

Texas Historical Commission staff (BB), 7/15/2008, rev 8/18/08
27" x 42" Official Texas Historical Marker with post
Wilson County (Job #08WN01) Subject (Atlas) UTM: 14 000000E 0000000N
Location: La Vernia, 13309 FM 539

BARKER-HUEBINGER HOMESTEAD

ALABAMA NATIVES EMORY CRAWFORD BARKER (1839-1914) AND LEAH HUMPHREYS (1842-1931) BOTH CAME TO THE AREA WITH THEIR FAMILIES IN THE EARLY 1850s. EMORY SERVED IN CO. G OF TERRY'S TEXAS RANGERS DURING THE CIVIL WAR. HE AND LEAH MARRIED IN 1866 AND HAD SEVEN CHILDREN. THE BARKERS BOUGHT 260 ACRES ALONG THE OLD SUTHERLAND SPRINGS - SEGUIN ROAD. THEIR HOME BUILT IN 1871 IS ONE OF FEW REMAINING ROCK HOUSES IN THE CIBOLO VALLEY. RED SANDSTONE FOR CONSTRUCTION WAS SAWED RATHER THAN BEING CHIPPED OR BROKEN AS WAS MORE COMMON. A NEARBY SPRING-FED WATER WELL MADE THE HOME A POPULAR STOP FOR STAGECOACHES AND WAGONS. IN 1879, THE BARKERS SOLD THE HOUSE AND MOVED TO BLANCO COUNTY. AFTER A SUCCESSION OF OWNERS, RUDOLPH (1882-1952) AND ADELIA MOEHRIG (1888-1980) HUEBINGER BOUGHT THE HOUSE IN NOVEMBER 1916. BESIDES THIS FARM RUDOLPH OWNED A BUTCHER SHOP, AND ADELIA WAS A NOTED SEAMSTRESS AND HAT MAKER HERE AND IN CALIFORNIA. THE PROPERTY REMAINED IN THE HUEBINGER FAMILY AT THE TURN OF THE 21ST CENTURY.

THIS HISTORIC HOMESTEAD INCLUDES A MAIN HOUSE, OUTBUILDING AND WELL. THE HOME IS A LOAD-BEARING MASONRY STRUCTURE WITH AN EXTENDED HALL AND PARLOR LAYOUT. ROUGH-CUT SANDSTONE IS LAID IN BOTH REGULAR AND IRREGULAR COURSES, AND CRAFTSMANSHIP IS EVIDENT IN CORNER QUOINS AND OTHER DETAILS. INTERIOR FEATURES INCLUDE STONE CHIMNEYS, PLASTER FINISHES AND WOOD DOORS. THE ADJACENT BUILDING, POSSIBLY BUILT AS A RANCH HAND BUNKHOUSE, HAS ROUGH-CUT SANDSTONE LAID IN REGULAR COURSES AND TIMBERED SIDE GABLES. NOTABLE INTERIOR DETAILS INCLUDE A FIREPLACE AND A STONE *NICHO* POSSIBLY REFLECTING HISPANIC INFLUENCE. THE CIRCULAR WELL FEATURES A CONCRETE CAP ATOP A DEEP SHAFT LINED WITH STONES SIMILAR TO THOSE USED IN THE BUILDINGS.

RECORDED TEXAS HISTORIC LANDMARK – 2008

MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

**RECORDED TEXAS HISTORIC LANDMARK MARKERS:
2008 Official Texas Historical Marker
Sponsorship Application Form**

Valid November 1, 2007 to January 15, 2008 only

This form constitutes a public request for the Texas Historical Commission (THC) to consider approval of an Official Texas Historical Marker for the topic noted in this application. The THC will review the request and make its determination based on rules and procedures of the program. Filing of the application for sponsorship is for the purpose of providing basic information to be used in the evaluation process. The final determination of eligibility and therefore approval for a state marker will be made by the THC. This form is to be used for Recorded Texas Historic Landmark (building marker) requests only. Please see separate forms for either Historic Texas Cemeteries or subject markers.

Proposed marker topic (official title will be determined by the THC): **Barker-Huebinger Rock House**

County: Wilson

Town (nearest county town on current state highway map): **Sutherland Springs, TX.**

Street address of marker site or directions from town noted above: FM 539 North, 5-1/2 miles from the intersection of Sutherland Springs and SH 87. **Physical address:** 13309 FM 539, La Vernia, Texas 78121

NOTE: Recorded Texas Historic Landmark markers must be placed at the structure being marked.

Recorded Texas Historic Landmark markers definition: Recorded Texas Historic Landmark (RTHL) markers are awarded to structures deemed worthy of preservation for their historical associations and architectural significance. RTHL is a legal designation and comes with a measure of protection; it is the highest honor the state can bestow on a historic structure, and the designation is required for this type of marker. The RTHL designation becomes effective upon approval by the THC. Official Texas Historical Markers signify the RTHL designation, which comes only through application to and approval by the THC and must include public display of an Official Texas Historical Marker. Owners of RTHL-designated structures must give the THC 60 days written notice before any alterations are made to the exterior of the structure. RTHL status is a permanent designation and is not to be removed from the property in the event of a transfer of ownership. Only the THC can remove the designation or recall the marker. The marker must remain with the structure and may not be removed or displayed elsewhere until or unless the THC gives express approval in writing for such action. Once designated as RTHL, properties are subject to provisions of Texas Government Code, Section 442.006(f).

Criteria:

1. **Age:** Structures eligible for the RTHL designation and marker must be at least 50 years old.
2. **Historical significance:** Architectural significance alone is not enough to qualify a structure for the RTHL designation. It must have an equally significant historical association, and that association can come from an event that occurred at the site; through individuals who owned or lived on the property; or, in the case of bridges, industrial plants, schoolhouses and other non-residential properties, through documented significance to the larger community.

3. **Architectural significance:** Structures deemed architecturally significant are outstanding examples of architectural history through design, materials, structural type or construction methods. In all cases, eligible architectural properties must display integrity; that is, the structure should be in a good state of repair, maintain its appearance from its period of significance and be considered an exemplary model of preservation. Architectural significance is often best determined by the relevance of the property to broader contexts, including geography. Any changes over the years should be compatible with original design and reflect compliance with accepted preservation practices, e.g., the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation*.
4. **Good state of repair:** Structures not considered by the THC to be in a good state of repair are ineligible for RTHL designation. The THC reserves the sole right to make that determination relative to eligibility for RTHL markers.

Special National Register considerations for RTHL marker applications: If a structure has been individually listed in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) under either Criterion A or B and Criterion C (Architecture), the historical text compiled as part of the National Register nomination process may be submitted as part of the marker process, provided it includes the required reference notes and other documentation. Acceptance of the National Register information for the purposes of the marker process will be up to the sole determination of the THC. Listing in the NRHP does not guarantee approval for an RTHL marker. See the THC web site at <http://www.thc.state.tx.us/markerdesigs/madnrcrit.html> for National Register criteria.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Any individual, group or county historical commission (CHC) may apply to the THC to request an Official Texas Historical Marker for what it deems a worthy topic. Only complete marker applications that contain all the required elements and are submitted online as required can be accepted or processed by the THC. For RTHL markers, the required elements are: sponsorship application form; narrative history; documentation; online map (see details below); site plan; floorplan; historic photograph; and current photographs clearly showing each side of the structure.

- Completed applications must be duly reviewed, verified and approved by the county historical commission (CHC) in the county in which the marker will be placed.
- The sponsorship application form, narrative history and documentation must be submitted as Microsoft Word or Word-compatible documents and sent via email attachments to the THC by no later than January 15, 2008.
- Required font style and type size are a Times variant and 12-point.
- Narrative histories must be typed in a double-spaced (or 1.5-spaced) format and include separate sections on context, overview, significance and documentation.
- The narrative history must include documentation in the form of reference notes, which can be either footnotes or endnotes. Documentation associated with applications should be broad-based and demonstrate a survey of all available resources, both primary and secondary.
- Applications for RTHL markers must include a current city or county map through TopoZone.com that clearly denotes the proposed marker location. Instructions for using TopoZone.com are available on the THC web site.
- Upon notification of the successful preliminary review of required elements by the THC, a non-refundable application fee of \$100 is required. The fee shall be submitted to the THC within ten working days of application receipt notification.

