation system connecting the area to the larger region and beyond. Alterations include realignment of roads established in the historic period and repaving surfaces with asphalt in the post-historic period. In the survey area, three historic infrastructure resources were identified: concrete bridges where roads cross over creeks on F.M. 973, Johnson Road and Fincher Lane. Site No. 21 is shown in Figure 26. Other similar bridges are in the larger project area. Dating from the 1930s and 1940s, these bridges document construction technology for small bridges on rural roads. A metal truss bridge is in the larger project area, just beyond the boundaries of the survey area. It is the former Congress Street Bridge moved, from the Colorado River and Congress Street in Austin in 1915, to its present location over Onion Creek virtually above a historic low water ford. The bridge is documented in other surveys and specific information on it is held in the files of the Texas Department of Transportation. This bridge has been determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places and is a Registered Texas Historic Landmark.

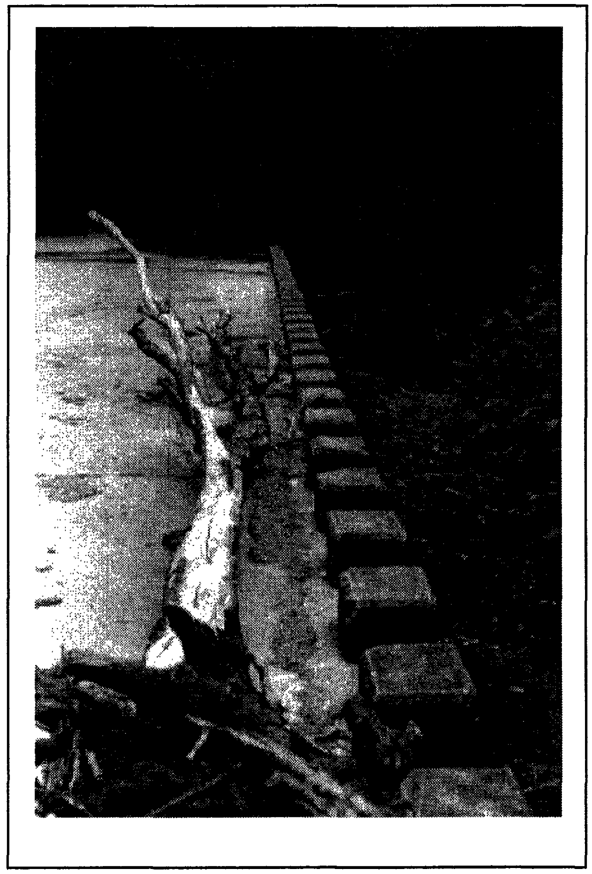

Figure 26 Site No. 21, Fincher Lane Bridge, 1995
Photo by Diane Williams

Significance

Infrastructure properties are significant because they reveal information about overall development and growth patterns within the area and, thus, relate it to larger issues of regional development. Built with public funds, paved streets and highways reflect the role that government played in the life of the community. A large number of unpaved and unnamed roads reinforce the rural character of the area.

Other infrastructure properties, such as bridges and systems for the delivery of utilities and sanitary waste disposal, are significant as tangible links to the evolution of technology in an industrialized society. Bridges, while part of the network of roads, are a specialized aspect of vehicular and rail transportation systems and may be significant as examples of structural types or construction technologies. They also may be important for their association with an engineering firm, fabricator, or individual designer, or for their associations with a federal or state construction or funding project, such as the federal Works Progress Administration of the 1930s. Utility and communications systems permit the installation of electricity and indoor plumbing, which in turn affect the physical characteristics of homes, businesses and institutional facilities, and may be significant for information they could reveal about the development of systems technologies. Because the majority of utility systems are subterranean, no assessment of such resources has been made as a part of this project.

Registration Requirements

Infrastructure properties in southeast Travis County area may be nominated to the National Register on an individual basis, or as Contributing features of a historically significant infrastructure system, or possibly as Contributing features within a historic district, or as part of a county or state nomination. They should be at least 50 years old and should be recognizable to the district's or property's period of significance. Alterations should be documented and the extent to which these changes affect the resource's historic character should be determined. If unaltered, or if the changes fall within the applicable period of significance, the element can be considered a Contributing feature within the historic district.

