



COMAL COUNTY

PUBLIC INFORMATION

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Historical Commission receives grant for work on three ranches

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NEW BRAUNFELS — The Comal County Historical Commission has received a \$12,000 matching state grant to help three area ranches be recognized in the National Register of Historic Places.

The grant from the Texas Historical Commission allowed the county to contract with Hardy Heck Moore to conduct archaeological and historical research into the ranches, preparing their nominations for the historic register.

The three ranches are:

- Magic Springs Ranch, near the Kendall County border. The ranch contains dwellings and agriculture structures dating to the early 20th century, as well as the headwaters of Spring Branch Creek, which was important to the development of Spring Branch.
- Honey Creek Springs Ranch, near Guadalupe State Park. It contains more than 20 buildings dating as far back as the 1860s, the oldest of them built by the Catholic Germans who founded the Honey Creek settlement around 1867. The property has remained in the same family since the 1850s.
- Walzem farmstead, outside of New Braunfels near SH 46. The land includes a barn structure dating to about 1850 and a dwelling from about 1860, both well preserved and providing a snapshot of early German settlement in Comal County.

“We are honored and grateful to receive this grant and be able to start the process of getting these significant historic properties recognized for their historic importance,” said Karen Boyd, chairwoman of the Comal County Historical Commission. “Being listed in the National Register of Historic Places would allow the owners of these properties to take advantage of historic-preservation tax credits and other benefits.”

The properties were identified by Hardy Heck Moore in a 2014 survey of the county’s historic resources located outside the New Braunfels city limits. The matching grant required a \$12,000 commitment from Comal County, providing a total of \$24,000

A similar grant, awarded in 2015, has helped the county prepare a nomination of the Fischer Historic District for submission to the Texas Historical Commission and the National Park Service this fall.

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