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NPS Form 10-900 OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

1. Name of Property

Historic Name: Fischer Historic District
Other name/site number: NA
Name of related multiple property listing: NA

2. Location

Street & number: Roughly bounded by Fischer Store Road, FM 32, Patriotic Drive, and Let's Roll Drive.
City or town: Fischer State: Texas County: Comal
Not for publication: ☐ Vicinity: ☐

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☑ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ☑ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria.

I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following levels of significance:
☐ national ☐ statewide ☐ local

Applicable National Register Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D

State Historic Preservation Officer
Signature of certifying official / Title **Date**

Texas Historical Commission
State or Federal agency / bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting or other official **Date**

State or Federal agency / bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

___ entered in the National Register
___ determined eligible for the National Register
___ determined not eligible for the National Register.
___ removed from the National Register
___ other, explain: _____

Signature of the Keeper **Date of Action**

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5. Classification

Ownership of Property: Private, Public-Local

Category of Property: District

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
46	18	buildings
1	0	sites
26	10	structures
1	0	objects
74	28	total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions: Domestic: single dwelling, garage, outbuilding
Agriculture/Subsistence: barn, outbuilding, structure
Commercial: store, oil house, warehouse
Recreation and Culture: meeting hall, bowling alley
Education: school
Funerary: cemetery
Industrial: grist mill
Landscape: fencing, fields, pastures

Current Functions: Domestic: single dwelling, garage, outbuilding
Agriculture/Subsistence: barn, outbuilding, structure
Recreation and Culture: meeting hall, bowling alley, community center
Commercial: museum/store
Funerary: cemetery
Landscape: fencing, fields, pastures

7. Description

Architectural Classification:
Other: Folk Victorian
Late 19th and Early 20th Century American Movements: Bungalow/Craftsman
No Style

Principal Exterior Materials: Wood, Stone, Metal, Concrete

Narrative Description (see continuation sheets xx)

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

x	A	Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
	B	Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
	C	Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
	D	Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations: NA

Areas of Significance: Ethnic Heritage, Community Planning and Development

Period of Significance: c.1865-1957

Significant Dates: 1876, 1957

Significant Person (only if criterion B is marked): NA

Cultural Affiliation (only if criterion D is marked): NA

Architect/Builder: NA

Narrative Statement of Significance (see continuation sheets xx through xx)

9. Major Bibliographic References

Bibliography (see continuation sheets 35-36)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):
- _ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- _ previously listed in the National Register
- _ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- _ designated a National Historic Landmark
- _ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
- _ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

Primary location of additional data:
- x State historic preservation office (*Texas Historical Commission*, Austin)
- _ Other state agency
- _ Federal agency
- _ Local government
- _ University
- _ Other -- Specify Repository:

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): NA

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10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: 429.76 acres

Coordinates (see continuation sheet xx)

Verbal Boundary Description: (see continuation sheet xx)

Boundary Justification: (see continuation sheet xx)

11. Form Prepared By

Name/title: Kristina Kupferschmid/Architectural Historian, Erin Tyson/GIS Specialist
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Date: September 21, 2016

Additional Documentation

Maps (see continuation sheets 39, and 51 through 65)

Additional items (see continuation sheets 40 through 50)

Photographs (see continuation sheets 66-83)

This project was funded in part through a Certified Local Government Grant from the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, as administered by the Texas Historical Commission.

The contents and opinions, however, do not necessarily reflect the views and policies of the Department of the Interior, nor does the mention of trade names or commercial products constitute endorsement or recommendation by the Department of the Interior.

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Photograph Log

Fischer Historic District
Fischer, Comal County, Texas
Photographed by Kristina Kupferschmid
Dates photographed: October 20, 2015; November 23, 2015; September 15, 2016

Photo No. 1 (TX_Comal County_Fischer Historic District_0001)
Contextual view of the dry creek running through the district on the Willie Fischer Homestead (PIDN 76780), view facing northeast. October 2015.

Photo No. 2 (TX_Comal County_Fischer Historic District_0002)
PIDN 149689, contextual photo of former rodeo grounds, view facing northeast. October 2015.

Photo No. 3 (TX_Comal County_Fischer Historic District_0003)
PIDN 81574, contextual view of FM 32 and FM 484 at the southern edge of the district, view facing east. October 2015.

Photo No. 4 (TX_Comal County_Fischer Historic District_0004)
PIDN 76775, 4060 FM 484, contextual of fencing around the agricultural cluster on the Hermann Fischer, Jr. Homestead, view facing southeast. October 2015.

Photo No. 5 (TX_Comal County_Fischer Historic District_0005)
PIDN 76779, 475 Fischer Store Road, contextual view of the Otto Fischer Homestead, view facing south. November 2015.

Photo No. 6 (TX_Comal County_Fischer Historic District_0006)
PIDNs 76779j and 76779a, 475 Fischer Store Road, contextual view of fencing around house on the Otto Fischer Homestead, view facing west. November 2015.

Photo No. 7 (TX_Comal County_Fischer Historic District_0007)
PIDN 76779a, 475 Fischer Store Road, front façade of main house on the Otto Fischer Homestead, view facing north. November 2015.

Photo No. 8 (TX_Comal County_Fischer Historic District_0008)
PIDN 76779a, 475 Fischer Store Road, oblique of main house on the Otto Fischer Homestead, view facing southeast. November 2015.

Photo No. 9 (TX_Comal County_Fischer Historic District_0009)
PIDN 76779, 475 Fischer Store Road, contextual of clusters on the Otto Fischer Homestead, view facing north. November 2015.

Photo No. 10 (TX_Comal County_Fischer Historic District_0010)
PIDN 76773a, 701 Fischer Store Road, front façade of Fischer Hall, view facing north. October 2015.

Photo No. 11 (TX_Comal County_Fischer Historic District_0011)
PIDN 76773a, 701 Fischer Store Road, interior view of Fischer Hall, view facing south. October 2015.

Photo No. 12 (TX_Comal County_Fischer Historic District_0012)
PIDN 76783a, 4040 FM 484, oblique view of Fischer Store, view facing east. October 2015.

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Photo No. 13 (TX_Comal County_Fischer Historic District_0013)
PIDN 76783a, 4040 FM 484, front façade of Fischer Store, view facing northeast. October 2015.

Photo No. 14 (TX_Comal County_Fischer Historic District_0014)
PIDN 76783b, 4040 FM 484, oblique view of oil house, view facing northeast. October 2015.

Photo No. 15 (TX_Comal County_Fischer Historic District_0015)
PIDN 76780a, 115 Fischer Store Road, oblique view of grist mill, view facing northeast. October 2015.

Photo No. 16 (TX_Comal County_Fischer Historic District_0016)
PIDN 81585, 3900 FM 484, contextual view of site of former cotton gin, view facing southwest. October 2015.

Photo No. 17 (TX_Comal County_Fischer Historic District_0017)
PIDN 76780b, 115 Fischer Store Road, front façade of main house on the Willie Fischer Homestead, view facing northwest. October 2015.

Photo No. 18 (TX_Comal County_Fischer Historic District_0018)
PIDN 76775a, 4060 FM 484, front façade of main house on the Hermann Fischer, Jr. Homestead, view facing northwest. October 2015.

Photo No. 19 (TX_Comal County_Fischer Historic District_0019)
PIDN 76775, 4060 FM 484, contextual view of domestic cluster on the Hermann Fischer, Jr. Homestead, view facing northeast. October 2015.

Photo No. 20 (TX_Comal County_Fischer Historic District_0020)
PIDN 76775, 4060 FM 484, contextual of agricultural cluster on the Hermann Fischer, Jr. Homestead, view facing east. October 2015.

Photo No. 21 (TX_Comal County_Fischer Historic District_0021)
PIDN 76775o, 4060 FM 484, oblique view of warehouse on the Hermann Fischer, Jr. Homestead, view facing northeast. October 2015.

Photo No. 22 (TX_Comal County_Fischer Historic District_0022)
PIDN 76786e, 171 Fischer Store Road, oblique of barn on the Arnold Fischer Homestead, view facing northeast. October 2015.

Photo No. 23 (TX_Comal County_Fischer Historic District_0023)
PIDN 76786a, 171 Fischer Store Road, front façade of main house on the Arnold Fischer Homestead, view facing northwest. October 2015.

Photo No. 24 (TX_Comal County_Fischer Historic District_0024)
PIDN 78564, 1481 Fischer Store Road, contextual view of linear arrangement of buildings on the W. O. Fischer Homestead, view facing northeast. October 2015.

Photo No. 25 (TX_Comal County_Fischer Historic District_0025)
PIDN 78563, 1481 Fischer Store Road, front façade of main house on the W. O. Fischer Homestead, view facing northeast. October 2015.

Photo No. 26 (TX_Comal County_Fischer Historic District_0026)
PIDN 76773, 701 Fischer Store Road, contextual view of buildings on property, view facing west. October 2015.

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Photo No. 27 (TX_Comal County_Fischer Historic District_0027)
PIDN 76773b, 701 Fischer Store Road, oblique view of bowling alley, view facing northwest. October 2015.