APPROVAL BY COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

The duly appointed marker representative (chair or marker chair) noted below for the county historical commission will be the sole contact with the THC for this marker application. To ensure accuracy, consistency and efficiency, all information from and to the THC relative to the application—and

throughout the review and production processes—will be via direct communication with the CHC representative. All other inquiries (calls, emails, letters) to the THC will be referred to the CHC representative for response. By filling out the information below and filing the application with the THC, the CHC representative is providing the THC with notice that the application and documentation have been reviewed and verified by the CHC and that the material meets all current requirements of the Official Texas Historical Marker program.

As chair or duly appointed marker chair, I certify the following:

Representatives of the CHC have met or talked with the potential marker sponsor and discussed the marker program policies as outlined on the THC web site. CHC members have reviewed the history and documentation for accuracy and made corrections or notes as necessary. It is the determination of the CHC that the topic, history and documentation meet criteria for eligibility.

CHC comments or concerns about this application, if any: none

Name of CHC contact (chair or marker chair): Gene Maeckel

Mailing address: P.O. Box 190, Poth, TX. **City, Zip:** 78147

Daytime phone (with area code): (830) 484-2536 **Email address** (required): gene@maeckel.net

PERMISSION OF PROPERTY OWNER FOR MARKER PLACEMENT

Property owner: Michael & Shirley Huebinger

Address: 375 Common Street, New Braunfels, TX. **City, state, zip:** 78130

Phone: (830) 629-1196 **Email address:** huey1931@sbcglobal.net

Legal Description of the property (metes and bounds, lot and block, etc.): attached

Upon receipt of the application, the THC will provide the owner with a letter that outlines the legal responsibility of ownership under the Recorded Texas Historic Landmark statute. The letter must be signed by the owner and returned to the THC before the evaluation can be completed.

NOTE: The property owner will not receive any additional copies of correspondence from the THC. [All other correspondence—notice of receipt, request for additional information, payment notice, inscription, shipping notice, etc.—will be sent via email to the CHC representative, who is encouraged to share the information with all interested parties as necessary.] Given the large volume of applications processed annually and the need for centralized communication, all inquiries about applications in process will be referred to the CHC for response. The CHC is the sole liaison to the THC on all marker application matters.

SPONSORSHIP PAYMENT INFORMATION

Prospective sponsors please note the following:

- Payment must be received in full within 45 days of the official approval notice and must be accompanied by the THC payment form. The THC is unable to process partial payments or to delay payment due to processing procedures of the sponsor. Applications not paid in the time frame required may, at the sole discretion of the THC, be cancelled or postponed.
- Payment does not constitute ownership of a marker; Recorded Texas Historic Landmark markers and other Official Texas Historical Markers are the property of the State of Texas.

- If, at any time during the marker process, sponsorship is withdrawn, a refund can be processed, but the THC will retain the application fee of \$100.
- The Official Texas Historical Marker Program provides no means of recognizing sponsors or property owners through marker text, incising or supplemental plaques.

Marker sponsor (may be individual or organization): Shirley Grammer

Contact person (if applicable): Shirley Grammer

Mailing address: P.O. Box 234, La Vernia, TX. **City, zip:** 78121

Email address (required): shirleygrammer@aol.com **Phone:** (830) 947-3176

SHIPPING INSTRUCTIONS

In order to facilitate delivery of the marker, neither post office box numbers nor rural route numbers can be accepted. To avoid additional shipping charges or delays, use a business street address (open 8 a.m.—5 p.m., Monday through Friday).

Name: La Vernia Pump & Supply

Street address: 203 Chihuahua Street, La Vernia, TX. **City, zip:** 78121

Daytime phone (required): (830) 779-6131 **Email** (required): kj_1554@yahoo.com

TYPE AND SIZE OF RECORDED TEXAS HISTORIC LANDMARK MARKERS

As part of its review process, the THC will determine the appropriate size marker and provide options, if any, for the approved topic based on its own review criteria, including, but not exclusive of, historical significance, replication of information in other THC markers, relevance to the Statewide Preservation Plan and the amount of available documented information provided in the application narrative. In making its determination, however, the THC will also take into account the preference of the CHC, as noted below.

The sponsor/CHC prefers the following size marker:

- 27" x 42" RTHL marker with post (\$1500)
- 27" X 42" RTHL marker without post* (\$1500)
- 18" x 28" RTHL marker with post (\$1000)
- 18" x 28" RTHL marker without post* (\$1000)
- RTHL medallion and 16" x 12" plaque with post (\$750)
- RTHL medallion and 16" x 12" plaque without post* (\$750)

*For an RTHL marker without post, indicate to what surface material it will be mounted:

- wood
- masonry
- metal
- other (specify)

SUBMITTING THE APPLICATION (via email required)

When the CHC has determined the application is complete, the history has been verified and the topic meets the requirements of the Official Texas Historical Marker Program, the materials should be forwarded to the THC via email at the following address: markerapplication@thc.state.tx.us.

- The CHC or marker chair should send an email containing the following attachments (see attachment function under file menu or toolbox on your computer):
 - This application form
 - A TopoZone.com map of the proposed marker location
 - The narrative history (including documentation)

RECORDS RETENTION BY CHC: The CHC must retain hard copies of the application as well as an online version, at least for the duration of the marker process. The THC is not responsible for lost applications, for incomplete applications or for applications not properly filed according to the program requirements. For additional information about any aspect of the Official Texas Historical Marker Program, see the Markers page on the THC web site (<http://www.thc.state.tx.us/markerdesigs/madmark.html>).



BARKER-HUEBINGER ROCK HOUSE
FM 539 North
Sutherland Springs, Texas
Wilson County, Texas
By Shirley Grammer

Wilson County has a number of old rock homes constructed during the mid to late 1800's. Most of the houses were constructed of native rock, quarried from nearby deposits of red sandstone. A stone of this quality would withstand the weathering effects of wind, rain and sun for many years. As the rock was taken from the quarry, it was kept uniform in shape and size. It was then loaded on to ox-drawn wagons and hauled to the building site where it was carefully unloaded and used on the outside of homes or in the construction of fireplaces. When sufficient pieces of stone had been hauled to the building site, mortar was made by burning crushed mussel shells with lime and the stones were laid in place flat on the ground until ready to use. (1) During this time there was an abundant supply of mussel shells along the banks of the Cibolo Creek.

Wilson County was established February 13, 1860 out of Karnes and Bexar Counties and named for Patriot, James Charles Wilson (1818-1861). He was a native of England, survivor of the ill-fated Mier Expedition, outstanding statesman and orator. (2) James Wilson is interred in the State Cemetery in Austin. On March 13, 1874, by an act of the legislature, the northeast corner of the Wilson County line was moved approximately two and one-half miles to the old San Antonio-Gonzales Road which formed a boundary between Guadalupe County and Wilson County. (3) A temporary county seat, ordered by the legislature, was established in Sutherland Springs until a permanent location could be selected. Court was held here until December 1867 (4) when the county seat was moved to the town of Lodi (presently incorporated into Floresville). The legislature required a more centrally located area near the center of the county. A building was constructed, but unfortunately that building burned in 1883. Luckily, documents were saved due to a large fireproof safe that was incorporated in the building. In 1873, Floresville was surveyed and laid out as a town site. It was during this time frame (1867-1873) that

Emory Crawford Barker and Leah Humphreys Barker were planning and building a rock house. The present county courthouse was planned in 1883 and completed in 1884 in downtown Floresville.

The subject of this narrative is the Barker-Huebinger Rock House built ca 1871 by Emory Crawford Barker and Leah Humphreys Barker. It is one of the few remaining rock houses in the area of the Cibolo Valley. Historians in the 1950's and 1960's searched for a construction date on the home but failed to find the answer which was tucked away in an 1871 school deed.

