

Official Texas Historical Building Medallion  
w/16"x 12" Interpretive Plate  
(Medallion and Plate to be Separate)  
Comal County (Order #3457)

Location:  
1370 Church Hill Dr.  
New Braunfels

BREUSTEDT HOUSE\*

A FINE EXAMPLE OF GERMAN  
COLONIAL "FACHWERK" --- ALL WALLS  
FRAMED WITH CEDAR TIMBERS, THEN  
FILLED SOLID WITH SUN-BAKED  
ADOBE BRICK.

BUILT 1858 FOR JOHANN ANDREAS  
AND CAROLINE (DAUER) BREUSTEDT,  
AT SITE NOW JUST WEST OF THE  
INTERSECTION OF IS 35 AND SH 46  
EAST. SEVERAL GENERATIONS OF  
THE FAMILY GREW UP IN THE HOUSE.

IN 1965 IT WAS MOVED HERE FOR  
RESTORATION AND PRESERVATION  
BY MR. AND MRS. W. H. DILLEN. \*\*

RECORDED TEXAS HISTORIC LANDMARK - 1972\*\*\*

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

3457

FILE COPY - DO NOT REMOVE

RECEIVED  
READY FOR

MAR 27 1972

SOUTHWELL ORDER  
TEXAS HISTORICAL FOUNDATION

APPROVED

Truett Latimer

*by Bob Watson*

3-27-72

THE BREUSTEDT HOME PLACE, NEW BRAUNFELS  
(Information related by Edward Dedeke, great grandson of Andreas  
Breustedt)

JOHANN ANDREAS BREUSTEDT came to Texas in 1845 from Westerode, a small village near Bad Hartzburg, Germany. He migrated as a young man of 18 years, on the ship B. Bohlen, and proceeded on from New Braunfels to Fredericksburg in 1846. He returned to New Braunfels in 1849, and was joined by his parents, Johann Heinrich and Dorothea Mueller Breustedt, and a brother Heinrich. He settled in the Neighborsville area at the edge of New Braunfels, at what is now the intersection of Highway 46 and IH 35. On this plot of 200 acres, he built his home about 1852 for his growing family.

He had married Caroline Dauer, and they now had two living children, a son William and a daughter Pauline. Three children born to Andreas and Carolina Breustedt had died in infancy.

The original house had four rooms flanking a large central hall. Later, as the family grew, a rock kitchen was added and connected to the house by a covered breezeway which was shuttered and used as the family dining room during the summer months. This was later enclosed to form a more formal dining room, and an additional bedroom was added. The farm became the home place from which Andreas Breustedt managed the farming and ranching operations as he increased his holdings on the blackland prairie between New Braunfels and Seguin, in the Cordova area. He took an active interest in the affairs of the St. Martin Evangelical Lutheran Church, and was one of the trustees of the Church Hill School.

All of the children of Andreas and Caroline Breustedt, except the three infants mentioned above, lived to maturity. There were four sons and five daughters. Two sons, Walter and Alvin, carried on in the farming and ranching business. The eldest, William, was sent east to school and became a prominent merchant in Waco, Texas. The fourth son, Otto, was sent to Texas A. & M., and became a druggist.

Andreas Breustedt had three sisters who also came to Texas with the family. Henrietta married August Weinert; Wilhemina (sp?) married Willie Clemens; founding two prominent Seguin and New Braunfels families.

One of the grandsons of Andreas and Caroline Breustedt, Reno Eickenroht, was a Representative in the Texas Legislature for many years. He and his brother, Martin, an architect in San Antonio, were very much interested in historic preservation. They were the children of Elise Breustedt Eickenroht.

After the death of his wife Caroline, Andreas Breustedt moved to Seguin to live with his son Walter. The Breustedt house and its surrounding acreage (about 200 acres) was sold about 1907 to Ernst Stein. The Steins later sold the property to Dr. Rennie Wright, who in turn sold off several tracts to various people. The house and about 10 acres of land were sold to Mrs. Hulda Schawe, who lived there until her death.

An interesting anecdote concerning the house occurred some time during the Civil War. The story was told by Mrs. Hilda Oelkers Dedeke, whose mother was Pauline, the eldest of the Breustedt daughters. Of

course it is a known fact that many of the German immigrants were against secession from the Union, and consequently were not sympathetic to the Confederacy. Andreas Breustedt was away from home on one of his freight hauling missions for the Confederate Army at one time, when his wife Caroline was at home with a number of their small children. William at the time was about ten, Pauline was eight, Walter, four. It was winter and the children were all indoors. Also visiting in the house were two young men, family friends or relatives, who were evading service in the Confederate Army. The kitchen at that time was in the main house, and had the usual iron cook stove with a barrel of corn cobs used as kindling to start the fire. Also in the kitchen was the trap door in the floor, which led to the rock-lined cellar underneath the front bedroom. Suddenly, Caroline noticed through the window the approach of Confederate cavalry. Realizing instantly that her visitors were in danger of being caught, she quickly called to the two young men to go through the trap door into the closed cellar. Then, taking the barrel of corn cobs, she emptied the cobs over the trap door and called to her children in German, "Schnell! Jetzt bau!" meaning, "Quickly! Build with the corn cobs!", as they often did for pastime. With the visitors safely hidden in the cellar, she went to the door to admit the Confederate soldiers who by that time had knocked on the door. They came in and searched, but did not find the men hidden in the cellar beneath the trap door which was concealed by the children playing with the corn cobs.

--Recopied 3/14/73  
by Deolece Parmelee,  
Director of Research

(To make a legible copy for SMC)

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Andreas Breustedt came to Texas in 1845 from Westerode, a small village near Bad Hartzburg, Germany. He came over as a young man of 18 years, on the ship B. Bohlen and proceeded on from New Braunfels to Fredericksburg in 1846. He returned to New Braunfels in 1849 and was joined by his parents, Johann Heinrich and Dorothea Mueller Breustedt, and a brother Heinrich. He settled in the Neighborsville area at the edge of New Braunfels, at what is now the intersection of Hi-way 46 and IH 35. On this plot of 200 acres, he built this home about 1859 for his growing family. He now had 2 living children, a son William and a daughter Pauline. Three children born to him and his wife, Caroline Dauer, had died in infancy. The original house had 4 rooms around a large central hall. Later, as the family grew, a rock kitchen was added and connected to the house by a covered breezeway which was shuttered and used as the family dining room during the summer months. This was later enclosed to form a more formal dining room and an additional bedroom was added. The farm became the home place from which he managed the farming and ranching operations as he increased his land holdings on the blackland prairie between New Braunfels and Seguin, in the Cordova area. He took an active interest in the affairs of the St. Martin Evangelical Lutheran Church and was one of the first trustees of the Church Hill School. All of his children, 4 sons and 5 daughters, lived to maturity. Two sons, Walter and Alvin, carried on in the farming and ranching business. The eldest, William, was sent east to school and became a prominent merchant in Waco, Texas. The fourth son, Otto was sent to Texas A&M and became a druggist.

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