Photo No. 28 (TX_Comal County_Fischer Historic District_0028)
PIDN 81591a, 12400 FM 32, oblique view of school, view facing southeast. October 2015.

Photo No. 29 (TX_Comal County_Fischer Historic District_0029)
PIDN 81591a, 12400 FM 32, oblique view of rear of school, view facing southwest. October 2015.

Photo No. 30 (TX_Comal County_Fischer Historic District_0030)
PIDN 81593, 12300 FM 32, contextual view of Fischer Cemetery, view facing north. October 2015.

Photo No. 31 (TX_Comal County_Fischer Historic District_0031)
PIDN 76773d, 701 Fischer Store Road, oblique view of non-contributing outhouse, view facing northeast. October 2015.

Photo No. 32 (TX_Comal County_Fischer Historic District_0032)
PIDN 76773e, 701 Fischer Store Road, oblique view of non-contributing garage, view facing northeast. October 2015.

Photo No. 33 (TX_Comal County_Fischer Historic District_0033)
PIDN 76784, 4050 FM 484, view of non-contributing post office, view facing northwest. October 2015.

Photo No. 34 (TX_Comal County_Fischer Historic District_0034)
PIDN 76774a, 451 Fischer Store Road, façade of non-contributing house, view facing west. November 2015.

Photo No. 35 (TX_Comal County_Fischer Historic District_0035)
PIDN 81593, 12300 FM 32, contextual view of Fischer Cemetery, view facing north. September 2016.

Photo No. 36 (TX_Comal County_Fischer Historic District_0036)
PIDN 81593, 12300 FM 32, contextual view of Fischer Cemetery tombstones, view facing northwest. September 2016.

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management. U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

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Description

The Fischer Historic District is a small rural community settled by German immigrants Hermann and Otto Fischer in the mid-nineteenth century. Located in the northern corner of Comal County at the intersection of farm-to-market (FM) 32, FM 484, Fischer Store Road, and North Cranes Mill Road, the Fischer Historic District encompasses approximately 429.757717 acres. The historic district is roughly bound by FM 32 to the south and the property boundaries of PIDN 76775 (4060 FM 484) to the west, PIDN 78562 (Fischer Store Road) to the north, and PIDNs 78563 (1481 Fischer Store Road), 149689 (450 Fischer Store Road), 81591 (12400 FM 32), and 81593 (12300 FM 32) to the east, and includes both buildings and land that are relevant to the history of the district (refer to Map 7 included on *Continuation Sheet page 62*). The core of the community and district is located at the convergence of the four roads fanning out from its center and is defined by a cluster of late nineteenth century and early twentieth century homesteads—typically having a main house and agricultural barns and outbuildings—Fischer Store, and the old grist mill. There are seven contributing homesteads and three post-1960 noncontributing homesteads within the historic district. The district also includes Fischer Store School and Fischer Cemetery, located just east of the cluster on FM 32, as well as Fischer Hall and the Fischer Bowling Alley, approximately half a mile north of the cluster on Fischer Store Road. The district encompasses pastures and fields as well, though the significance of the district is best represented by its buildings. The natural landscape combined with the cultural features of the built environment creates a cohesive district that represents the community's nearly 170-year history of occupation and reflects a pattern of rural development based on both the needs of agricultural and commercial endeavors, as well as community development. The historic character of Fischer remains intact and most of its buildings and resources have undergone few alterations, retaining exceptional integrity. Modern development has minimally encroached into Fischer and few modern additions have been constructed within the district.

General Overview of Historic District

Landscape and Setting

Fischer is located approximately 30 miles northwest of New Braunfels, situated between the towns of Blanco in Blanco County and San Marcos in Hays County on FM 32. The rural community lies in a slight valley just west of the geological formation known as the Devil's Backbone. Situated west of the Balcones Fault on the Edwards Plateau, Fischer's geography is characteristic of the Texas Hill Country, defined by rolling grassy terrain dotted with oak, mesquite, and juniper trees. Within the district, the natural terrain and vegetation are mixed with open and cleared agricultural land. Fischer falls within the Brackett-Comfort-Real soil area and is characterized by its shallow soil atop limestone and/or cemented chalk.[1] Lake Creek, a tributary of the Blanco River, runs through the northern portion of the district and a smaller finger, a dry creek, of Lake Creek runs through the district (Photo No. 1). The creeks are lined in places with cypress and sycamore trees.

Land-Use Activities

Historically, the land within the district not devoted to commercial and other non-agricultural activities was used primarily for ranching and some farming. Today, these non-agricultural lands continue to be used for non-agricultural purposes. The historic agricultural land is still primarily devoted to agricultural purposes, though on a smaller-scale.

[1] United States Soil Conservation Service and Texas Agricultural Experiment Station, General Soil Map, Comal County, Texas, Map, 1984, https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark%3A/67531/metapth130337/, accessed October 23, 2015, from The Portal to Texas History, http://texashistory.unt.edu; crediting University of North Texas (UNT) Libraries Government Documents Department, Denton, Texas.

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Agricultural Use

Because of the rocky soil and somewhat hilly terrain in Fischer that is best suited to ranching, farming was not practiced on as large a scale as it was in the southeastern part of the country. The lands devoted to farming were primarily cultivated out of the bottomlands of Lake Creek, where farming tending to be the most successful. Within the district, only one large historic cultivated field is identifiable. Located in the northern portion of the district on the Otto Fischer Homestead, the field was improved from the creek bottomland. The field, still under cultivation, is distinguishable for its openness and relatively level topography. From an aerial view, the terracing, (rows of crops) is identifiable. This terracing, as well as the configuration of the field is nearly identical to a 1953 aerial (Map 3). Additionally, today, as it was historically, the field is bound by vegetation. No other identifiable large fields appear to be under cultivation in the 1953 or current (2015) aerial.

Most families also grew crops on a subsistence basis in their own small gardens. Typically, these gardens would be located close to the house, but none of the homesteads in the district retain their historic gardens. Such is the case for the cleared land on Property Identification Number (PIDN) 81574, known as Dickens Pasture, which was said to have been a garden and a pasture.[2]

The remaining agricultural land in the district was used as ranch land. Ranchers raised cattle, horses, goats, and sheep. The earliest settlers practiced open-range ranching (without fencing). Open-range ranching gave way to fencing and cattle guards in the late nineteenth century. Within the district, historic ranch land is identifiable from the cultivated fields by a lack of terracing and largely by the sporadic presence of brush and other vegetation. These ranch fields were partially cleared of brush and trees, but not always completely devoid of vegetation as the cultivated fields were. Much of the historic ranch land is also identifiable by fencing along its boundaries. Additionally, brush and other vegetation, historically and today, seem to demarcate the boundaries of these fields. A comparison of the 1953 aerial to today shows much of the same configuration of pasture land, though vegetation has been allowed to grow more freely and overtake once partially cleared lands. Smaller grazing areas on these properties, such as the areas in front of barns, are also fenced-in and typically cleared, as they were historically. Ranching is still practiced on the majority of these lands, though on a smaller-scale, and the land on the Hermann Fischer, Jr. Homestead is also devoted to wildlife management.

Within the central core of the Fischer Historic District, on the two smaller 1920s homesteads, ranching was never the primary source of income for the property owners. Arnold Fischer, a son of Hermann, Jr., hauled freight for the Fischer Store and operated the grist mill. Ernst Weichmann was a mail carrier in Fischer in 1920, and by 1930, a blacksmith shop owner.[3] Animals were raised largely as a means of subsistence on these homesteads, and therefore there were fewer animals and therefore less acreage was required. Former agricultural lands on these properties are no longer in use, but remain identifiable. Historically, these areas were fenced-in and cleared. At the Arnold Fischer homestead, a combination of historic and non-historic fencing demarcates such areas. At the Ernst Weichmann Homestead, the area is no longer fenced in, but remains cleared. On both homesteads, these former agricultural lands are still identifiable based on their clearing and vegetation growth that demarcates boundaries. What was likely a pasture for dairy cows just north of the Arnold Fischer property appears on the 1953 aerial as a cleared field with what appears to be fencing around it.[4] Today, this field is partially covered in vegetation, and part of the new undeveloped subdivision (The Summit Estates); bisected by Let's Roll Drive, and the site of the subdivision's new water tower and several sheds (PIDNs 114296 a, b, c, d). The former ranching

[2] Personal communication between report author and Bryan Weidner on October 20, 2015.

[3] "1920 United States Federal Census" [online database], *1920, Justice Precinct 7, Comal, Texas, Roll T625_1786, Page 1B, Enumeration District 134, Image 289,* from http://ancestry.com, accessed May 6, 2016*;* "1930 United States Federal Census" [online database], *1930, Precinct 6, Comal, Texas, Roll 2307, Page 1A, Enumeration District 0011, Image 1159.0, FHL microfilm, 2342041,* from http://ancestry.com, accessed May 6, 2016.