To determine National Register eligibility, either as an individual property or as a Contributing property within a historic district, infrastructure properties should retain high degrees of integrity of location, setting, materials, design, workmanship, association and feeling. Original salient physical features that distinguish these resources as infrastructure should remain largely intact. Infrastructure resources can be nominated individually under Criterion A or B for their historic associations as well as under Criterion C. When an infrastructure property is nominated under Criterion A on an individual basis or as a Contributing resource within a historic district, a strong case must be made to establish the relative importance of the property to trends or events within the 19th and early 20th century development of southeast Travis County. Infrastructure, unlike other kinds of resources in the project, are not likely to be nominated to the National Register under Criterion B because they typically are public-funded projects and are not associated with a particular individual. If nominated under Criterion C, the resource must display noteworthy craftsmanship, design features, be a rare surviving example of a once common form. It may be an outstanding example of a style, type, design, form or technology. It may be an important commission of a local architect, engineer, contractor or builder.

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

The area in southeast Travis County roughly bounded by Interstate Highway 35, U.S. Highway 71, and the Travis/ Bastrop and Travis/ Caldwell County lines.

RESEARCH DESIGN, SURVEY AND EVALUATION METHODS

INTRODUCTION

Mandated by Section 106 and Section 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act, the preparation of this Multiple-Property Nomination was conducted as part of the environmental documentation required by federal law in the development of the new Austin Airport at the former Bergstrom Air Force Base. All work was completed pursuant to the memorandum of Agreement (MOA) developed following the completion of a survey of impacted areas. Signatories include the City of Austin Department of Aviation, the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration, the Texas State Historic Preservation Officer, and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation.

RESEARCH DESIGN AND METHODOLOGY

In accordance with the MOA, a Scope of Work for cultural resource investigations was developed by Hicks & Company for subcontractors Hardy·Heck·Moore & Associates (HHM). The project historian undertook archival and other research to accomplish three principle objectives. First, the historian conducted a literature and archives search as the basis for preparing a historic context within which the built environment of southeast Travis County, dating from the earliest instances of European settlement to the end of the historic period in 1945, can be analyzed. The historian next researched Bastrop and Travis County tax, probate and census records to provide Hicks & Company with information about the occupation and use of two historic archeological sites, the Wallace-Burleson-Moore farmstead (Site 41TV1635) and the John Wallace farmstead (Site 41TV1631). Finally, upon completion of an architectural survey conducted by HHM, under the direction of the project architectural historian, the project historian and research assistants compiled Travis County deed, property abstract, census and tax records to augment previous documentation on historic properties identified in the survey area. This information provided the foundation for written narratives for surveyed properties with obvious architectural or historic merit. Further, it clarified associations between buildings and clusters of buildings, particularly in the Moore's Crossing vicinity, to more accurately determine the historic significance of properties with little apparent architectural or historic merit. The results are presented in *Historic Context for Southeast Travis County and Cultural Resources Survey and Assessment for the New Austin Airport.*

Archival Investigations for Site 1635 and 1631

Archival research was undertaken for sites 41TV 1635 and 41TV 1631 to more accurately determine the dates of habitation and uses of the property for subsequent archeological investigations. HHM & Associates architectural historian Diane Williams, historian Terri Myers and research assistant Laurie Marder augmented previous archival research conducted by Terry Jones of Hicks & Company. HHM researchers checked Bastrop County tax records for the years 1837-1842 and Travis County tax, probate, marriage and deed records, census records for the years 1850, 1860, 1870, 1880, 1900, 1910 and 1920, slave schedules for 1850 and 1860, and agricultural schedules for 1850, 1870 and 1880. Fire destroyed the 1890 census. HHM & Associates staff also utilized Austin History Center vertical and photographic files, newspaper files and secondary source materials, as well as transcripts of oral histories conducted as part of previous investigations in this project area.

New information of particular value included a hand drawn map of the Wallace acreage, which encompassed both site 41TV 1631 and 41TV 1635 and delineated the approximately 125-acre farm on which he and his family resided. The map was part of Wallace's will dated October 2, 1848. It is the earliest known map that defines the subject property. Information on slave holdings and agricultural production at these farmsteads was supplied by Travis County slave schedules for 1850 and 1860 and by agricultural schedules for selected farms in the vicinity of Onion Creek, including the 1850 Mary Ann Wallace farm (41TV 1635) and the 1870 and 1880 John E. Wallace farm (41TV 1631).