Edmond Asa Barker (b. ca. 1818 - died 7/1869) and Talitha Humphreys Barker (1821-1903) were married in Chambers County, Alabama 12/28/1837, and came to Guadalupe County, Texas (present day Wilson County) ca. 1851-1852. (5) Talitha was the daughter of Joseph Humphreys (6) who settled in Caldwell County, Texas. Edmond Asa and Talitha bought 500 acres of land from John James and James Sweet, March 17, 1852, in the Manuel Ximenes Grant on the east side of the Cibolo Creek. They paid \$1,000.00 for the property. (7). Seven children were born to this couple; Emory Crawford (1839-1914), Joseph (b. ca. 1842 -d. 1862), David Culberson (1843-1937) Ira (1848-1928), William Wilborn (1849-1905), Monroe Jackson (1853-1926) & Calvin (1861 - died after 1930). David and Ira were members of the Historic Brahan Lodge of La Vernia where David was a Master Mason.

Edmond Asa was a member of Claiborne Rector's "Old Cibolo Guard" in La Vernia, Wilson County, Texas. He is listed as E.A. Barker. A muster roll was recorded by Claiborne Rector December 9, 1861 and is on file in the Texas State Archives. Edmond Asa's burial place has not been located, although he is most likely buried in the Barker Section of Concrete Cemetery, Guadalupe County where other members of this family are interred. Talitha is buried in Miller Creek Cemetery, Blanco County.

Emory Crawford Barker (9/9/1839 – 2/18/1914) was born in Alabama. After the family came to Texas he married Leah Humphreys October 4th, 1866 in Guadalupe County. They were married by the Rev. R. M. Currie, (8) an ordained Minister of the Gospel who ministered to the La Vernia Baptist Church for twenty-seven years. During the Civil War Emory was mustered into Co. G., Terry's Texas Rangers in Houston, Texas September 16, 1861. He was discharged December 1861 due to illness. He rejoined the regiment July 1862 and was discharged again in January 1863 due to illness. The 1870 Census of Guadalupe County states that Emory was a stock driver.

Leah Humphreys Barker (6/19/1842 – 5/21/1931) was born in Alabama to James Humphreys (1810 – 1865) and Leah Harriet Maddox Humphreys (1822 – 1901). Leah was a first cousin to her mother-in-law, Talitha Humphreys Barker. The religious background of the Humphreys family was Baptist as documented in Baptist Century Around the Alamo 1858 – 1958, where it states that James Humphreys was a deacon in the Baptist Church of La Vernia, TX. (9) Therefore, the assumption is that Leah was of the Baptist faith. There were 12 children in the Humphreys family, Leah being the third child. She moved with her family to the La Vernia area ca. 1850-1851 as her father, James Humphreys, bought land in Guadalupe County from W. J. Gouger December 17, 1851. (10) There were seven children born to Emory and Leah Barker; Elizabeth Anne (Cureton) (1868-1957), Harriet "Hattie" Lee (Handley) (1871-1963), Emma (Shahan) (1873-1963), Edmund Asa (1874-1972), James Humphreys (1879-1971), Cedonia May (Morgan) (1882-1982), and Sara "Sallie" Jane (Tunnell) (1886-1926). (11)

On May 12, 1869, Emory and Leah purchased 260 acres of land in Guadalupe County (present day Wilson County) (12) from Dr. Gray Jones Houston, Attorney in fact for Pugh and Lucinda Houston, for a total sum of \$1,042.00, being a part of a 2400-acre tract of land conveyed to Pugh Houston by John James, May 8, 1854. (13)

April 10, 1871, E. C. Barker deeded to his wife, Leah Barker, two hundred sixty acres (14) stating that he was indebted to his wife and wanted to repay her for benefiting from her personal property that was given to her by her mother.

Leah Humphreys Barker and Emory Crawford Barker were in the process of building the rock house in 1871 as stated in a deed, dated November 10, 1871. (15) She donated 1-1/3 acres of land out of the 260 acre tract to school Trustees; Samuel McClain, W. F. Gardner and Asa W. Murray. During this same time frame, The Brahan Masonic Lodge of La Vernia was in the process of building their Masonic Lodge from the same native stone that Leah & Emory Barker used to build their rock home. The Brahan Lodge did not record the name of the rock mason who quarried the stone for the Lodge but Wiseman Historian, Robert Anderson Wiseman (1879 – 1970), of Floresville, Texas, whose family were natives of La Vernia, was interviewed by a member of the historical survey committee in May 1964. Notes from the interview were saved in Mrs. Gail Shriber's scrapbook which is on file in the Wilson County Archives in the care of Mr. Gene Maeckel, Chairperson of the Wilson County Historical Commission. Mr. Wiseman, 84 years old at the time of the interview, said the Barker house was built by an old rock mason named "Lemmons" about 1870. The probate of Edmond Asa Barker's (Emory's father) "Will" (16), listed a man by the name of "Lemmons" whom the Estate owed money in 1869. There were other people of that era who stated that the house was built much earlier, but Mrs. Barker's deed to the school clearly states that she was in the process of building her rock home in 1871.

Mrs. Gail Shriber, former Historian of Wilson County, stated that the stone used in the Barker house was sawed, not chipped, hacked or broken into size as was common in those days. Mrs. Shriber also reported in the article that John C. Garner, Field Director of the State Architect Survey Committee, University of Texas, refused to be pinned down on the date of the structure, since so many unfamiliar features are embodied in the structure's architecture. She said historians were in debate as to when it was constructed and by whom. (17)

The Barker-Huebinger rock home is located on the old Sutherland Springs-Seguin Road (presently FM 539) approximately 5-1/2 miles north of Sutherland Springs. It is on the left side of the road on a hill overlooking FM 539 to the east and the Cibolo Creek to the west which I would describe as black farmland between the home and the creek. Prior to the paving of FM 539 in 1961 by the Texas Highway Department, the original road in front of the Barker house was located on a steep hill that was partially destroyed during construction. (18) The existence of a 67 foot spring-fed water well on the west side of the adjacent building attracted many people traveling by wagon to the nearest village for supplies, so I am sure the Barker's had many visitors. There was a stage line operation in and out of San Antonio during the 1870's and most of these lines did not operate without a mail contract. Mail lines radiated from San Antonio in all directions: daily to Austin, Seguin, and Luling; tri-weekly to Sutherland Springs, Victoria, Fredericksburg, Corpus Christi, Beeville and Rockport; and bi-weekly to Eagle Pass, Laredo, Frio City and Bandera. (19) We can only assume that the stage traversed the old Sutherland Springs-Seguin Road occasionally; however we know that the old Chihuahua Trail running from La Vernia to Sutherland Springs was an established stage route. The Cibolo Creek separated the Barker House and that part of the Chihuahua Trail that ran from La Vernia to Sutherland Springs.

The house is located approximately two miles north of the Historic Polley Mansion (aka Whitehall) built ca. 1850 – 1854 of rock quarried near that home. There must have been an abundance of rock quarries in the area. Historian C. L. Patterson, who wrote many articles regarding Wilson County History, stated in an article published in Fletcher's Farming December 1st, 1937 that the rock used in the construction of the Polley Home was procured on the Cibolo at the mouth of Elm Creek which is approximately 3 to 3-1/2 miles northwest of the Polley Home. This location is approximately 1-1/2 miles northwest of the Barker Rock House. The stone used in the two houses do not appear to be the same stone.

Mildred Burrow's Garrett, local historian, quoted C. B. Stevenson in her article "Scrapbook of Memories" (20) that various types of houses lined the road between

La Vernia and Stockdale. Mr. Stevenson specifically mentioned the houses from Sutherland Springs to La Vernia; the Polley two-story stone house, the Barker's, Murray's and Wiseman's large houses and the Montgomery's plank house. He mentioned the Rector's & Newton's log houses, the McAlister's & Morgan's concrete houses, Dr. Gray Jones Houston's big rock house, and the large Brahan home. These were some of the area's early settlers of Sutherland Springs and La Vernia. I have a copy of a page from the Wilson County Archives, titled "Wilson County Homes Photographed by the State Architectural Survey for the Amon Carter Museum and School of Architecture, The University of Texas." The page is undated. The Barker House is listed on this page with an estimated time of construction as 1843-1848. Suggestions include "Restore and Save". "Good Architecture"; "should remove long front porch that has been added"; "restore and open to the public." The report was probably made when Mrs. Gail Shriber was Chairperson of the Wilson County Historical Survey Committee during the 1960's.

