

Official Texas Historical Building Medallion
w/14"x 9" Interpretive Plate (Order #3526)
Comal County -

Location:
23 mi NW of
New Braunfels
on SH 46

3526

JOSEPH SCHEEL HOUSE*

A TYPICAL HOME OF GERMAN
SETTLERS, BUILT LATE 1860s BY
BERNHARD JOSEPH SCHEEL^{*** **}(1815-79)
AND WIFE ANNA BARBARA (LINK).

HAND-CUT, FACED LOCAL STONE;
NATIVE CEDAR TIMBER; AND
CYPRESS SHINGLES WERE USED.
SON HERMANN AND GRANDSON
JOHN LATER OWNED THE PLACE.**

RECORDED TEXAS HISTORIC LANDMARK - 1972***

*1/2" lettering
**3/8" lettering
***1/4" lettering

FILE COPY - DO NOT REMOVE

APPROVED

Truett Latimer

by Bob Watson
3-3-72

RECEIVED
READY FOR

MAR 3 1972

SOUTHWELL ORDER
TEXAS HISTORICAL FOUNDATION

OLD BERNHARD JOSEPH SCHEEL HOMESTEAD (Also known as the Joseph Scheel Homestead) - Mr. and Mrs. Victor Grant

Additional information on the house and on the builder and his family:

Typical story-and-a-half limestone farm house built with materials on or near the place, all hand cut. Early history of the place has been difficult to obtain and is somewhat sketchy. The South (left) side, and the small one-room rock house on the North (right) side, were probably the first structures built by Bernhard Joseph Scheel and wife, Anna Barbara, in the late 1860's. As was the usual procedure in those times, the small rock house was probably lived in while the bigger house was being built. Note that it had a stove and that the interior was painted.

The left side - the original half - consisted of a bedroom with kitchen in rear, and a half-story attic, with a stairway to the attic on the north wall. The stairway has now been built on the outside of the south wall. When the right half was built, in the middle 1870's, a central open breezeway was left between the two halves, ten feet wide and twenty-four feet deep. This "dog run" has been closed in at back and front to form the center hall. The right half consists of two rooms, with a cellar under the back part.

The unusually large attic was used for storage and as sleeping quarters for the children, a usual custom. The attic walls were plastered with caliche, which is still intact after 100 years. The barn was probably built at the same time as the original part of the house. It is part stone, part timber, as was often done in the early barns. By all evidence the house itself was built and lived in some years before Joseph received his grant from the state (Patent No. 549 dated January 4, 1878). This was not unusual, and has been the case with other pioneer homes.

Bernhard Joseph Scheel, known locally simply as Joseph Scheel, was born in the village of Heckemuehle, Hesse, Germany, in 1815. He married his first wife, Anna Maria Enders, in 1838. She bore him a daughter, Karolina. On March 19, 1839, Anna Maria died. On May 21 of the same year Joseph married Anna Barbara Link in the village of Michelsrombach, Hesse. She bore him ten children, one of whom, a boy, died in infancy.

The family emigrated to Texas from Michelsrombach in 1866 or 1867 with the four youngest children; the six older children had emigrated a few years earlier. The family settled in Comal County near Honey Creek on land which was later patented to Joseph. Joseph died in 1879 and was buried in the old Honey Creek

Catholic cemetery. Widow Anna Barbara and eight of the children sold the property to son Hermann in 1882. She subsequently moved to New Braunfels, where she lived the last few years of her life. She was buried in the old New Braunfels cemetery on the west side of town, but her grave has not been located. It may have been destroyed by vandalism perpetrated in recent years in that cemetery.

Hermann Scheel (1852-1927), the eighth child of Joseph and Anna Barbara, married Katharine Beierle in 1877. They had twelve children, and lived in the old homestead until 1914. In 1893 and again in 1900 they sold two small tracts of the property to the Catholic Archdiocese for the construction of the present Honey Creek (St. Joseph's) Church. They sold the property with the homestead to their son John in 1914. Hermann died in 1927, Katharine in 1930; both are buried in the cemetery at St. Joseph's. John and wife, Anna, sold the property to Otto Warnecke in 1920. Over the last 100 years the homestead has been successively known as the Joseph Scheel Place, the Hermann Scheel Place, and the John Scheel Place.

Mrs. Victor Grant's father, Thomas Darst, acquired the place in 1930 from Judge W. W. McCrory. The Grants have made only such changes in the house as were necessary for comfortable modern living, and have been careful to retain and preserve the pioneer character and features of the old homestead.