The collected data identified the inhabitants of the two farmsteads, their slaves, servants, livestock, real estate holdings, crops and valuable personal possessions. An analysis of these records indicated possible dwellings for owners, slaves and servants, and agricultural buildings and structures at each complex. No historic site plans were found for either property.

Development of the Historic Context of Southeast Travis County

Southeast Travis County, the larger geographical context within which the survey area exists, is defined as that part of the county lying south of State Highway 71 and east of Interstate 35. The research team first reviewed secondary sources, including published county histories, such as Mary Starr Barkley's 1963 *History of Travis County and Austin 1839-1899*, to gain a general understanding of the larger context (project) area and to identify broad themes and trends in its history. Hicks & Company's 1994 report, *Cultural Resources Survey and Assessment for the New Austin Airport, Travis County, Texas*, provided both a general overview of the region, including a synopsis of agricultural trends, as well as specific historical information on resources within the defined project area. Bibliographies included in these reports and published works led to other important source materials.

Early in the research, HHM staff compiled information from Texas Historical Commission (THC) files on Registered Texas Historic Landmarks (RTHLs), Subject Markers and National Register (NR) properties within the project area. HHM staff also sought the identity of any Austin and/or Travis County Historic landmarks within the project area. State designations for historic properties include RTHL and Subject Marker categories. Both are part of the same larger program called Official Texas Historical Markers. Subject markers in the project area include those for Pilot Knob, an extinct volcano that serves as a physical landmark, the Santiago del Valle Land Grant within McKinney Falls State Park, Jacob Talley Wilhite, in the Carl cemetery, the Elroy Community at the Elroy Community Library, Travis County, and the Reuben Hornsby homestead site. RTHLs in the project area include the Moore's Crossing Bridge, the Judge S.G. Sneed House, the Horton-Duval House, the Onion Creek Lodge, and the Haynie Chapel Methodist Church. RTHLs generally are considered eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places, while Subject Markers may document properties considered eligible for listing in the National Register. Most Subject Markers document topics in Texas history that have no tangible remains, and thus, cannot be considered for the National Register. All three listed National Register properties in the project area are archeological sites. Two listed sites are associated with the Thomas F. McKinney Homestead at McKinney Falls State Park. The third National Register site is the Smith Rock Shelter. In addition, four properties have been determined eligible within the survey area. They are the Wallace-Burleson-Moore house, the Berry & Moore Bros. Store and its associated house, and the Moore's Crossing Bridge.

The Center for American History contained vertical files, photo archives, and collections of letters, manuscripts, and photographs pertaining to subjects relevant to the project area history. HHM staff found a number of insightful letters and good photographs in collections of the McKinney and Sneed family papers. Also on file at the Center for American History are a variety of Works Progress Administration (WPA) records for Travis County, including typescripts of County Commissioners Court Minutes which describe public projects such as bridges and schools in the project area. HHM researchers reviewed rare, unpublished, or out-of-print documents such as Frank Brown's 35 volume *Annals of Travis County* (n.d.), J. Mason Brewer's *An Historical Outline of the Negro in Travis County* (1940), and records of Travis County's rural schools, at the Center for American History. In addition, HHM staff reviewed newspapers, county scrapbooks, almanacs, maps and reports of relevant cultural resource investigations at the Center for American History.

HHM staff conducted extensive census research at the State Archives. Staff collected specific information on households within the enumeration district encompassing the largest portion of the survey area for 1900, 1910 and 1920. Most historical accounts of Travis County highlight the early settlement and Texas Republic periods, and little published information is available for later periods. Census records established and tracked demographic and occupational trends for the project area over three decades, and slave schedules and agricultural schedules provided data on labor resources and productivity.

Throughout the research phase, HHM staff visited and photographed historic properties, such as the Sneed and Horton-Duval houses, the McKinney ruins, Onion Creek Lodge, the Onion Creek Masonic cemetery and the Carl cemetery, for comparison with contemporaneous properties in the project area.