[4] Arnold Fischer had a dairy barn just south of the field, and cows likely grazed in this field. If not, then cows or horses from 115 Fischer Store Road might have grazed in this field.

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land to the northwest of this former pasture was subdivided around 2003, and subsequently rezoned into residential lots, though they have not been cleared of vegetation or developed at this time.

Former pasture land at the school, where horses would graze during the day, is now completely overgrown with vegetation, but the property boundaries are still identifiable by vegetation growth.

Non-Agricultural Unimproved Fields

Fischer also had its own rodeo and polo fields, though no evidence of either remains (Photo No. 2). The rodeo grounds—also site to fairs—were located across Fischer Store Road from the dance hall on Otto Fischer's property, and operated from the 1920s into the 1940s. The polo field also was located on this piece of Otto's land, near a watering hole. Fischer's polo team, riding mostly on horses from area ranchers, played into the 1930s.[5] In 2014, a new house, barn, and several outbuildings were built on former ranch land at the southern end of the property. The former rodeo and polo fields remain undeveloped, and a new fence wraps around the property.

Circulation Networks

The site of the town of Fischer was, in part, chosen for its location near Lake Creek on the route between Blanco and San Marcos. A primitive road connected the two communities in the mid-nineteenth century and the site that would become Fischer was commonly used as a resting place for travelers and freighters who would camp along the creek. Another early route ran southwest to northeast (today's Fischer Store Road and North Cranes Mill Road), connecting Fischer to Cranes Mill to the south, then toward Wimberley to the north (Map 4). These routes, though having improved over the years, have continually provided the only way to and from Fischer. The current route of Fischer Store Road through Fischer is much the same as its earliest alignment, as it loosely followed the dry creek and property lines, making sharp curves rather than direct lines. These early routes were earthen and primitive, traveled by horse, oxen, and wagons, and ultimately were at the mercy of the weather, as rain and flooding could easily impact travel along the roads. The earliest mail route followed today's Fischer Store Road, but by 1907 followed the Blanco to San Marcos Road.[6] Because of the lack of a railroad, transportation of goods for the store, for building construction, and other necessities depended on ox-led wagons traversing the primitive routes. Later, the Fischers would use a steam tractor to pull their goods back to the store.

By 1929, the roads intersecting Fischer were improved to "Light-duty," though still prone to flooding at low water crossings.[7] The road between Blanco and San Marcos was designated a state highway in 1939, and the 1940 Comal County General Highway map shows the proposed route of the new State Highway (SH) 232 deviating from the historic road and following the current alignment of FM 32 (Map 5).[8] The realignment set Fischer just off the state highway, ultimately allowing travelers to bypass the community, and created the semi-circle of road on which the community lies (Photo No. 3).

Within the community and properties in the district, driveways, pathways, and walkways provide access between buildings and between different areas within a homestead, such as between fields, agricultural resources, and domestic resources. These internal paths have likely evolved over the past century, and a comparison of a 1953 aerial to today shows some of these changes, though slight in nature. The biggest change appears to be the loss of pathways from the school headed west. The path was probably created by horses and pedestrians traveling to and from school. The growth of trees and other vegetation, in addition to the closure of the school in 1957, led to the loss of these paths. Another alteration to the circulation pattern occurred near the store. In 1953, the road makes a

[5] Bryan Weidner, "The Fischer Family," (unpublished paper, 2003), 14.
[6] Personal communication with Bryan Weidner; 1907 Comal County Postal Map.
[7] U.S. Geological Survey, Smithson Valley Quadrangle, Map, 1929.
[8] State Highway (SH) 232 was re-designated FM 32 in April 1942.

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bowtie off the main road, encompassing the store. Today that bowtie is gone. Within the homesteads in the districts, many of the paths within each property appear on both the 1953 and current aerial.

Patterns of Spatial Organization

Land use within the district dictated the spatial organization of buildings during the early years of settlement within Fischer. Large tracts of land were acquired in part due to the need for space for open-range grazing. The settlement pattern of Fischer followed this trend, as families acquired large tracts of land. Because of the distance between the early settlers, many of the houses and homesteads of early Fischer residents are now separated by new development, and therefore fall outside the district boundaries. Today, Fischer is laid out in such a way that there is a density of resources located at the intersection of FM 32, FM 484, and Fischer Store Road with agricultural and rural lands fanning out from this core.

As more people moved to the area around Fischer, and after Hermann opened the store, development patterns shifted, and the core cluster of Fischer began to take shape. Land use in the central core of the district was subdivided into various functions after the store and post office opened, and as the community grew. In 1886, Otto donated ranch land for the construction of a school and a cemetery, both less than a half-mile from the store. Sometime before 1897 when the hall was likely built, Otto donated the ranch land on which Fischer Hall was built, a little over a half-mile away from the store.[9] The community continued to grow in the early twentieth century when the cotton mill, grist mill, and a blacksmith shop opened near the store on what was formerly agricultural land – resulting in a convenient cluster of amenities. Throughout the early twentieth century, the core of Fischer continued to grow as land was subdivided and more homesteads were constructed.

Within the district, the layout of homesteads is typical of most found in Central Texas, with domestic buildings and structures clustered together and agricultural buildings and structures set away from the domestic cluster. Houses are typically closest to the road, with the agricultural buildings set farther back, closer to pastures and fields. The houses in the district do not follow a pattern in terms of orientation; some face the road, some are situated perpendicular to the road, and though most of them face southeast, one faces southwest and one faces south. Domestic outbuildings—such as smokehouses and washhouses—are located to the rear of the main house, except at 475 Fischer Store Road (PIDN 76779). The agricultural buildings are all set behind, or to the north of the domestic buildings. Chicken coops are oftentimes located closest to the domestic cluster, while the larger animal barns are set farther away from domestic buildings. This organization creates a somewhat linear arrangement on the overall properties. The fields and pastures are connected to the agricultural zone, allowing machinery to move directly to the fields from storage. Fencing is used to define these areas, typically enclosing the domestic and/or the agricultural cluster, as is the case at the Hermann Fischer, Jr. Homestead (Photo No. 4). Though historically the district was fenceless, today many property lines are demarcated by fences.

Property and Architectural Analysis

The buildings in the Fischer Historic District represent common architectural types and styles that were popular throughout rural Comal County in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. The contributing buildings in the district span the 107-year period of significance and reflect the growth and evolution of Fischer from a single-building settlement to an independent, stable, agricultural community. (See Section 8 for *Period of Significance*.) The oldest resource in the district—Otto Fischer's main house—likely dates to sometime in 1860. The last building constructed within the period of significance is the 1953 teacherage on the school site. The homesteads in the district contain buildings and structures commonly found on rural homesteads in Comal County dating to the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, such as smokehouses and washhouses, as well as a variety of agricultural

[9] The original signed deed was kept by a secretary and apparently lost. The earliest records of the Agricultural Society begin in 1897, and the first dance mentioned in the records dates to July 1897.

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buildings and structures, including barns, chicken coops, troughs, and livestock loading chutes. The residences reflect common building practices in styles from the period of construction, including Folk Victorian from the early twentieth century and Craftsman styles from the 1920s. Though none of the houses could be considered high style, both the Willie and Hermann, Jr. residences are large and decorative for rural Comal County, and do reflect the prosperity of their mercantile business (described further in Section 8). The following discussion provides more detail on significant buildings and homesteads within the district.

Significant Buildings and Properties within the District

Otto Fischer Homestead – PIDN 76779 (Photo Nos. 5-9; Map 11)

The Otto Fischer Homestead, at 475 Fischer Store Road, is the oldest homestead in the district, and has been in continual agricultural operation since Otto Fischer acquired the property (Photo No. 5). Otto Fischer's home, built sometime between 1860 and 1870, though altered and added onto over the years, remains the main residence.[10] The homestead has a cluster of domestic outbuildings, agricultural buildings and structures, and fields and pastures. The main house is accessed by a dirt driveway off Fischer Store Road. The property is on relatively even land dotted with trees, with a cluster of trees around the main house. New fencing demarcates the property boundaries and pastures. A ca. 1940 stone and wire mesh fence encloses the yard around the main house (PIDN 76779j) (Photo No. 6). The domestic cluster lies just to the west of the house, and several clusters of agricultural buildings are located away from the house. Primitive pathways are located around the cultivated field. The ranch has been in continual operation since the 1850s and remains in the ownership of descendants of Otto Fischer. Today, a historically cultivated field remains active, on which sheep are raised.

The main house, a two-story side-gabled building, despite its many additions and alterations, still resembles the house as it was originally built (PIDN 76779a) (see fig. 1 and Photo Nos. 7 and 8). Originally built clad with cedar shingles on the first floor and board and batten on the second floor, the house maintains some board and batten on the side and rear façades, but horizontal wood siding has replaced the upper story on the main façade and on the additions. The roof, also originally clad in wood shingles, now is covered with corrugated metal. The original entrance and first floor on the main façade is obscured by a full-width one-story front porch and side addition. The porch was added sometime before 1893 based on an 1893 historic photograph, and enclosed in the 1970s, according to the owner (fig. 2). The rear of the building also has several one-story additions from within the period of significance. Though the windows were replaced outside of the period of significance, the fenestration pattern on the second story main façade remains intact. Many of the additions and alterations to the house occurred within the period of significance, and represent the changing needs of the family as it grew. The house contributes to the significance of the historic district.

