

Historic Resources Survey Form
Adapted from the Texas Historical Commission by Preservation Central, Inc.

Section 1: Basic Information

Site Number: 6

Project Name: Oak Hill Historic Resources Survey

City: Austin

County: Travis

Property Name: Patton Ranch Complex

Address: 5612 Old Patton Ranch Road

Property Type: Site

Designations: High priority in 2015 Survey

Architect: Unknown

Builder: James Andrew Patton?

Date of Construction: c. 1870

Function – Current: Vacant

Function – Historic: Farmstead - log dwellings, barn

Recorded by: Terri Myers, Preservation Central, Inc.

Date Recorded: January 2016

Primary Image: Patton Ranch log house, Camera facing Northeast, Image is West Elevation



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Section 2: Architectural Components

Narrative Architectural Description/Historic Associations: Site 6 is a farmstead with a 1-story, side-gabled log house (with later additions), a smaller front-gabled log building, a log animal barn, a frame tenant (?) house, and a frame privy. The main house has exposed log construction on its west and parts of its north and south walls; the remaining walls appear to be enclosed within later additions dating to c. 1900 (ship lap siding) and c. 1935 (rooms with asbestos siding; porch). A large, intact limestone chimney with a stone cap dominates the west wall. The additions detract from the log dwelling but the original construction is readily apparent and the additions can be removed. The animal shelter is a side-gabled pole barn built of stacked timbers chinked with small stones, with one side open to the farm. It has historic wood and metal additions on both ends. A secondary front-gabled log building lies at the rear of the main house. A frame privy and tenant dwelling (?) lie at the far side of the central barnyard.

Associated with pioneer settler James A. Patton who came to Oak Hill in 1870. Patton deeded the land to his son Robert, who left it to his daughter, Nellie Patton Miller. The farmstead is a rare assemblage of domestic and agricultural buildings and structures associated with early settlement in Oak Hill. A High priority site in the 2015 Travis County Historical Commission's Survey of Southwest Travis County.

Alterations/Relocation: A c. 1900 frame addition incorporated the log house. House remodeled c. 1935-1950 with inset porch and asbestos shingles. However, log construction is clearly evident on three sides.

Stylistic Influences: Main dwelling: Vernacular (Rustic)

Structural Details: Main dwelling **Stories:** 1 **Plan Type:** Massed (additions) **Basement:** None

Roof Form: Side-gabled

Roof Materials: Metal

Wall Materials: Raw timbers chinked with stones and Portland cement; Asbestos; Wood

Window Type: Boarded

Materials: Unknown

Doors (Primary entrance): Single, boarded

Chimneys: Yes

Placement: Exterior wall, west elevation

Materials: Limestone

Porches (Type and Placement): Inset porch on c. 1900 addition; Porch inset under c. 1950 remodel roof.

Ancillary Buildings: (Garages, Barns, Sheds, Other) Log barn, log outbuilding, frame privy & dwelling.

Landscape/Site Features: Type (Sidewalk, Terracing, Drives, Well/cistern, Gardens) and Materials:

Site lies to the south of a small cut-off road off Old Patton Ranch Road above Williamson Creek. A path leads through the overgrown yard to the building complex. Trails link the main house to other buildings set around an open barnyard. Trees shelter site from road. Grass-covered site slopes toward tree line marking branch of Williamson Creek to the south.

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Section 3: Historical Information

Associated Historic Context: *Rural and Suburban Development in Southwest Travis County: 1850-1965* (Travis County Historical Commission, Cultural Resources Survey of Southwest Travis County, Texas, 2015)

Applicable National Register (NR) Criteria: Meets National Register Criteria A, C, and possibly D

A: Associated with events that have made significant contributions to the broad patterns of our history; or

B: Associated with the lives of persons significant in our past; or

C: Embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic value, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinctions; or

D: Has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Level of Significance (National, State, Local): Local level of significance.

Areas of Significance (Agriculture, Architecture, Landscape): Settlement; Agriculture; Architecture

Period of Significance: c. 1870-1965

Historic Integrity (Excellent, Good, Fair, Poor, Ruin): Good

Location: X **Setting:** X **Association:** X **Design:** X **Materials:** X **Workmanship:** X **Feeling:** X

Integrity Notes: The Patton Ranch complex retains its historic appearance and fabric to a good degree. The design of the log house is compromised somewhat by its additions but they, too, date to the historic period. Overall the site retains a high level of historic integrity, especially in the aspects of setting, association, materials, and feeling. It conveys a strong sense of its historic origins and use.

Preservation Priority (High, Medium, Low): High

National Register Eligibility: Individually eligible for NR; Contributing to potential historic district

Potential Historic District: Potential NR, Multiple Property, or Rural Historic Landscape District

Justification: This is a rare and important example of an intact pioneer farmstead associated with Texas frontier settlement patterns in Travis County. Dating to c. 1870, it is the oldest extant building site in Oak Hill with the only known log buildings identified in the 2015 Southwest Travis County Historic Resources Survey. It is important not only for the primary log dwelling, but also for the associated agricultural features which are often missing from other early sites of this type and era.

Other Information (Prior documentation for this resource):

James M. White and Annetta White. *They Came to Texas*. Austin: Self-published, c. 2000; Preservation Central. *Historic Resources Survey of Southwest Travis County*. Austin: Travis County Historical Commission, 2015.