Historic Narratives and Determinations of Eligibility

Travis County deed records provided the foundation for subsequent research on individual properties in the survey area, but they also offered valuable information on trends in the larger project area. Staff analyzed abstracts and chains of title for 11 HIGH and MEDIUM priority properties identified in the survey area. Together, the deeds revealed changes in ownership and land use patterns in the region over time.

In addition to researching individual family and subject files, HHM staff interviewed several individuals who lived in or near the project area for many years. An associate historian with HHM interviewed Mr. Terry Russell, a member of Onion Creek Lodge #220, AF & AM, on July 12, 1995, at the Lodge on North Bluff Drive. On September 13, 1995, the project historian interviewed Mr. Walter Kieke who was born on a farm in the Pilot Knob community where he lived from 1920 to 1942. The project historian also interviewed Miss Loraine Stolle, a resident of Moore's Crossing from 1919 until 1964, on September 13, 1995. Interviewees provided insight on the Moore's Crossing community during the first half of the 20th century as well as information on specific properties within the survey area.

SURVEY RESEARCH METHODS

The investigations of historic properties in the survey area surrounding Bergstrom Air Force Base, began in July 1994, with a review of existing materials in Hicks & Company files. The project architectural historian consulted a variety of existing materials including the *Cultural Resources Survey and Assessment for the New Austin Airport, Travis County, Texas,* prepared by Hicks & Company in February, 1994, which documented archeological and historic resources in the portion of the survey area immediately surrounding the Air Force base (Figure 5). In addition to a review of the Hicks & Company survey, HHM staff reviewed an 1889 General Land Office Map of Travis County, U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) maps dating from 1895-1896 and 1954, General Highway maps of Travis County dating from 1936, 1952 and 1971, and aerial photographs taken in 1937. Historic photographs and other archival materials relating to the development of the southeast portion of the county provided information on properties in the survey area.

From these materials HHM staff ascertained the location of probable historic resources in the survey area and, in some cases, their historic appearance, enabling the project architectural historian to more knowledgeably conduct a windshield survey and thus, develop an overview of historic resources in the project area. During the windshield survey, project boundaries were confirmed, notes taken on changes since the preparation of the 1988 USGS map and the aerial photographs. The 1988 USGS map served as a base map for the comprehensive survey and the preparation of the survey area map contained in the survey report. Properties included in the Hicks & Company report were visually assessed to verify that they were constructed prior to 1946, which the National Park Service and National Register guidelines consider the end of the historic period at this time, and this area was further investigated to determine if any pre-1946 properties had been overlooked in the prior survey. Upon completion of that task, the architectural historian continued the windshield survey in the noise contour area to verify boundaries and determine the number and type of historic resources.

Archival research at the Austin History Center, the Center for American History at the University of Texas, Austin, and the Austin Public Library conducted by the project architectural historian and a research assistant provided historic maps, photographs and narratives relating to the project area. In addition, files maintained by the National Register and Local History Program departments of the THC were consulted, as were records held by the Texas Department of Transportation. This step identified resources in the project area previously surveyed, nominated to the National Register of Historic Places or designated as a state or local landmark.

While the archival search provided a variety of useful documents, such as maps and photographs, the search of THC files revealed that except for the Hicks & Company report of 1994, no resources in the survey area were surveyed or designated as part of federal, state or local processes. The 1994 Hicks & Company survey and the 1995 HHM survey of the Survey area are the first comprehensive surveys of this portion of southeast Travis County.

SURVEY AREA

HHM identified, documented and evaluated historic properties in a survey area that includes land immediately surrounding former Bergstrom Air Force Base between the current fenced base boundary and Texas 71 on the north, U.S. Highway 183 on the west, Burleson Road on the south and F.M. 973 on the east. Although most properties in this narrow band around the base were previously surveyed by Hicks & Company, a few properties were not included in that effort. In addition, the HHM team surveyed historic resources in the extended noise contour portion of the survey area. However, the MOA among federal, state and local officials, and its subsequent amendments, designates previous cultural resource documentation within the boundaries of the Air Force base. It also designates areas not surveyed by HHM. The MOA stipulates the previous surveys for these areas as fulfillment of required compliance regulations.