Set to the west of the house is a fenced-in cluster of outbuildings, including a ca. 1940's stone cistern (PIDN 76779b), a ca. 1920 smokehouse (PIDN 76779c), and a ca. 1920 outhouse (PIDN 76779e). Just west of this cluster sit a chicken coop (PIDN 76779d) and storage garage (PIDN 76779f) (Photo No. 9). A ca. 1940 garage (PIDN 76779i) is located away from any cluster, off the driveway, and set closest to the road. Also set by itself, south of the main house in a grassy lawn, is the old molasses press (PIDN 76779k). Farther away from the domestic cluster, to the north, is a grouping of agricultural buildings and structures, including a ca. 1920 tractor shed (PIDN 76779l), a ca. 1920 barn (PIDN 76779o), a ca. 1940 hog pen (PIDN 76779n), and a non-historic shed (PIDN 76779m). Set even farther away from the main house are a ca. 1920 trough (PIDN 76779p) and loading chute (PIDN 76779q), as well as a ca. 1920 goat shed (PIDN 76779r), a ca. 1920 barn (PIDN 76779t), and a ca. 1940 worm house (PIDN 76779s). Not all of the agricultural buildings are still in use, and some have been repurposed, but they remain intact and maintain sufficient integrity to be contributing. Overall, there is very little modern infill on the property, and the Otto Fischer Homestead retains excellent integrity.

[10] The 1860 census shows Otto still living with Hermann, but by 1870 shows him living on his on property with Amalia.

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Fischer Hall - PIDN 76773 (Photo Nos. 10-11, 26; Map 10)

Fischer Hall, located at 701 Fischer Store Road, is a ca. 1897 building constructed for the Agricultural Society of Fischer to serve the community in various social activities (PIDN 76773a) (Photo No. 10). Sometime before 1897, Otto Fischer donated land for a permanent space for Agricultural Society members to meet and exchange agricultural ideas and help, as well as providing the community a place to hold social events, such as dances and concerts (fig. 3).[11] The identity of the builder of the hall is unknown, but local lore attributes the construction to a carpenter from New Braunfels named Al Kloepper. Agricultural Society records do indicate that the plans of a "Mr. Kloepper" were used in the building of the hall. The building is approximately 45 feet by 97 feet and set back from the road. The wood-lap sided building is painted white and sits atop wood piers concealed by pressed metal sheets wrapped around the foundation. The lumber for the building came from the Henne Lumber Company in New Braunfels.[12] The main entrance on the south façade consists of wood double-doors accessed with concrete stairs. A wood sign painted with "Fischer Hall" is mounted above the door. Two openings flank the entrance, and two more are located above the door in the gable. These openings are former windows that have since been removed and covered with hinged wood doors. Like these former windows, all the hall's windows have been removed and replaced with wood hinged doors. Two new openings for fans have been created above the lower two windows on the main façade. The building's front gable roof is covered by new standing seam metal, and wood-carved decorative rafter tails are exposed along the roof line. The interior of Fischer Hall consists of one large, open room with unfinished wood lap interior walls and features a series of intricate arched wooden trusses (Photo No. 11). A raised stage is built off the east side of the room. Constructed at the rear of the building is the former children's room, which now serves as a bar. Other than the replacement of double-hung windows with hinged doors and the new roof, very few changes to the building have occurred since its construction. Having excellent integrity, Fischer Hall is a contributing resource to the district. The hall shares a site with a reconstructed, noncontributing outhouse (PIDN 76773b), a contributing ca. 1930 raised cistern (PIDN 76773c), a noncontributing ca. 1990 garage (PIDN 76773d), and the contributing ca. 1897 bowling alley (PIDN 76773e), discussed further below.

Fischer Store Property - PIDN 76783 (Photo Nos. 12-14; Map 15)

Located at 4040 FM 484, Fischer Store (PIDN 76783a) has continually served as the cornerstone of Fischer, the place from which much of the happenings in the community historically revolved (Photo No. 12). Constructed in 1902, this is the third building to house Fischer Store. Hermann Fischer opened the first store out of his log cabin home. Upon his death in 1893, his two sons Hermann, Jr. and Willie, took over the business, and in 1902, constructed the building that stands today. Neither the original nor the second store buildings remain. The store is located in Fischer's central cluster of buildings just off the road on FM 484. The 24-foot by 90-foot store stands on hand-hewn wood piers and is clad in corrugated metal. The building's front entrance, on the west elevation, consists of a double-wood door flanked on the south side by one wood-frame, double-hung six-over-six window. A second window may historically have existed north of the door, but if so, it has been removed and infilled with corrugated metal. A window located in the gable of the west elevation is original. Concrete stairs, which replaced original wood stairs, provide access to the door. "Fischer Store" is painted between the gable window and the main entrance (Photo No. 13). The side east façade historically was the main façade, and it is nearly identical to the west side, except for having two windows flanking the main entrance (fig. 4). Originally, "H. Fischer General Merchandise" was painted on the front west façade, but only remnants of the original painting remain. Three double-hung, wood-frame six-over-six windows line the long north and south sides of the building. A corrugated metal-clad front gable roof tops the building and decorative wood-carved rafter tails are exposed along the roofline. The store's interior consists of a large, open space with yellow pine floors, shiplap walls, and a bead board ceiling. Cubbies remain in the building's southwest corner, reminiscent of the store's historic post office

[11] Bryan Weidner, "Agricultural Society of Fischer's Store," Texas Historical Commission Marker Program Application Narrative Support (2015), 5.
[12] The "Henne" stamp can still be seen on some pieces of lumber inside the building.

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(further described in Section 8). Presently, the building houses an antiques store and serves as a museum, and is still owned and operated by the Fischer family. The building retains a high degree of integrity and is contributing to the historic character of the district.

The store shares a site with the ca. 1920 oil house and the 1995 post office, located just west of the store (Photo No. 14). The federal government leases the land and building on which the post office is located. The oil house (PIDN 76783b) moved to this location from its original location—the site of the new post office—when the new post office was built in 1995. Both locations are close to the store. The oil house retains its corrugated-metal roof and siding, though its wood posts and gable roof extension do not appear to be original. A historic photograph shows the gable-front building as having an awning rather than the current porch-like configuration (fig. 5). Despite the slight alteration and the short move, the oil house retains enough integrity to contribute to the historic character of the district.

Grist Mill - PIDN 76780 (Photo No. 15; Map 14)

Sometime between 1900 and 1902, the Fischer and Weichmann Company built a cotton gin and a grist mill off Fischer Store Road. Family accounts state the grist mill stopped functioning as such by the 1920s. The cotton gin no longer stands, but the grist mill remains at 115 Fischer Store Road (PIDN 76780a) (see fig. 6 and Photo Nos. 15 and 16). The mill is an L-shaped building located just south of the dry creek bed in Fischer's central cluster of buildings just east of the store off Fischer Store Road. Wood posts support the corrugated metal-clad building. A wood double-door provides entrance on the main south façade. A non-historic wooden canopy supported by wood posts has been added to the entrance, flanked by two double-hung windows. Single wood doors are located on the side west and east façades, as well as the ell's west and south sides. Four double-hung windows run across the mill's north side. All the mill's windows have been replaced. The mill is topped by a corrugated metal-clad cross-gable roof. A raised 10,000-gallon cypress water tank originally sat behind the mill at its northeast corner but is no longer present today. The tank was likely removed around the same time the mill stopped functioning in the 1920s. The building has been repurposed but retains integrity and is contributing to the district.

Willie Fischer Homestead - PIDN 76780 (Photo No. 17; Map 14)

The Willie Fischer Homestead is located in the central core of the Fischer community at 115 Fischer Store Road, north of the grist mill on a slowly rising incline. The homestead occupies less than six acres of the original 160 acres acquired by Hermann and Otto. A lawn rises from the dry creek near the grist mill up to the house. The lawn was originally the site of a store and beer garden (chronicled in Section 8). The remains of an old rock fence and house foundation are just north of the creek. A dirt driveway off Fischer Store Road provides access to the house and continues on to the cluster of agricultural buildings. The land behind the main house is not cleared and is dotted with trees.

The property consists of the ca. 1908 main house (PIDN 76780b) with a nearby ca. 1910 washhouse (PIDN 76780d), ca. 1990 shed (PIDN 76780e), as well as a ca. 1920 garage (PIDN 76780c) and a cluster of ca. 1900 agricultural buildings, including two barns (PIDNs 76780f and h), and a wood and stone loading chute (PIDN 76780g). The washhouse, a one-room board-and-batten building with a side-gable corrugated metal roof is located close to the house, at its rear northeast corner. The agricultural buildings are set away from the house and clustered together in the lot's northeast corner. Both barns have their original corrugated metal roofs as well as their original cypress exterior planks. Pens and fencing are found near the barns. These historic outbuildings and agricultural buildings retain integrity and contribute to the historic character of the district. An area previously devoted to a garden sits south of the driveway near the agricultural cluster. Former agricultural lands to the north and east of the homestead once belonging to Willie are part of the new, undeveloped Summit Estates subdivision created in the 2000s. None of the land on this homestead is currently used for agricultural purposes.

