

Map ID: 006_

Historic Name: Russell Ranch, Hall Ranch House Current Name: 808 Ranch

Location: 16750 SH 29

City: Liberty Hill State: TX County: Williamson

Legal Description: County ID: R023013

Construction Date: 1985 Actual Estimate Source: Williamson CAD

NRHP District Status: **No District**

NRHP Individual Status: **Eligible-Individual**

Meets criteria:	A	B	C	D	At these levels:	National	State	Local
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Retains Integrity of:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Location	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Design	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Setting	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Materials
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Workmanship	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Feeling	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Association		

View of front of main house, view facing west.

Date: 101508 Source: CPY staff



Description: Ranch property with main house, pump house, barn, equipment shed, and machine shed on over a hundred acres of land.

Eligibility: This property has an appraisal date of 1850, making it a property of interest to project historians. Project historians conducted survey work on October 15, 2008. Upon arriving on site, historians discovered an official "State Historical Survey Committee" plaque on the main house. This was surprising as the Atlas database and maps had been reviewed with no previously identified resources near this location. The Historical Markers Program coordinator at the THC was contacted to obtain further information about the resource's official survey status. A files search revealed that this property is known as the Hall Ranch House, listed as an RTHL in 1962, the same year the RTHL program was initiated.

According to the RTHL application, the house was built in 1853 by slave labor when the land was owned by John Russell. The lumber for the house was hauled in from Bertram while the stone came for the surrounding land. The stone walls are approximately two feet thick. The sources of information for the application were Abstract of Title and several credible

citizens in Liberty Hill including Judge J. E. Hickman (deceased) and George L. Russell (descendant of original owner). The Russells were among the first settlers to the Liberty Hill area in the early 1850s, but do not appear to have been prominent citizens. The RTHL is known as the Hall Ranch House as Mr. Marvin Hall was the person who filled out the RTHL application. The Historical Markers Program coordinator is in the process of getting this resource added to the database as of October 16, 2008.

The property is a good example of a mid nineteenth century ranch that has an original stone farmhouse (1853) and a distinctive stone and wood barn, along with other outbuildings and pasture land. The farmhouse is a two-story side-gabled center-passage plan limestone house with a two-story full-width porch on the front and one exterior stone chimney. The lower porch level is screened. The windows on the front appear to be original with a few aluminum frame storm windows. The windows on the north and rear side of the original house have been replaced with aluminum two-over-two sash. The original front doorway maintains its original features including the three-light transom over the door. The second floor has a central door topped by a five-piece beveled stone lintel. The roofline has been extended for a two-story addition on the west end of the house, approximately one-third the size of the original house. The addition is also a side-gabled center-passage plan with a two-story porch. The addition has false-bevel wood drop siding. The addition's windows are one-over-one wood sash.

Immediately to the west of the house is a round stone cistern with a stone lid and a stone pump house. The pump house has a square plan, a centrally located door on the east side, and single window openings on the south and north sides. The roof is supported by concrete joists and cedar posts. There is a metal skeletal structure south of the pump house – the last remaining vestiges of the windmill.

North of the house is an equipment shed on a concrete slab. The ca. 1940 shed has triple garage door-sized openings on the southeast side. It has a side-gabled wood-framed roof covered in standing seam metal with a wood ridgeline ventilator. The siding is painted flush wood.

A larger machine shed is located to the north of the equipment shed. The ca. 1930 shed is side-gabled with a secondary extended roof. The flush wood siding is attached to wood framing. The roof span is supported by slender metal poles (probably replacements). The roofs are covered in standing seam metal with a wood ridgeline ventilator.

Further to the north is a ca. 1930 wood and stone barn with a gambrel roof. It has a double pen with central passage plan. The pens are made of local stone with cement-based mortar. The upper level has wood framing and the second floor joists are strengthened with cross bracing. The roof has two slender shed-roofed dormers (one on either longitudinal side) that allow hay to be tossed down from the loft to the exterior corral areas. The corral areas are protected by flush wood siding and shed-roofed metal roofs. The gambrel roof gables are covered in metal as is the roof.

The ranch is significant at the local level in the area of Agricultural Practices under Criterion A at the local level. The site is also significant under Criterion C at the local level as an example of pioneer architecture. The farmhouse is a very early example for the type of construction – a two-story masonry rural residence. Although the house has seen some changes in the two-story addition and window alteration, very few examples from this time period remain in the area. The property includes various agricultural auxiliary buildings in varying conditions. It maintains associated ranching acreage thereby keeping integrity of

setting and association necessary to convey mid nineteenth century agricultural heritage of the area. The site is not significant under Criterion B for its association with the Russell pioneer family. The property retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. It is recommended eligible for listing in the NRHP under Criterion A for Agricultural Practices at the local level and under Criterion C for Architecture at the local level.

The ranch would be adversely impacted by Segment 1 south, Segment 1 center, Segment 1 combo, and Southwest 2 alignments.

Conclusion: The farmhouse is a very early example for the type of construction – a two-story masonry rural residence. Although the house has seen some changes in the two-story addition and window alteration, very few examples from this time period remain in the area. The property includes various agricultural auxiliary buildings in varying conditions. It maintains associated ranching acreage thereby keeping integrity of setting and association necessary to convey mid nineteenth century agricultural heritage of the area. The property retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

Boundary Justification:

*Rear view of main house,
view facing south.*

Date: 101508
Source: CPY staff



View of main house and pump house (left), view facing north.

Date: 101508
Source: CPY staff



Context view from driveway of main house with pump house (left), sheds (center), and barn (right), view facing southwest.

Date: 101508
Source: CPY staff



View of barn, view facing northwest.

Date: 101508 Source: CPY staff



View of machine shed, view facing southwest.

Date: 101508 Source: CPY staff



*View of equipment shed,
view facing west.*

Date: 101508 Source: CPY staff



*View of pump house in
relation to main house, view
facing south.*

Date: 101508 Source: CPY staff



*View of main gate off SH 29,
view facing southwest.*

Date: 101508 **Source:** CPY staff



*View of stone culvert along
main driveway with barn in
background, view facing
northwest.*

Date: 101508 **Source:** CPY staff