FIELD INVESTIGATIONS

Field investigations were conducted in two phases. The Phase I windshield survey was accomplished in July 1994. The Phase II comprehensive survey occurred in August 1995. Using copies of the USGS map, Montopolis Quadrangle, 7.5 minute series, 1954, edited 1988, the project architectural historian directed and conducted the field work and, with a research assistant, undertook a systematic examination, from public rights-of-way in the survey area, of all buildings, structures, sites, districts and objects constructed prior to 1946. However, the survey was limited by physical access to properties and visibility from the right-of-way. Many properties in the survey area were accessible only by means of a private driveway or road, which, in some cases was secured by a locked gate or other device, and recordation of such properties was restricted to what was visible from the public right-of-way. When possible, the survey team utilized private driveways to gain a better view of properties obscured by dense foliage or distance from the right-of-way. Properties were evaluated by the survey team using HHM's *Historic Resources Field Survey Form*. The project architectural historian assigned each property an identification number, recorded the address (when visible), exterior materials, estimated date of construction, estimated date of alterations, function, stylistic influence (when present) and condition. The project architectural historian also completed a *Texas Historic Sites Inventory Form* for each property, which records the exterior materials, form and condition of each surveyed property in more detail. Forty-six properties were identified, several with associated elements, for a total of 79 resources. Each resource at each property was assigned a preliminary rating of a HIGH, MEDIUM or LOW preservation priority based on the above factors. Each property was plotted on the USGS map to identify its location. The architectural historian also photographed each property with T-Max 100 black and white film. At least one photograph was taken of the primary elevation of each resource at each property. Those properties classified as HIGH priorities, and those rated as MEDIUM priorities that are part of a property containing HIGH priority features, also were documented with Kodachrome 64 color slide film. Oblique camera angles were chosen to photograph properties whenever possible in order to include the most information about the property in a single image. Properties with unusual or significant character defining details or features were documented with additional photographs.

Many of the properties had no discernible address, and in such cases, the project architectural historian estimated the address as it related to other properties and has noted it in the survey materials with a question mark. Property type and subtype classifications (i.e., domestic: single family, L-plan) are used to identify the historic resource or original intended use. In assigning a date of construction, the architectural historian estimated the date in five-year increments. The preliminary preservation priority designation of HIGH, MEDIUM or LOW reflects the surveyor's first impression and is based on several criteria including: how well the property maintains its original design and materials, how the property contributes to or detracts from the historic character of the area, and its condition. HIGH priority properties are considered the most important.

PRESERVATION PRIORITY EVALUATION

A preservation priority evaluation was conducted for each property in the survey area. The evaluation was based upon the current architectural integrity, and in the case of the Wallace-Burleson-Moore House and log cabin, the Berry and Moore Bros. Store and house, and several other properties, the known historical associations of each resource. This evaluation reflects an assessment of each property's relative significance based on architectural form and integrity, and, where possible, includes information on known historical associations. This assessment provides guidance in directing future preservation activities and planning decisions. The priority designations should not be considered static, but can and should be changed to reflect the evolving status of properties as well as any future historical research. In some cases, a preservation priority designation was changed once archival research was conducted. Examples include the three concrete bridges in the survey area. Originally classified as HIGH priority properties, consultation with staff of the Texas Department of Transportation revealed factual information that resulted in reclassification.

Resources placed in the HIGH category contribute significantly to local history or broader historical patterns. They are considered outstanding examples of architecture, engineering or crafted design that remain on their original sites and that have undergone only minor alterations since their construction, or that have experienced alterations compatible with the original design, materials, scale and workmanship. They are excellent examples of a common local building form, architectural style or plan type, or they document the evolution of both building forms and uses over a long period of time. They retain a significant amount of their original character and contextual integrity. They meet, in some cases, criteria for inclusion the National Register as individual properties or as part of a thematic nomination. If within a historic district, they will be classified as Contributing. They are considered the most significant resources in the project area.

Included in the HIGH category are six identified resources in the survey area. They are some of the oldest, rarest or best examples of building forms or architectural styles in the survey area, or they document the evolutionary nature of the use of the property through historic changes to the resources over time. Resources included in this category are the Wallace-Burleson-Moore House, the Wallace-Burleson-Moore log cabin, the Berry & Moore Bros. Store and the Berry & Moore Bros. House. These resources are significant as excellent local examples of widely built architectural forms popular in the mid and late 19th century. They also are significant for the evolutionary economic and social changes they document through modifications in use and to architectural features. Finally, they are significant for their associations with individuals important in the history and development of southeast Travis County.