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The H-plan symmetrical house forms the crux of the homestead (Photo No. 17). Built sometime between 1908 and 1910, the house has Folk Victorian stylistic influences and retains its character-defining features, as it has undergone few alterations since its construction (fig. 7). Family accounts state the house was built by Al Kloepper, a carpenter from New Braunfels, using wood from downed cypress trees he found along the Guadalupe River. The house's Folk Victorian detailing, use of milled wood, and its common H-plan also indicate that it could be a kit house, or one built using a standard plan, common during this period after the arrival of the railroad in New Braunfels. The house sits on a cut limestone foundation and is clad in its original wood siding and topped with a standing seam, metal cross-gabled roof. The roof was originally clad in cedar shingles, but they were replaced with the current metal roof in the 1950s. Original wood shingles are located in the gable ends of the house. Original, decorative wood-carved brackets at the gable ends remain, though decorative spindlework along the gable end rooflines have been removed. A shed roof covers the U-shaped porch. Turned porch supports and turned porch balusters, as well as spindlework and exposed rafter tails along the porch roof, are representative of the Folk Victorian Style. A single-door primary entrance is located in the center of the front facade, under the porch roof. Two double-hung wood windows are located on both sides of the door. Side entrances are located on both sides of the ell under the roof. The bayed gable ends each have three windows. Original wood shutters have since been removed. Overall, the house retains exceptional integrity and its size and style reflects the prosperity of both Willie Fischer and the community during the early twentieth century. The house is a contributing resource to the historic district.

Hermann Fischer, Jr. Homestead - PIDN 76775 (Photo Nos. 4, 18-21; Map 15)

The Hermann Fischer, Jr. Homestead, at 4060 FM 484, immediately adjacent to Fischer Store, is located in the central core of the historic district on part of the original land claimed by Hermann and Otto, and is still owned by the Fischer family. The homestead consists of the main 1910 house, a cluster of domestic outbuildings, a cluster of agricultural buildings and structures, and warehouses that were historically used as storage for the Fischer Store. Set back from the store on a slight incline, access to the homestead is provided by a driveway off FM 484. The main house and domestic cluster—which includes a cistern, cellar, washhouse, and smokehouse—are located closest to the driveway, against the tree line. A yard dotted with trees sits to the front of the house. The agricultural cluster is set to the rear north of the house in the trees. Pastures and a wildlife management area are set to the rear north and to the side west of the house. Primitive paths seen today and on the 1953 aerial connect the agricultural buildings with the land to the northwest. The former store warehouses are located on the driveway, set slightly to the northwest of the domestic cluster. Fencing—mesh wire and wood posts, as well as low stone-wall fencing—separates the domestic cluster from the agricultural cluster and also demarcates the property line boundaries. Historic low stone walls are also found in the agricultural cluster.

Built in 1910, the house is a modified-L-plan with Folk Victorian details (PIDN 76775a) (see Photo No. 18 and fig. 8). Kloepper is said to have also built this house,[13] but the Folk Victorian detailing and use of milled lumber indicate that this house likely was also a kit house, common during this period. The house sits atop cedar posts, some of which still contain their bark. The original stone veneer wraps around the foundation of the house. Clad in its original wood siding, the house also retains its decorative wood shingles and spindlework in its gable ends (fig. 9). Originally clad in shingles, the gable-on-hipped roof is now covered in metal. A brick chimney is located in the center of the house in the middle central passageway. The central location of the chimney, uncommon for houses in southern climates, is another indication that the house is of a standardized plan rather than a vernacular house constructed to meet the needs of the site. The house has a wrap-around porch with a shed roof and turned wood posts and railing balusters. The original decorative cornice and decorative brackets found on the porch have been removed, as has the pediment on the porch roof above the entrance, but the original wood turned wood balusters remain intact. Concrete stairs still provide access to the front porch, though the original walkway no longer exists. The main entrance consists of original wood double-doors with transoms and is found in the middle of the front south façade. Two wood double-hung windows sit to the east side of the entrance, as well as to the

[13] Jeri Fischer-Porter, "History of Fischer Dance Hall," (unpublished paper, 2013).

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west on the projecting front gable end. Non-historic screens cover some of the original windows. Double-hung wood windows line the side east and west façades, as well as its rear. A back door entrance is located in the middle of the rear façade. Hermann, Jr.'s house retains a high degree of integrity, having undergone very minimal alterations over the years, and contributes to the historic character of the district.

The domestic cluster set behind the house includes a ca. 1910 cistern (PIDN 76775c), a 1910 root cellar built with the house (PIDN 76775b), a ca. 1940 smokehouse (PIDN 76775f), and a ca. 1920 washhouse (76775e) (Photo No. 19). The one-room washhouse is clad in wood siding and has a corrugated metal roof. Set a little behind the washhouse, the one-room smokehouse is clad in vertical wood siding and also has a corrugated metal roof. A walkway from the driveway provides access to this cluster and the back entrance of the house. These resources retain their integrity and contribute to the district.

The agricultural buildings and structures represent the homestead's agricultural diversity. The cluster includes ca. 1910 feed and horse barns (PIDN 76775g and h), chicken coops (PIDNs 76775l and r), loading chutes (PIDNs 76775i and n), and a trough (PIDN 76775j) (Photo No. 20). Pens and areas are defined in this area with a mixture of old and new fencing. The barns retain their original wood lumbering and corrugated metal roofs. These resources retain their integrity and contribute to the district.

The large, corrugated metal buildings just west of the domestic cluster are the former store warehouses (PIDNs 76775o and p). The metal cladding, wood framing, and wood posts of each building are original. The large warehouse is 30 feet by 300 feet, and was built around 1900 as storage for inventory and farm implements for the store (Photo No. 21). This smaller building is now a garage. Both buildings their retain integrity and contribute to the historic character of the district.

Arnold Fischer Homestead - PIDN 76786 (Photo Nos. 22-23; Map 12)

The Arnold Fischer Homestead, at 171 Fischer Store Road, represents the third generation of the Fischer family and the evolution of growth and patterns of development in the community. Hermann and Otto's original land acquisition was slowly subdivided, and when Arnold Fischer acquired his portion of the land in the 1910s, it accounted for 3.51 acres. The property sits on a relatively flat piece of land that backs up to the dry creek. This property is highly vegetated, with trees lining the creek and in the front yard. The homestead contains the 1920 house (PIDN 76786a), ca. 1920 smokehouse (PIDN 76786b) and washhouse (PIDN 76786c), ca. 1915 feed house (PIDN 76786d) and dairy barn (PIDN 76786e), as well as a 1850 dog trot that was moved into the district outside the period of significance (PIDN 76786f) and a new shed (PIDN 76786g). The house is located just off Fischer Store Road and the smokehouse, washhouse, and feed house are set to the rear of the house. The barn is set behind the house to the northeast, closer to the creek (see fig. 10 and Photo No. 22). New fencing encloses the house but historic pens separate the barn area. Former agricultural land, used for chickens and cows, is no longer in use for agricultural purposes and has more vegetation growth than during the period of significance based on historic aerial imagery.

Built in 1920, the main house replaced an older house that was already on the property when Arnold acquired it. The materials from the older house supplemented new materials bought from Henne Lumber in New Braunfels in the construction of the 1920 house and smokehouse. Constructed by Hugo Schubert, a carpenter from the area, the house is a Craftsman Bungalow, a common form and style of the time (fig. 11). The house remains clad in its original horizontal wood siding and retains its brick porch piers (Photo No. 23). In the 1950s, galvanized metal replaced original shingles on the hipped roof. The roof retains its historic exposed rafters. During this time, the front dormer was also removed. A brick chimney is located in the rear interior of the house. A wraparound porch is inset at the front of the house and extends past the side of the house with a gable roof extension. Square wood posts sit atop brick piers to support the inset porch roof. The original wood door and its original screen door and is set within the porch. Original, double-hung wood windows with their original screens are found on all façades. The house has a 1976 side rear addition, which added a second chimney. The screened-in rear porch was also

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enclosed in 1976. During these renovations, original house materials were reused to make the addition look original. Overall, despite minor alterations, this house retains exceptional integrity and contributes to the district. The domestic outbuildings retain their original wood siding and corrugated metal roofs, and therefore, their integrity, despite no longer functioning in their original uses. The smokehouse's original double-hung wood windows remain, as does its concrete foundation. The washhouse retains its brick chimney. All contribute to the district.

The dairy barn also retains its integrity and is contributing. Continually clad in corrugated metal and topped with a side gable-corrugated metal roof, the barn's three bay openings also remain. Historic wood fencing encloses the area immediately in front of the barn.