On February 5, 1878 Emory and Leah sold the rock home and acreage to F. M. Butler for \$2,900. (21) Mr. Ralph Huebinger, jokingly referred to the old home in later years as "The Butler House." Leah and Emory moved to Blanco County and purchased the Daniel Maddox farm; Daniel being a brother to Leah's mother, Harriet Maddox Humphreys. They spent the remainder of their lives in Blanco County and are interred in the Miller Creek Cemetery near Johnson City, Texas.

March 27, 1879, F. M. Butler sold the Barker property to W.R. Wiseman of La Vernia. (22) Mr. Wiseman never lived in the home and sold the property to J.S. Cox February 12th, 1881. (23) J.S. Cox sold to A. W. Cox June 12th, 1889 (24) and A.W. Cox sold to Hugh McGuffin December 29th, 1890. (25) Mr. McGuffin was living in the house when the San Antonio & Gulf Railroad came through Wilson County in 1893. He served as a Sheriff of Guadalupe County (1884-1890). The railroad was approximately one mile west of the house. Hugh McGuffin sold to J.S. Jones, Jr. April 2, 1897. (26) J.S. Jones sold to W.R. Phillips December 20th, 1907. (27) W. R. Phillips died while a resident of the home. He was killed by a gunshot in

Stockdale, Texas December 29, 1911. Approximately 14 children survived him. Sarah Phillips, wife of W.R. Phillips (deceased) sold to L.B. Knox January 3, 1912. (28) L. B. Knox was living in the home in 1915 when the Historic Bridge at McAlister Crossing aka: Mueller Bridge was constructed. The bridge is located approximately 0.9 mile northwest of the rock house and provided access to the town of La Vernia. L.B. Knox sold to Rudolph and Adelia Huebinger November 28, 1916. (29) Ralph Huebinger inherited the home from his father. (30) The home is presently owned by Michael (31) (son of Ralph) and Shirley Huebinger; Michael being a grandson of Rudolph and Adelia. The rock house has been in the Huebinger family for ninety-two years.

Rudolph Huebinger (1882-1952) was born in Marion, Texas. His parents were John and Anna Behring Huebinger. John and Anna settled in Marion, Texas where they owned and operated a meat market and grocery store. John and Anna are buried in the Santa Clara Cemetery near Marion, Texas. John's father was Christian Huebinger from Koblanz, Germany. Christian came to this country ca. 1852 and settled in New Braunfels.

Rudolph (son of John) married Adelia "Della" Moehrig (1888-1980) in Selma, Texas, a suburb of San Antonio. He ran a butcher shop in San Antonio and later moved to California to work. Adelia was an excellent seamstress and hat-maker. She worked as a seamstress for Universal Studios. They remained there only a few years before returning to Marion, Texas. Rudolph and Adelia had two children; Irma Huebinger (Rawe) and Ralph. Rudolph and Adelia are buried in the Historic St. Hedwig Catholic Cemetery, St. Hedwig, Texas.

"This historic homestead includes a main house, adjacent building, and well. The main house is a load-bearing masonry structure, with a rectangular plan, extended hall and parlor layout. Rough-cut sandstone is laid in both regular and irregular courses, and craftsmanship is evident in features such as corner quoins. The side gables incorporate shed roof additions for a building that is one-and-a-half

units deep, and there are interior stone chimneys on both ends. On the main elevation, two windows flank either side of the main entry, which includes a wooden door with rectangular transom and sidelights. A metal-covered wooden roof supported by timbers shelters the front elevation. The steeply-pitched main roof also has metal covering a wooden support system. The two gable ends feature windows with wood lintels aligned where the main roof and shed roof join. The rear elevation features two window openings flanked by two doorways near the corners. The interior includes historic plaster finishes and wooden doors.

The adjacent building exhibits similar stone construction in a rectangular layout with timbered gables and a metal roof. The building exhibits some alterations, but the basic form is a center-passage side gabled building. Rough-cut sandstone is laid in regular courses, generally alternating between large and small stones. Corner quoins are also present, and a portion of a wall extension is present between the building and the main house. Notable interior features include incorporated fireplaces and hearths that exhibit stone craftsmanship. The circular well near the secondary building features a concrete shaft atop a deep well lined with stones similar to those used in the building's construction." (33)

The Barker-Huebinger Rock Home features three fireplaces that run even with the floor; one on the South side and two on the North side. The house has four rooms; two on the south side and two on the north side. There is an enclosed dogtrot hall in the middle of the home 27 ft. in length & 10 ft. 2" in width. There are 8 windows; one regular window and one smaller window on the west (back) side; four in front and one on each side (north and south) of the home. There are 3 single entry doors to the home and one set of double doors. The double doors on the west side of the home were original to the house. After Rudolph Huebinger bought the home in 1916, the original double doors were removed and replaced with double windows. After Michael Huebinger (grandson of Rudolph) inherited the home from his father, Ralph Huebinger (1914-2000) he removed the double windows and replaced the original double doors. The single door on the northwest

(back) corner of the home was originally a window. Rudolph Huebinger made a door out of this window and used the room to store corn.

The front has one single door with side glass panels which is original to the home. The strip of wood/lintel above the windows is oak. The wood is common to window and door placements in rock and adobe structures. It was a structural necessity. The window sills are cypress. The floors are wooden planks. The original ceiling was replaced by Rudolph Huebinger. Ornamental ceiling tin in the hall came from a service station in Marion, Texas that was owned by Rudolph Huebinger. The walls from floor to ceiling measure 11 feet & 7 inches. Cotton Muslim was used as a ceiling. The thickness of the rock used in the home averages 15 to 17 inches. A 67 foot spring fed water well is located on the west side of an adjacent building. A front porch was added to the home in 1958-1959. The original roof was wooden shingles. Rudolph Huebinger placed the first tin roof ca. 1926 and it was replaced again in 1988. Mr. Huebinger installed a carbide light generator when they moved into the home which helped with the lighting. Between the house and adjacent building on the south side was a wall that ran from the northeast corner of the adjacent building toward the southeast corner of the house. Ms. Irma Huebinger, daughter of Rudolph and Adelia, said she did not know the purpose of this wall but her father removed the wall and used it around flower beds, etc. A portion of the foundation of this wall can still be seen. The shelter over the back (west) side of the home was added in 2002. The grout was replaced in the exterior rock of the home in 2004 by Michael and Shirley Huebinger. Michael and Shirley's goal is to restore the home as funds become available. Once the home is designated as a historic site and the house can be restored, they would like to open the home occasionally to visitors and for special events.

Michael Huebinger, present owner of the home, says the house was built of soft sandstone which is very porous and has been deteriorating from the rising dampness in the soil.

South of the rock house is an adjacent building that features a hearth and nicho built of stone. John “Rhett” Rushing with the Institute of Texan Cultures, San Antonio, (31) after viewing a picture of the nicho, said it was quite unusual to see one of these in the La Vernia area. He said it was a special structure unique to the area and the era. He questioned why an Anglo family from Alabama would build one of these in La Vernia, because looking at it from a religious point of view it would appear to be Catholic. Mr. Rushing seems to think it was added after the building was erected, possibly by a Hispanic ranch foreman, etc. The Barkers were neighbors to the Polley family who owned a large ranch, and most ranches during that era hired vaqueros to herd their cattle. Perhaps it was built by a vaquero who may have lived in the building while working for the Barker family.

Etched into the rock on the west back wall of the adjacent building are words that appear to be “CLELL” b. 1912. This person is unknown.

Fannie Ratchford, (Handbook of Texas) photographed the Barker-Huebinger House in the 1930’s which she included in a special collection on file at the Texas State Archives. (33) These photos are included.