Thirty-three properties in the survey area are designated as MEDIUM preservation priorities. These properties are identified as contributing moderately to local history or broader historical patterns. They display fewer character defining architectural elements than those in the HIGH category. Although less developed in their architectural treatments that buildings or structures in the HIGH category, the MEDIUM classification includes buildings that are representative of building forms, architectural treatments or plan-types common in Travis County and reflective of national building trends. They are unlikely to meet eligibility criteria for National Register listing on an individual basis. Examples include the house in the 11400 block of McAngus Road. When within a historic district or within a cluster of related properties, such as the Wallace-Burleson-Moore Farmstead or the Berry & Moore Bros. Store complex, they often will be classified as Contributing, depending on the level, severity and irreversibility of alterations. Therefore, they should be evaluated on an individual basis. This category also includes those resources that have been subject to alterations or deterioration that have diminished their architectural integrity, as well as those historically or architecturally significant resources that, but for incompatible exterior alterations would have been designated HIGH priorities. An example is the Wallace-Burleson-Moore tenant house/dairy barn.

The 40 buildings in the survey area classified as having a LOW preservation priority designation generally typify more recent common local building forms, architectural styles or plan-types, with no known historical associations. An example is the house at 7528 Towery Lane. Buildings in the LOW priority classification also include examples of distinctive building forms, architectural styles or plan-types that are of minor historical significance or are moderately to severely altered using inappropriate methods, materials or scale, or are deteriorated. Typically because of lack of historical associations or limited integrity, such buildings do not meet the eligibility criteria for National Register listing on an individual basis. When in a historic district or within a complex of related buildings, the severity of alterations may make the property a candidate for a Noncontributing classification. An example of a severely altered building in the LOW category is the house in the 5100 block of Johnson Road.

Analysis of Data and Report Preparation

Once the research and field work were complete, data gathered in the field was entered into HHM's data base program and an inventory data base and photograph index sheets prepared. Each historic resource received a unique site number; properties containing more than one resource were numbered consecutively with a numeral and letter designation, such as 2a, 2b, 2c. The field map was used to prepare the final survey map. The information recorded on the *Texas Historic Sites Inventory Form,* available historic photographs and data contained in the historic context and property types discussion were used by the architectural historian in the development of succinct physical descriptions and National Register eligibility assessments for all 79 surveyed properties and appear in the survey report. The physical descriptions and National Register assessments, prepared by project architectural historian, summarize the architectural features and merits and alterations and additions associated with each resource. Sections on the historic background of some properties were developed from deed records, census information and other primary source materials to better understand the potential significance of properties in the Moore's Crossing community, at the Wallace-Burleson-Moore Farmstead, and at other properties in the survey area. These historic background sections were incorporated into the property descriptions. The National Register assessments evaluate the architectural integrity and significance of the resources and the known historical associations of each property. The final steps of the project were the preparation of the survey report, which contains an abstract, introduction, research design and survey and evaluation methods, site narratives, historic context and property types discussion, recommendations for further work, and bibliography. These components were developed simultaneously to provide a comprehensive means of evaluating significance and the National Register eligibility of the surveyed properties. Contributor David Moore prepared the abstract and introduction, project architectural historian Diane Williams and Principal Investigator Terri Myers prepared the Research Design and Survey and Evaluation Methods, the historic context and bibliography were prepared by Terri Myers and Sara Kirtland, the property types discussion was written by Diane Williams, and the recommendations were prepared by Diane Williams and Terri Myers.

FURTHER WORK

Documentation and evaluation of historic resources in the survey area proofed critical in the development of a property types model for the larger project area. In addition, research of the individuals and institutions associated with these properties also help to shed light on broad trends in southeast Travis County. Although somewhat small when compared to the project area, the survey area is large enough to provide insights into the kinds of the buildings, structures and sites that are tangible links to southeast Travis County's rich past. Continued growth in and surrounding Austin will endanger more historic resources in the future; however, this document proofed to be an effective tool identifying, documenting and registering significant properties. It is hoped that further and more exhaustive investigations will be undertaken in the future and that new historic properties will be documented. As more is known about the history and architecture of southeast Travis County, the historic context and property types sections of this multiple-property nomination should be updated and revised.

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