Waldemar Otto (W. O.) Fischer Homestead - PIDN 78563 (Photo Nos. 24-25; Map 8)

The W. O. Fischer homestead, at 1481 Fischer Store Road, is a 1920's ranch in the northeastern-most part of the district. Waldemar O. Fischer, Otto's son, built the house and barns on the property that historically belonged to his father in the 1920s. Descendants of Fischer family still own the property. The property sits on a slightly sloping piece of land just north of Lake Creek. The land was historically used as ranch land, and today cattle and goats continue to be raised on the property. Cleared pastures and partially cleared pastures appear much the same today as they do in the 1953 aerial. In addition to the agricultural land, the property also has domestic and agricultural clusters. The domestic cluster, comprised of a 1922 bungalow (PIDN 78563a), a ca. 1922 smokehouse and washhouse (PIDN 78563b), and a ca. 1922 cistern (PIDN 78563c), is fenced in by a low concrete wall with mesh wiring and wood posts (PIDN 78563m). Tall trees in the domestic cluster provide shade to the house. A ca. 1922 garage (PIDN 78563d) is situated to the west of the domestic cluster, between it and the agricultural cluster. A driveway off Fischer Store Road provides access to the garage and the domestic cluster. The agricultural cluster, consisting of two 1920's chicken coops (PIDNs 78563 e and f), pens (PIDN 78563g), loading chute (PIDN 78563h), and trough (PIDN 78563i), a non-historic shed (PIDN 78563j), and two barns (PIDNs 78563 k and l) is largely arranged in a linear fashion (Photo No. 24). The chicken coops are closest to the domestic cluster and are only partially fenced in, while the remaining agricultural buildings are fully enclosed with fencing. This line of buildings backs up to trees, while the front faces cleared land.

The 1922 main house is a Craftsman Style bungalow (Photo No. 25). Plaster has been added to the foundation wall that wraps around the base of the house and also covers what likely are the original brick porch piers. Concrete stairs provide access to the partial-width wrap-around porch. Tapered wood columns atop the piers support the side-gable porch roof. Non-historic wood porch railings have been added between the piers. Original wood siding covers the house and corrugated metal covers the cross-gable roof. The main entrance, a single wood door with the original screen door, is set under the porch. Original double-hung wood windows are on all façades. A rear addition was added to the house at an unknown date. The house retains excellent integrity and contributes to the district.

The domestic outbuildings also retain integrity and contribute to the district, though some are repurposed. The washhouse is clad partially in board-and-batten wood siding and partially in plaster, and has a side-gable corrugated metal roof. A new side window replaced a historic window. The cistern has had a roof added onto it and was converted into a storage space within the period of significance. The garage is clad in plaster, a non-historic alteration, but otherwise retains its integrity.

The agricultural buildings, built primarily of corrugated metal, wood panels, board and batten, and wood posts also retain integrity and contribute to the district.

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Fischer Bowling Alley - PIDN 76773 (Photo Nos. 26-27; Map 10)

The bowling alley (PIDN 76773e) sits to the east of Fischer Hall on Fischer Store Road and was erected by the Agricultural Society of Fischer, probably around the same time the hall was built, in 1897 (Photo No. 26). The bowling alley was built for nine-pin bowling, a traditional game played among German immigrants in Central Texas and once-common in Comal County. The lanes did not, and still do not, have automated pin-pick up, and therefore pins are manually set up by pinsetters, a job historically given to local children. Today, nine-pin bowling is still played in the bowling alley.

The long, linear, one-story building has multiple rear and side additions and has undergone extensive alterations over the years (Photo No. 27). The original bowling alley was simply one hand-made lane under a shed roof. The pier-and-beam building has a non-original stone foundation wall and is clad in non-original vertical and horizontal wood board siding. A low-sloping front-gable roof is clad in non-original standing-seam metal. Rafter tails are exposed along the sides of the building. Non-original windows on the side west, main south, and side east façades, added sometime after the period of significance, are covered by metal bars. A projecting porch on the main south façade, supported by slender, square wooden posts, has a low-sloping front-gable roof and provides entrance into the building. These alterations have Ranch Style influences that suggest they were completed in the 1960s. The building originally had one lane until a second one was added in 1938. In the late 1950s and 1960s (outside of the period of significance), the building received two new bathrooms, two more bowling lanes, and a bar and kitchen addition.[14] Despite its many additions and alterations, the building's integrity of setting, location, association, and feeling allow it to convey its significance and its role in Fischer's history, and therefore is contributing.

Fischer School - PIDN 81591 (Photo Nos. 28-29; Map 13)

The 1940 Fischer School building (PIDN 81591a) sits less than a half-mile away from the main cluster of buildings in the district on approximately 30 acres of land originally donated by Otto Fischer in 1886. Because many children originally rode horses to school in the nineteenth and early twentieth century, the site had to be big enough for the animals to graze, and much of the land surrounding the school was used for such, though it now is overgrown with vegetation.[15] Built on a hill, the school originally overlooked the town, but trees and other vegetation have since grown, obscuring any view. A path from Fischer Store Road to the front of the school also historically existed but has since been lost to vegetation. Automobile access to the school was and continues to be provided from a driveway off FM 32. To the rear of the school, a set of stone steps provides access to the ca. 1950 teacherage (PIDN 81591b). Immediately adjacent to the school is a ca. 2000 bathroom (PIDN 81591c). The ca. 2000 manufactured school building (PIDN 81591d) is also located up these steps. A low stone fence separates the school building from the teacherage. Some accounts state that the rock fence and steps date to construction of the original school, built in 1886.[16]

Built sometime in 1940, Fischer School replaced the community's first school that burned down in January of that year. Plans for this school were drawn by Jeremiah Schmidt, a New Braunfels-based architect who previously designed the Comal County jail addition in New Braunfels in 1929, and the Sophienburg Museum in 1933. The one-story, two-room school was built in part using National Youth Administration labor and government aid.[17] The stone-clad rectangular building lacks any stylistic influence or ornamentation, but its massing and proportions resemble the bungalows that were popular nationwide during this era (Photo Nos. 28 and 29). The school has a

[14] Jeri Fischer, "Fischer Agriculture Society Bowling Club," (unpublished paper, 2001).
[15] "FSSCC History," *Fischer Store School Community Center*, http://www.fischerstoreschoolcc.org/history.html.
[16] Ibid.
[17] National Archives Records Administration, Records of the National Youth Administration, 119.3.2 Records of the Deputy Executive Director and Deputy Administrator (records provided to report author by Scot Kelley); W. M. Burnett, letter to Arnold Fischer, February 3, 1940 (letter provided to report author by Bryan Weidner).

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side-gable roof with exposed rafter tails. The roof is clad with metal that matches the description of the plans, which state the roofing shall be "28 gauge 'V' Crimp Galv. Iron."[18] The entrance—two original, wood single-doors with transoms—is inset in the center of the main west façade. Supported by two stone columns, the inset porch area is accessed by concrete steps and a non-historic concrete ramp. A secondary entrance is located on the side of the porch area. Two double-hung wood windows—one on each side—are located on the main façade next to the inset porch. The rear of the building is lined with three rows of double-hung wood windows. All window frames are original, though the glass panes have been replaced. The two rows of five windows are broken up by the brick chimney located in the middle of the rear east façade. The interior of the building is open, with a stage located in the south end of the building. The north and south sides of the building are partially separated by a drop in the ceiling. Blackboards are located on the west walls, and a small kitchen is located in the building's northwest corner.

The school functioned as such until 1957, and it now serves as the Fischer Store School Community Center. The school building itself retains excellent integrity, having undergone very few, minor alterations, and it contributes to the historic character of the district.

Other contributing properties

The Fischer Historic District also contains the Ernst Weichmann property which consists of a 1920s bungalow, two barns, and a cistern (PIDNs 81585a, b, c, and d). Family accounts state that the house is a Sears, Roebuck & Co. kit house.[19] This property is located within the central core of Fischer, and its buildings contributing to the district.

The Fischer Cemetery (PIDN 81593), at the southeastern corner of the district on FM 32, has served the community since 1889 (Photo Nos. 30, 35, and 36). The highest spot on the 30 acres of land donated by Otto in 1886 was chosen for the location of the cemetery, which received its first burial in 1889. Since the first burial, the cemetery has received over 400 more, including many from the original settlers and their descendants, including the Fischers and other prominent families in Fischer, including the Schlameus, Pantermuehls, and Linnartzs. Fischer Cemetery also has 21 graves that were moved from cemeteries lost by the creation of Canyon Lake in 1961. The cemetery, located atop a hill, has trees interspersed among the tombstones, as well as a primitive dirt road. One non-historic chain-link fence wraps around the property boundaries and another wraps around the area of the cemetery containing the burials. The cemetery is a designated Historic Texas Cemetery (HTC) and contributes to the historic character of the district.