The Barker-Huebinger Rock House is a classic example of mid to late 1800 masonry craftsmanship. This generation expressed their values, religion and education through the concept of beauty they incorporated in their homes. Considerable pride is evident in their architectural achievements. “Unfortunately, however, many 20th Century Texans, perhaps due to their own need for accomplishment, or their lack of roots in Texas heritage, have had little appreciation for the achievements of the pioneers. As a result of the desire to rebuild in the name of progress, countless examples of fine historic buildings are now gone from Texas in the wake of the bulldozer and the wrecking crane.” (35) The importance of the Barker-Huebinger Rock House is indicated by the fact that it may be eligible for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places, contingent on approval of RTHL designation by the Texas Historical Commission. “Present and future generations should handle what is left of our cultural heritage with care. Tangible evidences of our roots are precious.” (36)

END NOTES

- (1) **A Century of Light, History of Brahan Lodge #226 A.F. & A.M. La Vernia, Texas, 1959, PP. 104-105, by D. L. Vest, San Antonio educator and lecturer. Composed and printed at Fort Worth, Texas, U.S.A. by the Printing Department of the Masonic Home and School.**
- (2) **Wilson County History Book, Page 4, copyright 1990, published by Taylor Publishing Co., Dallas, Texas; compiled by Louise Stadler & Harvey Hamilton. Sam Fore Public Library, Wilson County, 1 Library Lane, Floresville, Texas 78114 (830) 393-2886.**
- (3) **Historical Sketches, History of Guadalupe County, by Mrs. Willie Mae Weinert, published 1938, page 40. Seguin Public Library, 707 E. College St., Seguin, Texas 78155 (830) 401-2422**
- (4) **The Court House Story, Part II, P. 6, by J.T. Jaeggli, Jr., Chairman, Wilson County Historical Committee, Floresville, Texas October 12, 1971. Sam Fore Public Library, Wilson County, 1 Library Lane, Floresville, Texas, 78114, (830) 393-2886.**
- (5) **Guadalupe County Deed Records, Volume D, PP. 304-305, 3/17/1852.**
- (6) **“Will” of Joseph Humphreys, Probate Book D, Page 291, Caldwell County, Texas, Filed 8/29/1864**
- (7) **Guadalupe County Deed Records, Volume D., PP. 304-305, 3/17/1852**
- (8) **Marriage Records of Guadalupe Co., TX., Book B, Page 107**
- (9) **Baptist Century Around the Alamo 1858-1958: One-Hundred Years - San Antonio Baptist Association [pg. 26], by Ramsey Yelvington, Perry Printing Co. of San Antonio.**
- (10) **Deed Records of Guadalupe Co., TX. Volume D, PP 332-333, 12/17/1851**
- (11) **Blanco County Families for One-Hundred Years, by John Stribling Moursund, Revised Edition 1981, Published in the United States of America by Nortex Press, P.O. Drawer AG, Burnet, Texas 78611**
- (12) **Guadalupe County Deed Records Book “K”, page 220**
- (13) **Guadalupe County Deed Records, Book “E” Page 774, 5/8/1854**
- (14) **Guadalupe County Deed Records, Volume “E” Page 272, 4/10/1871**

- (15) **Guadalupe County Deed Records, Volume “D”, page 323-324, 11/10/1871**
- (16) **(a)Guadalupe County Probate, Book “F”, pages 91-92 & (b) notes from Gail Shriber’s Scrapbook containing notes from an interview with Robert Anderson Wiseman, May 1964, on file with the Wilson County Archives, in care of Gene Maeckel, Chairman of the Wilson County Historical Commission, P.O. Box 190, Poth, Texas 78147**
- (17) **San Antonio Express News, July 18, 1965 Page 8-S**
- (18) **Records and dates from the files of TX DOT, 317 SH 97 E, Floresville, Texas 78114. (830) 393-3144. Right of way obtained by July 1959 and project completed by August 1961. Information provided by Tim Lowak, Engineer.**
- (19) **San Antonio Stage Lines, P. 28, 1847-1881, by Robert Thonhoff, copyright 1971. Sam Fore Public Library, 1 Library Lane, Floresville, Texas 78114. (830) 393-2886**
- (20) **Floresville Chronicle-Journal, Friday September 16, 1960, Centennial Issue, Page 6, Section A. - 1433 3rd St., Floresville, Texas 78114 (830) 393-2111.**
- (21) **Wilson County Deed Records, Volume E, P. 284, 2/5/1878**
- (22) **Wilson County Deed Book F, P. 319, 3/27/1879**
- (23) **Wilson County Deed Book Q, P. 238, 2/12/1881**
- (24) **Wilson County Deed Book T, P. 214, 6/12/1889**
- (25) **Wilson County Deed Book V, P. 320, 12/29/1890**
- (26) **Wilson County Deed Book 37, P. 139, 4/2/1897**
- (27) **Wilson County Deed Book 62, P. 10, 12/20/1907**
- (28) **Wilson County Deed Book 75, P. 143, 1/3/1912**
- (29) **Wilson County Deed Book 93, P. 601, 11/28/1916**
- (30) **Wilson County Deed Book 276, PP. 42-50, 10/21/1952 & 10/23/1952**
- (31) **Wilson County Deed Book 1073. PP. 451-455 (8/1/2001) & Wilson County Deed Book 1331 (correction deed) PP. 578-585 (3/7/2006)**

- (32) **Bob Brinkman, Architect and Historian, Texas Historical Commission, Austin, Texas, wrote a description of the home for Shirley Grammer to include in a nomination form for Texas Most Endangered Places List.**
- (33) **Research Department, UTSA's Institute of Texan Cultures, 801 South Bowie Street, San Antonio, Texas 78205-3296 (210)-458-2327.**
- (34) **John Anderson, Texas State Library & Archives Commission, 1201 Brazos Street, Austin, Texas 78701 or P.O. Box 12927, Austin, TX. 78711-2927, (512) 463-5506**
- (35) **Gone From Texas: Our Lost Architectural Heritage, by Willard B. Robinson, 1981, Texas A&M University Press, College Station, TX**
- (36) **Gone From Texas: Our Lost Architectural Heritage, by Willard B. Robinson, 1981, Texas A&M University Press, College Station, TX**

SECESSION OF PROPERTY OWNERS
BARKER-HUEBINGER HOUSE
FM 539 SOUTH
LA VERNIA, TEXAS
WILSON COUNTY

Spanish Land Grant dated 1833,
Filed May 16, 1853

Recorded in Volume D, PP. 750-753 Deed Records of Guadalupe County, Texas
The instrument was written in the Spanish language, granting one league and labor of land to Felipe Elua (Luar) by Commissioner Manuel Ximenes, the land is situated in the Bexar Land District on the East side of the Cibolo, formerly in Guadalupe County. (Bexar County Archives, San Antonio, Texas)

**The State of Coahuila and Texas
To Felipe Elua (Luar) Spanish Grant**

Dated --- 1833,
Filed May 16th, 1853
Recorded in Book D, PP. 750-753
Guadalupe County, Texas

This is an instrument in the Spanish language and grants one League and Labor to Felipe Elua (Luar) by Commissioner Manuel Ximenes, the land is situated in the Bexar Land District on the East side of the Cibolo, formerly in Guadalupe County, Texas

Estate of Felipe Elua (Luar) Deceased

Probate Court, Bexar County, 1/14/1842
Partition for Letters of Administration
Filed 1/31/1842
Recorded Book "B", P. 115
Henry I. Moore appointed Administrator 1/14/1842
Spanish Archives, Probate Court, Bexar County, Texas

Decree Declaring Administration

Vacant – May 29, 1843
Filed & Recorded in Book "A, page 269
Bexar County Probate Records
June 26, 1843, Book "A", P. 282

Ramalda Luar, her mark
E. Johnson
Juan Cap Johnston, her mark
Manuel Gramp, his mark
Remeta Luar E. Gramp, her mark
To
John James

The Felipe Elua (Luar) estate conveys to John James all rights, title, interest, property, possession, claim and demand which they have in one league and labor of land lying on the Cibolo River in the County of Bexar.

Dated July 23rd, 1846

Filed December 18th, 1846

Recorded in Book "A", Page 122

Deed Records of Guadalupe County, Texas

Tax Deed

J. L. Trueheart, Sheriff and Tax Collector,

Bexar County

Dated 4/13/1847

Filed 4/21/1847

Recorded in Volume "B", PP. 90-92

Guadalupe County Deed Records

Payment of State & County Taxes

For 1842-1843-1844-1845 (amount not stated)

The deed says in effect that the sale was made by Geo. T. Howard who preceded Trueheart as Sheriff and Collector and that the land was bid in by D.G. Rogers who relinquished his claim and authorized deed to John James.

D.G. Rodgers

To

John James

In consideration of the sum of \$250.00 promissory notes of the late Republic, and the further sum of \$80.00, paid by John James of the City of San Antonio, sold unto John James all the interest and title to one league and labor of land on the East side of the Cibolo River, known as Survey No. 9, granted Felipe Luar by virtue of a certain certificate of Tax Sale, delivered to John James, and made part of this instrument granted by George T. Howard, Sheriff and Collector for Bexar County and dated 1846, hereby relinquishing all right acquired to said land . Signed by D. G. Rodgers.

John James to Pugh Houston

Warranty Deed

Dated May 8th, 1854

Filed January 9th, 1855

Recorded in Book "E", Page 774

Deed Records of Guadalupe County, Texas

In consideration of \$7,200.00, paid by Pugh Houston, from the County of Lauderdale, State of Alabama, 2400 acres of land, being a portion of an original survey of one league of land in the name of Felipe Luar (Elua) and situated on the N.E. bank of the Cibolo, in the County of Guadalupe (present day Wilson County, Texas).

Pugh Houston to Dr. G.J. Houston

Power of Attorney

Dated November 28, 1867

Filed January 6th, 1868

Recorded in Deed Book "J", PP. 449

Deed Records of Guadalupe County, Texas

Power of Attorney was granted to Dr. G.J. Houston by Pugh and Lucinda Houston of the County of Wilson, to transact any business and convey all rights, title and interest in that tract of land in the County of Guadalupe, the same tract having been conveyed to Pugh Houston by deed from John James May 8th, 1854.

**Pugh Houston and wife, Lucinda Houston by their Attorney in fact, G.J. Houston
To**

Emory C. Barker

Warranty Deed

Dated May 12th, 1869

Filed-----

Recorded in Book "K", Page 220

Deed Records of Guadalupe County, Texas

In consideration of the sum of \$1,042.00, paid by E.C. Barker of Guadalupe County, for 260 acres, situated in Guadalupe County on the waters of the Cibolo Creek, being a part of the 2400 acre tract of land conveyed to Pugh Houston by John James May 8, 1854.

E. C. Barker to Leah Barker

Warranty Deed

Dated April 10th, 1871

Filed-----

Recorded in Book "K", Page 784

Deed Records of Guadalupe County, Texas

Consideration: of the fact that E.C. Barker was indebted to his wife, Leah Barker, in the sum of \$900.00, the sum being a part of her separate property in the form of stock which was given to her by her mother, and E.C. Barker used the money for the benefit of himself and now wishes to repay his wife, therefore he conveyed unto Leah Barker, 260 acres of land lying on the waters of the Cibolo Creek in the County of Guadalupe, being the same tract conveyed to E.C. Barker by G.J. Houston, Attorney in Fact for Pugh and Lucinda Houston dated May 12th, 1869.

E. C. Barker, et ux

To

Samuel W. McClain, et al

Deed

Dated November 10, 1871

Filed June 5, 1876

Recorded Volume "D", Page 323

Deed Records of Wilson County, Texas

Leah Barker was in the process of building her rock house when she donated (or deeded acreage to the school trustees: In consideration of the importance and necessity of establishing a permanent school in her neighborhood, with suitable grounds for building and other conveniences, Leah and E.C. Barker donated to school Trustees, Samuel W. McClain, W. F. Gardner and Asa W. Murray, and to their successors, who may hereafter be chosen by this community, 1-1/3 acres (more or less) so long as the land is occupied and appropriated for the use and benefit of a school for the accommodation and conveniences of their community, and should it cease to be used for school purposes, it will revert back to the possession of the landowners.

E. C. Barker and wife, Leah Barker

To

F. M. Butler

Warranty Deed

Dated February 5, 1878

Filed February 13, 1878

Recorded in Book "E", Page 284

Deed Records of Wilson County, Texas

In consideration of the sum of \$2,900, paid by F.M. Butler of the County of Bexar, 260 acres of land on the East Bank of the Cibolo Creek in the County of Wilson, being the same 260 acre tract of land conveyed to Leah Barker by E.C. Barker April 10, 1871.

F. M. Butler to W. R. Wiseman

Warranty Deed

Dated March 27th, 1879

Filed April 3rd, 1879

Recorded in Book "F", Page 319

Deed Records of Wilson County, Texas

In consideration of the sum of \$1,500.00, paid by W.R. Wiseman of Wilson County, to F.M. Butler for 260 acres of land lying in Wilson County on the East side of the Cibolo Creek, some 3 miles below La Vernia, being the same tract of land conveyed to F.M. Butler by E.C. and Leah Barker, March 24, 1879.

W. R. Wiseman to J. S. Cox

Warranty Deed

Dated February 12th, 1881

Filed September 20th, 1887

Recorded in Book "Q", Page 238

Wilson County Deed Records

In consideration of the sum of \$1,920.00 and \$720.00, paid by J.S. Cox and wife Rebecca Cox for a 260 acre tract on the East bank of the Cibolo Creek, being the same tract conveyed by F.M. Butler to W.R. Wiseman March 27, 1879.

J. S. Cox and Rebecca Cox

To

A.W. Cox

Warranty Deed

Dated June 12th, 1889

Filed August 24th, 1889

Recorded in Book "T", Page 214

Deed Records of Wilson County, Texas

In Consideration of the sum of \$4000.00, paid by Albert W. Cox of La Vernia, to J.S. Cox, being the same tract sold to E. C. Barker by G.J. Houston, agent of Pugh and Lucinda Houston. Described by Jesse S. Cox as being their homestead on which they have lived for years past.

A. W. Cox to Hugh McGuffin

Warranty Deed

Dated December 29th, 1890

Filed January 2, 1891 – 5:00 P.M.

Recorded in Book "V", page 320

Deed Records of Wilson County, Texas

In consideration of the sum of \$3,000.00, paid by Hugh McGuffin to A.W. Cox, for a tract of land in the Elua Grant in Wilson County, described in Book "T", pages 214, 215 & 216. (Note: The land conveyed by this instrument is not described, only reference to the deed is in Book "T", Page 214.)

Hugh McGuffin & Nancy I. McGuffin

To

J.S. Jones, Jr.

Warranty Deed

Dated April 2, 1897

Filed April 15th, 1897 – 1:00 P.M.

Recorded in Book 37, Page 139

Deed Records of Wilson County, Texas

In consideration of the sum of \$2,100.00, paid by J.S. Jones, Jr. to Hugh and Nancy I. McGuffin paying off a certain deed of trust executed by Albert W. Cox to the Jarvis Conklin Mortgage Company. Being a part of the F. Elua Survey on the East Bank of the Cibolo Creek, this being the land conveyed by Jesse S. and Rebecca Cox to Albert W. Cox June 12th, 1889.

J. S. Jones and Wife, Mary Jones

To

W.R. Phillips

Warranty Deed

Dated December 20th, 1907

Filed February 4th, 1908

Recorded in Book 62, Page 10

Deed Records of Wilson County, Texas

In consideration of \$3,800.00, paid by W.R. Phillips; \$3,000.00 being cash and note of \$800.00 to be paid at later date, for 266-3/4 acres of land, part of the F. Elua survey and located on the east side of the Cibolo River in Wilson County, being the same land conveyed to the said J. S. Jones, Jr. by Hugh and Nancy McGuffin by deed dated April 2, 1897.

Sarah Ann Phillips, et al (wife of W.R. Phillips, deceased)

To

L. B. Knox

Warranty Deed

Dated January 3rd, 1912

Recorded in Book 75, Page 143

Deed Records of Wilson County, Texas

(Note: William B. Phillips died 12/28/1911 in Stockdale, Texas from gunshot)

In consideration of the sum of \$5,500.00, paid by L. B. Knox (\$400.00 paid in cash and a promissory note) for 266-3/4 acres of land, part of the F. Elua Survey, on the East side of the Cibolo Creek in Wilson County, Texas, being the same property conveyed to J. S. Jones by Hugh McGuffin dated April 2, 1897.

L. B. Knox

To

R. J. and Adela/Adelia Huebinger

Warranty Deed

Dated November 28, 1916

Filed November 28, 1916

2:15 P.M.