<u>Non-Contributing Buildings</u>

The majority of the 28 noncontributing buildings are small-scale buildings and structures dating to the 1990s and 2000s, located on properties with contributing resources. These resources include sheds, a carport, a well house, a recreated outhouse, and restrooms (Photo No. 31). Several large-scale, more obtrusive noncontributing resources are also found on properties with contributing historic resources, such as the garage behind the dance hall (PIDN 76773d) and the new manufactured school building (PIDN 81591d) next to the old school (Photo No. 32). The impact of the new school building is mitigated, though, due to its setback from the road and because it is shielded by view from the public right-of-way by vegetation. There are two buildings dating to the period of significance, but because they lack integrity, are classified as noncontributing. These are the ca. 1850 dogtrot (PIDN 76786f) that was moved to the district outside the period of significance, and the ca. 1920 outhouse (PIDN 76775s) that was moved onto the Hermann, Jr. homestead outside the period of significance. The remaining noncontributing resources are located on properties without historic resources, including the ca. 1995 metal-clad post office

[18] Ibid.
[19] Personal communication between report author and Terry Fischer on October 20, 2015.

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located in the core of the historic district next to Fischer Store (PIDN 76784) (Photo No. 33). The only other property with noncontributing buildings visible from the right-of-way is the property at 451 Fischer Store Road. This property contains a 1960's Ranch-Style house and garage, as well as two 1990's barns (PIDNs 76774a, b, c, and d) (Photo No. 34). The remaining noncontributing resources are not visible from the public right-of-way: a new water tower and sheds for the undeveloped subdivision (PIDNs 114296a, b, c, and d), the 1980's house and garage (PIDNs 78562a and b) located far off Fischer Store Road in the northern part of the district, and the 2000's house and outbuildings located off Fischer Store Road and obscured by vegetation (PIDNs 149689a, b, c, d, and e).

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INVENTORY TABLE

The Fischer Historic District contains 102 resources of which 74 are contributing and 28 are noncontributing. The table below presents an inventory of resources within the boundaries of the Historic District, based on field survey conducted October and November 2015 (organized in color blocks by PIDN). In some instances, right-of-entry was not provided for some properties. In these instances, the surveyor relied on Comal County Appraisal District information, current and historical map analysis, and information provided by Fischer citizens, to determine that a property had no contributing resources. The following properties were not visited: PIDN 78562 (Fischer Store Road); PIDN 78557 (Fischer Store Road); PIDN 76778 (Fischer Store Road); PIDN 78572 (Fischer Store Road); PIDN 149689 (450 Fischer Store Road); PIDN 114295 (110 Let's Roll Drive); PIDN 114294 (102 Let's Roll Drive); PIDN 114296 (101 Let's Roll Drive).

PIDN		Address	Historic and/or Current Name	Property Type	Year Built	Contributing Status	Photo No(s).
78563	78563 a	1481 Fischer Store Rd.	Waldemar Otto (W.O.) Fischer Homestead	Building – Single-family dwelling	1922	Contributing	24, 25
	78563 b	1481 Fischer Store Rd.	Waldemar Otto (W.O.) Fischer Homestead	Building – Smokehouse and Washhouse	Ca. 1922	Contributing	
	78563 c	1481 Fischer Store Rd.	Waldemar Otto (W.O.) Fischer Homestead	Structure – Cistern	Ca. 1922	Contributing	
	78563 d	1481 Fischer Store Rd.	Waldemar Otto (W.O.) Fischer Homestead	Building – Garage	Ca. 1922	Contributing	
	78563 e	1481 Fischer Store Rd.	Waldemar Otto (W.O.) Fischer Homestead	Structure – Chicken coop	Ca. 1922	Contributing	
	78563 f	1481 Fischer Store Rd.	Waldemar Otto (W.O.) Fischer Homestead	Structure – Chicken coop	Ca. 1922	Contributing	
	78563 g	1481 Fischer Store Rd.	Waldemar Otto (W.O.) Fischer Homestead	Structure – Pen	Ca. 1922	Contributing	
	78563 h	1481 Fischer Store Rd.	Waldemar Otto (W.O.) Fischer Homestead	Structure – Loading chute	Ca. 1922	Contributing	
	78563 i	1481 Fischer Store Rd.	Waldemar Otto (W.O.) Fischer Homestead	Structure – Trough	Ca. 1922	Contributing	
	78563 j	1481 Fischer Store Rd.	Waldemar Otto (W.O.) Fischer Homestead	Structure – Shed	Ca. 1980	Noncontributing	
	78563 k	1481 Fischer Store Rd.	Waldemar Otto (W.O.) Fischer Homestead	Building – Barn	Ca. 1922	Contributing	
	78563 l	1481 Fischer Store Rd.	Waldemar Otto (W.O.) Fischer Homestead	Building – Barn	Ca. 1922	Contributing	
	78563 m	1481 Fischer Store Rd.	Waldemar Otto (W.O.) Fischer Homestead	Structure – Fencing	Ca. 1922	Contributing	

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PIDN		Address	Historic and/or Current Name	Property Type	Year Built	Contributing Status	Photo No(s).
78562	78562 a	Fischer Store Rd.	NA	Building – Single-family dwelling	Ca. 1985	Noncontributing	NA
	78562 b	Fischer Store Rd.	NA	Building – Garage	Ca. 1985	Noncontributing	
76773	76773 a	701 Fischer Store Rd.	Fischer Hall	Building – Meeting and dance hall	Ca. 1897	Contributing	10, 11, 26, 31, 32
	76773 b	701 Fischer Store Rd.	Fischer Hall	Building – Outhouse	Ca. 2010	Noncontributing	
	76773 c	701 Fischer Store Rd.	Fischer Hall	Structure – Cistern	Ca. 1930	Contributing	
	76773 d	701 Fischer Store Rd.	Fischer Hall	Building – Garage	Ca. 1990	Noncontributing	
	76773 e	701 Fischer Store Rd.	Fischer Bowling Alley	Building – Bowling alley	Ca. 1897	Contributing	27
149689	149689 a	450 Fischer Store Rd.	NA	Building – Single-family dwelling	2014	Noncontributing	2
	149689 b	450 Fischer Store Rd.	NA	Structure – Carport	2013	Noncontributing	
	149689 c	450 Fischer Store Rd.	NA	Building – Barn	2014	Noncontributing	
	149689 d	450 Fischer Store Rd.	NA	Structure – Shed	2014	Noncontributing	
	149689 e	450 Fischer Store Rd.	NA	Structure – Shed	2014	Noncontributing	
76779	76779 a	475 Fischer Store Rd.	Otto Fischer Homestead	Building – Single-family dwelling	Ca. 1865	Contributing	5, 6, 7, 8, 9
	76779 b	475 Fischer Store Rd.	Otto Fischer Homestead	Structure – Cistern	Ca. 1940	Contributing	
	76779 c	475 Fischer Store Rd.	Otto Fischer Homestead	Building – Smokehouse	Ca. 1920	Contributing	
	76779 d	475 Fischer Store Rd.	Otto Fischer Homestead	Structure – Chicken coop	Ca. 1920	Contributing	
	76779 e	475 Fischer Store Rd.	Otto Fischer Homestead	Building – Outhouse	Ca. 1920	Contributing	
	76779 f	475 Fischer Store Rd.	Otto Fischer Homestead	Building – Garage	Ca. 1940	Contributing	
	76779 g	475 Fischer Store Rd.	Otto Fischer Homestead	Structure – Chicken coop	Ca. 1940	Contributing	
	76779 h	475 Fischer Store Rd.	Otto Fischer Homestead	Building – Garage	Ca. 1920	Contributing	
	76779 i	475 Fischer Store Rd.	Otto Fischer Homestead	Building – Garage	Ca. 1940	Contributing	
	76779 j	475 Fischer Store Rd.	Otto Fischer Homestead	Structure – Fencing	Ca. 1920	Contributing	
	76779 k	475 Fischer Store Rd.	Otto Fischer Homestead	Object – Molasses press	Ca. 1930	Contributing	
	76779 l	475 Fischer Store Rd.	Otto Fischer Homestead	Building – Tractor shed	Ca. 1920	Contributing	
	76779 m	475 Fischer Store Rd.	Otto Fischer Homestead	Structure – Shed	Ca. 1990	Noncontributing	
	76779 n	475 Fischer Store Rd.	Otto Fischer Homestead	Structure – Hog pen	Ca. 1940	Contributing	
	76779 o	475 Fischer Store Rd.	Otto Fischer Homestead	Building – Barn	Ca. 1920	Contributing	