Recorded in Volume 93, Page 601

Deed Records of Wilson County, Texas

In consideration of the sum of \$10,640.00, paid by Rudolph and Adela (Adelia)

Huebinger to L. B. Knox for 266-3/4 acres of land, out of the F. Elua Grant on the East bank of the Cibolo Creek in Wilson County, Texas.

Rudolph & Adelia Huebinger Estate

(1) Irma Rita Huebinger Rawe, et vir

To Ralph H. Huebinger

10/23/1952

Filed 10/24/1952

Recorded 10/27/1952

Volume 276, Pg. 42

Wilson County, Texas

(2) Della Moehrig Huebinger

To Ralph H. Huebinger

10/23/1952

Filed 10/24/1952

Recorded 10/27/1952

Volume 276, Pg. 44

Wilson County

(3) Della Moehrig Huebinger, et al

And Ralph H. Huebinger, et al

Partition of Estate

10/21/1952

Wilson County

Volume 276, Pg. 45

Filed October 24, 1952

Recorded 10/27/1952

Ralph Huebinger Estate

Trustee's and Executors' Deed

Grantor – Virginia Verstraetten,

Successor Trustee of the Ralph H. and Doris Lucille Huebinger Living Trust

And Virginia Verstraetten and Michael R. Huebinger, Independent Executors of the
Estate of Doris Lucille Huebinger - Grantee - Michael R. Huebinger

Volume 1073, PP. 451-456

8/1/2001

Filed 8/7/2001

Wilson County

Correction Deed

Trustee's and Executors' Deed

3/10/2006

Filed 3/24/2006

Volume 1331, PP. 578-585

Wilson County

Present Owners are:

Michael and Shirley Huebinger

73.8680 acres out of the 266-3/4 acre tract

Tax Appraisal Statement 2008 (included)

BARKER-HUEBINGER HOUSE
Measurements
FM 539 North
Sutherland Springs, Texas
Wilson County

East Side (front door):

The front door of this home is 76 inches across from each outer facing. The inside width is 68-1/2 inches. The door is 8 feet in height and it is a single door. Above the door are six glass panels. Each panel measures 8-1/2 by 10-1/2 inches. On either side of the door are 3 glass panels measuring 15-1/2 by 10 inches.

East Side (wall):

The width of the east wall is 50 feet & 5 inches across. There is a five ft. space between the edge of the southeast corner of the house and the left window. The measurement of the two windows on the left side is 34 inches in width and 62 inches in height. Ms. Irma Huebinger Rawe said there were small individual panels extending out over the windows on the front porch and her father took them down and used them in the building of a cattle pin. The front door measures 68-1/2 inches in width and 8 ft. in height. The space between the door and the windows on either side of the east wall measures 6 ft. & 10 inches. The two right windows have the same measurements as the windows on the left. On the left front side of the house the measurement from the bottom of each window to the ground is 3 ft. & 5 inches. On the right front side of the house the measurement is 3 ft. & 3 inches. It appears that the dirt has shifted making the ground uneven.

West Side (wall):

There are two single doors and one set of double doors on the west side of the home. The double doors were original to the home, however after Rudolph Huebinger bought

the home in 1916 he replaced the double doors with windows. When Michael Huebinger (grandson of Rudolph Huebinger) inherited the home from his dad, Ralph Huebinger, he took the double windows out and replaced the double doors. A photograph of the home in the 1930's (from the Texas Archives) shows the house with double windows. The single door on the northwest corner (according to the present owner, Michael Huebinger) was originally a window which was made into a door as that room was needed for corn storage. The 1930 (Texas Archive) picture shows a door, so the window was made into a door prior to 1930's. Today the house has two windows on the back side (west) wall; one being a regular size window on the southwest corner, and the other one a very small opening to the right of the single door on the northwest corner. Beginning on the right side of the back wall (southwest corner) of the house, from the edge there is a 4 ft. & 6 inch space between the outer edge of the house and the first door. This door measures 40 inches in width and is 7 feet tall. From the bottom of this door to the ground measures 19 inches. To the left of this door is a window. There is a 48 inch space between the left side of the door and the window. This window measures 34-1/2 inches in width. It is 59 inches in height. From the bottom edge of this window to the ground measures four feet.

There are double doors to the left of this window measuring 7 feet across & 67-1/2 inches high. The space between the top of the front door and roof line is 1 foot 3 inches. There is a 19 inch space from the bottom of the double doors to the ground. The space measurement between the window and double door is 7 ft. & one inch.

The far left (northwest corner) door (that was once a window) measures 40 inches across and is 59 inches in height. There is a 1 foot & 3 inch space from the top of this door to the roof line. From the bottom of this door to the ground measures four feet. The measurement or space between this left door and the double doors is 10 ft. & four inches with a very tiny opening (or small window) near the roofline. From the left side of this door to the left outer edge (northwest corner) wall measures 8 ft. & 5 inches. The owner of the home says that this door was once a window and was made into a door because the room was used to store corn.

North and South Wall:

The north and south walls measure the same. There is one window each on the north and south wall measuring 3 ft. & 5 inches in width and 5 ft. & 6 inches in height. The width of the entire wall on both sides of the home measures 30 ft. & 1 inch across. The space between the window and the outer left (southwest corner) side of the wall measures 14 ft. & 1 inch. The space from the right side of the window to the outer right (southeast) edge of the wall measures 12 ft. & 7 inches. The measurement from the ground to the high point of the house measures 16 ft. & 5 inches. From the ground to the first break in the roof line is 10 ft. & 3 inches. Measurements of the southwest and southeast corners, from the ground to the roof line are 13 ft. and 10 inches.

Floor Plan (inside):

The house has four rooms; two on either side of an enclosed dogtrot hall. The rock walls of this home are approximately 15 to 17 inches thick, depending on where you measure. Entering the home through the front door into a dogtrot hall measuring 27 feet in length and 10 ft. 2 inches in width and looking toward the opposite end of the hall is the double (enclosed) door space on the west side of the home. There were no ceilings in the home. Cotton Muslim was used in place of a ceiling between the rafters and the room space.

On the left side (south) of the hall there is a door into the first room. There is a space measuring 9 ft. 7-1/2 inches between the front door and the door into this room. The door is 35 inches in width. The width of this room from east to west measures 15 ft. & 4 inches. The width from south to north is 17 ft. 4 inches. There is a fireplace on the south wall measuring 62 inches in width with 37 inches inside width. The inside height of the fireplace is 33 inches. (There are three fireplaces in the house and all measure the same.) The space between the fireplace and the front east wall measures 34 inches, and the space to the right of the fireplace to the west side of the room measures 35 inches. There are three windows; two on the east wall and one on the south wall. The one on the south wall lies between the fireplace and the west wall.

On the west wall of this room is a door leading to another room on the southwest side of the house. This door is 35 inches in width. The space between the south wall and the

door is 7 ft. 7 inches. From the right side of this door to the north side of the room is 6 ft. 10 inches. The measurement of the wall from floor to ceiling is 11 ft. & 7 inches. Entering into this back room on the southwest side of the house you will find the following measurements: 10 ft. 3 inches across the south side and 17 ft. & 4 inches from south to north. This room in later years was turned into a kitchen. A door leads out the west side of this room. There is a window between this door and the north wall. On the north side of this room is another door leading into the dogtrot hall. This door has a 35 inch opening. The space between this door and the west wall is 2 ft and 1 inch.

On the north side of the dogtrot hall are two rooms. The room on the northwest side of the house is the room where corn was stored. It measures 17 feet & 3 inches from south to north and 10 feet & 4 inches from west to east. The fireplace is on the north wall and measures the same as the other two fireplaces. There are 34 inches in space between the west side of the fireplace and west wall. There is a 35 inch space between the east side of this fireplace and east wall. The door leading from the dogtrot hall measures 35 inches in width. The space between this door and the west wall is 7 ft. 5 inches. There is no door leading from this room directly into the front north-east room.

On the northeast corner of the house which would be on the right hand side of the dogtrot hall (after entering the front door) is a room measuring 17 feet & 3 inches from south to north. The door leading into this room has an opening space of 35 inches. There are three windows; two on the east wall of the room and one on the north side of the room between the fireplace and the west wall. The fireplace measures the same as the other two fireplaces. Between the right side of the fireplace and the northeast corner of the room the measurements are 5 ft. and 1 inch. The space on the left side of the fireplace is the same width with a window between.

Due to the thickness of the walls in this house the rooms must have been quite cozy when the fireplaces were being used.

ADJACENT BUILDING

The adjacent building is very interesting indeed. The walls are solid stone and are 15 to 17 inches thick. The length of this building on the east side measures 30 ft. & 10 inches across. The building was constructed out of the same stone as the house. On the east side of this building are two windows and one door. The width of the left east side door is 3 ft. wide and 7 ft. high. Between this door and the next window is 9 feet & 11 inches. The window measures 3 ft. 5 inches in width & 50 inches in height. There is a 4 ft. space between this window and the next (last) window on the far right of the east side building. This last window measures 3 ft. 5 inches and is 50 inches in height. The measurement from this window to the northeast corner is 5 ft 5 inches.

The width of the south wall is 13 feet and 10 inches and the height of the wall is 7 ft. & 9 inches. There is one window measuring 4 ft. & 10 inches in width. The space between this window and the outer southwest corner of this wall measures 5 ft. & 3 inches.

The north wall of this building measures 19 feet & 7-1/2 inches with an opening of 6 ft. 10 inches. This opening is believed to have been much smaller when the building was constructed and extended in later years to use as a garage. As you enter into this building you will see a window on the east inside wall. To the right of the first window is a *niche* built of stone that appears to have been used for religious purposes. The *niche* is 19-1/2 inches in width, 32 inches in height and 10 inches in depth. To the right of the *niche* is the window and to the right of the window is a space measuring 4 ft. 1 inch to the impression in the side of the wall that appears to have contained a fireplace. It measures 30 inches across. To the right of the fireplace is a small, square opening in the wall measuring 11 inches by 13 inches that may have been used for wood. There is a flue. There is a 42 inch space from the right of the fireplace to the only door in the east side of this building.

The south inside wall has one window. The west inside wall has two windows and one door.

A part of the front (north) wall contains an extension toward the west. It measures 6 ft. 2 inches on the north side. It has one small window measuring 23-1/2 inches in width & 22 inches in height. The west extension wall measures 8 ft. 11 inches and the south extension wall measures 6 ft. 2 in. There is a window in the south extension wall measuring 1 ft. in width and 1 ft. 10 inches tall. This extension room is equally interesting. There are two small openings on the inside of the extension building. One on the east wall and one on the west wall, each measuring 19 inches by 13-1/2 inches. Mr. Huebinger inserted a large plank across the little room into these openings and used it for a shelf. There was a door on the east side of the small extension room measuring 36 inches in width that leads back into the main building which is boarded up. The entire length of the building on the west side is 31 ft. 3 inches. Ms. Irma Huebinger Rawe, daughter of Rudolph and Adelia, said there was a cistern over the top of this building and water dripped onto the building which kept it fairly cool. This is where her father separated milk. Rudolph milked 15 or more cows and the cream was taken to Seguin to sell.

From the south side of the extension building to the southwest corner of the extension building; there is a 12 inch space from this corner to the first window which measures 4 ft. high and 2 ft. 3 inches in width. There is 3 ft. between this window and the door. The door measures 7 ft. 3 inches in height and 3 ft. wide. From the door moving toward the south there is a 5 ft. 5 in. space to the next and last window. The window measures 4 ft. high and 2 ft. 3 inches in width. From this window to the southwest corner of the building is a space measuring 5 ft. 5 inches.

Directly behind the extension building on the west side is the well. The diameter of the well is 37 inches. The well is 67 feet deep, and as of August 22, 2007 the well was 57 feet from the opening of the well to the water.

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KEEP OUT



KEEP OUT































































FRAGILE
NOT DROP



















































From: Bob Brinkman
Sent: Monday, October 15, 2007 2:39 PM
To: 'Shirleygrammer@aol.com'
Subject: RE: Barker-Huebinger Rock House - Wilson County
Shirley,

Here's our take on the buildings' architecture based on the photos and information (this could go just in front of the measurements to describe the property):

The historic homestead includes a main house, adjacent building, and well. The main house is a load-bearing masonry structure, with a rectangular plan extended hall and parlor layout. Rough-cut sandstone is laid in both regular and irregular courses, and craftsmanship is evident in features such as corner quoins. The side gables incorporate shed roof additions for a building that is one-and-a-half units deep, and there are interior stone chimneys on both ends. On the main elevation, two windows flank either side of the main entry, which includes a wooden door with rectangular transom and sidelights. A metal-covered wooden roof supported by timbers shelters the front elevation. The steeply-pitched main roof also has metal covering a wooden support system. The two gable ends feature windows with wood lintels, aligned where the main roof and shed roof join. The rear elevation features two window openings flanked by two doorways near the corners. The interior includes historic plaster finishes and wooden doors.

The adjacent building exhibits similar stone construction in a rectangular layout, with timbered gables and a metal roof. The building exhibits some alterations, but the basic form is a center-passage side gabled building. Rough-cut sandstone is laid in regular courses, generally alternating between large and small stones. Corner quoins are also present, and a portion of a wall extension is present between the building and the main house. Notable interior features include incorporated fireplaces and hearths that exhibit stone craftsmanship.

The circular well near the secondary building features a concrete shaft atop a deep well lined with stones similar to those used in the buildings' construction.

Hope this helps! Greg S, Rachel L and I puzzled over this some. However you describe it, it's a great property. We look forward to receiving the full application on this one.

Bob Brinkman, Historian
History Programs Division
Texas Historical Commission
www.thc.state.tx.us
512/463-8769

From: Shirleygrammer@aol.com [mailto:Shirleygrammer@aol.com]
Sent: Friday, October 12, 2007 3:36 PM
To: Bob Brinkman
Subject: Re: Barker-Huebinger Rock House - Wilson County

Hi Mr. Brinkman, Monday morning would be wonderful!! It isn't necessary that I include the description for the Preservation Texas package but it would be nice. Every little bit helps! Thank you so much. One more question, how can I pull up the latest application for RTHL status? shirleygrammer@aol.com

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From: Bob Brinkman
Sent: Thursday, July 19, 2007 4:40 PM
To: 'shirleygrammer@aol.com'
Subject: Barker-Huebinger House
Ms. Grammer,

I am writing in response to a letter and photos you sent to Greg Smith on March 30 about the Barker-Huebinger House. I apologize for the lateness of this reply. Do I understand from the letter that you are interested in an RTHL application for 2008, and are looking for help with the architectural description? And, is that exclusive of possible listing in the National Register, or in addition to it?

In this case, with handcrafted stone buildings, we will probably lean more heavily on a physical description than on stylistic terms. It would be most helpful if you could include sketch drawings of the main house, secondary building, and well, both individually with measurements and divisions of rooms (historic/current) indicated, and also a sketch showing how the buildings and well relate to each other and the property. From the photographs you sent, the buildings do appear eligible for both NR and RTHL designations.

Let me know if you are looking for help completing the description of the buildings for an RTHL application, or if we can be of further assistance. New applications for RTHL buildings will be available soon on our web site at <http://www.thc.state.tx.us/markerdesigns/madmark.html>, and we will accept applications from Nov. 1, 2007 through Jan. 15, 2008. You are also welcome to send the historical narrative before November if you would like for us to review it. Thank you.

Bob Brinkman
Texas Historical Commission
www.thc.state.tx.us
512/463-8769

From: Shirleygrammer@aol.com

Sent: Thursday, July 19, 2007 7:01 PM

To: Bob Brinkman

Subject: Re: Barker-Huebinger House

Hi Bob, Thanks for your response. Yes, I am looking for help in writing a description of the home as I plan to submit an application in November. I will get those rooms measured along with other outside measurements including the adjacent rock building. I have the family history together. I will get these measurements to you as soon as possible because I would like to get a narrative to you and Charles by mid-October or before for you to review. This would give me time to find other information that we may need. This really is a unique old home and probably one of the last old rock homes in this area other than the Brahan Masonic Lodge in La Vernia that is built of the same stone and same time frame. Thanks again for your help.

shirleygrammer@aol.com

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