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PIDN		Address	Historic and/or Current Name	Property Type	Year Built	Contributing Status	Photo No(s).
	76779 p	475 Fischer Store Rd.	Otto Fischer Homestead	Structure – Trough	Ca. 1920	Contributing	
	76779 q	475 Fischer Store Rd.	Otto Fischer Homestead	Structure – Loading chute	Ca. 1920	Contributing	
	76779 r	475 Fischer Store Rd.	Otto Fischer Homestead	Building – Goat shed	Ca. 1920	Contributing	
	76779 s	475 Fischer Store Rd.	Otto Fischer Homestead	Structure – Worm house	Ca. 1940	Contributing	
	76779 t	475 Fischer Store Rd.	Otto Fischer Homestead	Building – Barn	Ca. 1920	Contributing	
76774	76774 a	451 Fischer Store Rd.	NA	Building – Single-family dwelling	Ca. 1960	Noncontributing	34
	76774 b	451 Fischer Store Rd.	NA	Building – Garage	Ca. 1960	Noncontributing	
	76774 c	451 Fischer Store Rd.	NA	Building – Barn	Ca. 1990	Noncontributing	
	76774 d	451 Fischer Store Rd.	NA	Building – Barn	Ca. 1990	Noncontributing	
114296	114296 a	101 Let's Roll Dr.	The Summit Estates	Structure – Water tower	Ca. 2008	Noncontributing	NA
	114296 b	101 Let's Roll Dr.	The Summit Estates	Building – Shed	Ca. 2008	Noncontributing	
	114296 c	101 Let's Roll Dr.	The Summit Estates	Building – Shed	Ca. 2012	Noncontributing	
	114296 d	101 Let's Roll Dr.	The Summit Estates	Building – Shed	Ca. 2012	Noncontributing	
76786	76786 a	171 Fischer Store Rd.	Arnold Fischer Homestead	Building – Single-family dwelling	1920	Contributing	22, 23
	76786 b	171 Fischer Store Rd.	Arnold Fischer Homestead	Building – Smokehouse	Ca. 1920	Contributing	
	76786 c	171 Fischer Store Rd.	Arnold Fischer Homestead	Building – Washhouse	Ca. 1920	Contributing	
	76786 d	171 Fischer Store Rd.	Arnold Fischer Homestead	Building – Feed house	Ca. 1915	Contributing	
	76786 f	171 Fischer Store Rd.	Arnold Fischer Homestead	Building – Single-family dwelling	Ca. 1850	Noncontributing	
	76786 e	171 Fischer Store Rd.	Arnold Fischer Homestead	Building – Barn	Ca. 1915	Contributing	
	76786 g	171 Fischer Store Rd.	Arnold Fischer Homestead	Structure – Shed	Ca. 2000	Noncontributing	
76780	76780 a	115 Fischer Store Rd.	Grist Mill	Building – Grist mill	Ca. 1900	Contributing	15
	76780 b	115 Fischer Store Rd.	Willie Fischer Homestead	Building – Single-family dwelling	Ca. 1908	Contributing	17
	76780 c	115 Fischer Store Rd.	Willie Fischer Homestead	Building – Garage	Ca. 1920	Contributing	
	76780 d	115 Fischer Store Rd.	Willie Fischer Homestead	Building – Washhouse	Ca. 1910	Contributing	
	76780 e	115 Fischer Store Rd.	Willie Fischer Homestead	Structure – Shed	Ca. 1990	Noncontributing	
	76780 f	115 Fischer Store Rd.	Willie Fischer Homestead	Building – Barn	Ca. 1900	Contributing	
	76780 g	115 Fischer Store Rd.	Willie Fischer Homestead	Structure – Loading chute	Ca. 1900	Contributing	
	76780 h	115 Fischer Store Rd.	Willie Fischer Homestead	Building – Barn	Ca. 1900	Contributing	

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PIDN		Address	Historic and/or Current Name	Property Type	Year Built	Contributing Status	Photo No(s).
76783	76783 b	4040 FM 484	Fischer Store	Building – Oil house	Ca. 1920	Contributing	12, 13, 14
	76783 a	4040 FM 484	Fischer Store	Building – Store	1902	Contributing	
76784		4050 FM 484	Fischer Post Office	Building – Post Office	Ca. 1995	Noncontributing	33
76775	76775 a	4060 FM 484	Hermann Fischer, Jr. Homestead	Building – Single-family dwelling	Ca. 1910	Contributing	4, 18, 19, 20, 21
	76775 b	4060 FM 484	Hermann Fischer, Jr. Homestead	Structure – Cellar	Ca. 1910	Contributing	
	76775 c	4060 FM 484	Hermann Fischer, Jr. Homestead	Structure – Cistern	Ca. 1910	Contributing	
	76775 d	4060 FM 484	Hermann Fischer, Jr. Homestead	Structure – Carport	Ca. 2005	Noncontributing	
	76775 e	4060 FM 484	Hermann Fischer, Jr. Homestead	Building – Washhouse	Ca. 1920	Contributing	
	76775 f	4060 FM 484	Hermann Fischer, Jr. Homestead	Building – Smokehouse	Ca. 1940	Contributing	
	76775 g	4060 FM 484	Hermann Fischer, Jr. Homestead	Building – Feed barn	Ca. 1910	Contributing	
	76775 h	4060 FM 484	Hermann Fischer, Jr. Homestead	Building – Horse barn	Ca. 1910	Contributing	
	76775 i	4060 FM 484	Hermann Fischer, Jr. Homestead	Structure – Loading chute	Ca. 1910	Contributing	
	76775 j	4060 FM 484	Hermann Fischer, Jr. Homestead	Structure – Trough	Ca. 1910	Contributing	
	76775 k	4060 FM 484	Hermann Fischer, Jr. Homestead	Building – Horse barn	Ca. 1910	Contributing	
	76775 l	4060 FM 484	Hermann Fischer, Jr. Homestead	Structure – Chicken coop	Ca. 1910	Contributing	
	76775 m	4060 FM 484	Hermann Fischer, Jr. Homestead	Structure – Well house	Ca. 2000	Noncontributing	
	76775 n	4060 FM 484	Hermann Fischer, Jr. Homestead	Structure – Loading chute	Ca. 1910	Contributing	
	76775 o	4060 FM 484	Hermann Fischer, Jr. Homestead	Building – Warehouse	Ca. 1902	Contributing	
	76775 p	4060 FM 484	Hermann Fischer, Jr. Homestead	Building – Warehouse	Ca. 1902	Contributing	
	76775 q	4060 FM 484	Hermann Fischer, Jr.	Building – Doctor's office	Ca. 1910	Contributing	

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PIDN		Address	Historic and/or Current Name	Property Type	Year Built	Contributing Status	Photo No(s).
			Homestead				
	76775 r	4060 FM 484	Hermann Fischer, Jr. Homestead	Structure – Chicken coop	Ca. 1910	Contributing	
	76775 s	4060 FM 484	Hermann Fischer, Jr. Homestead	Building – Outhouse	Ca. 1920	Noncontributing	
81574	81574 a	FM 32	NA	Building – One-room building	Ca. 1870	Contributing	3
	81574 b	FM 32	NA	Structure – Well	Ca. 1900	Contributing	
	81574 c	FM 32	NA	Building – Horse/goat barn	Ca. 1900	Contributing	
81585	81585 a	3900 FM 484	Ernst Weichmann Property	Building – Single-family dwelling	Ca. 1920	Contributing	NA
	81585 b	3900 FM 484	Ernst Weichmann Property	Structure – Cistern	Ca. 1940	Contributing	
	81585 c	3900 FM 484	Ernst Weichmann Property	Building – Barn	Ca. 1940	Contributing	
	81585 d	3900 FM 484	Ernst Weichmann Property	Building – Barn	Ca. 1920	Contributing	
81591	81591 a	12400 FM 32	Fischer School	Building – School	1940	Contributing	28, 29
	81591 b	12400 FM 32	Fischer School	Building – Teacherage	1953	Contributing	
	81591 c	12400 FM 32	Fischer School	Building – Bathroom	Ca. 2000	Noncontributing	
	81591 d	12400 FM 32	Fischer School	Building – School	Ca. 2000	Noncontributing	
81593		12300 FM 32	Fischer Cemetery	Site – Cemetery	1889	Contributing	30, 35, 36

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Statement of Significance

In some aspects, Fischer represents a typical small rural settlement in Comal County from the mid-nineteenth century. Begun around 1853 by German immigrants, Hermann and Otto Fischer, the community consists of the typical domestic, agricultural, educational, and social resources—houses, barns, school, store, post office, meeting hall—that were commonly found in these rural communities. Fischer developed from a one-home settlement to a self-sufficient community that was able to provide its population with many of the necessities needed to survive and prosper in an area located far away from the nearest supply center and larger community. Unlike most other early settlements, Fischer retained its built resources and managed to survive when many of these other small communities began to disappear. What remains in Fischer represents the evolution of an early settlement into a twentieth-century independent, rural community. While other communities in the county closed their post offices and bowling alleys, or gave way to new commercial and residential development, Fischer's historic fabric has managed to remain largely intact, despite experiencing the same economic and modern pressures as the rest of the county. The Fischer Historic District is significant at the local level under Criterion A in the areas of Ethnic Heritage and Community Planning and Development. The Fischer Historic Districts meets Criterion A in the area of Ethnic Heritage for its association with mid-nineteenth century German immigration to and settlement in Texas and Comal County. The Fischers, as well as other German immigrant families, brought with them cultural traditions, such as nine-pin bowling and German music, as well as their language to the new settlement. These traditions merged with learned new ways of life, including agriculture, to create a unique Texas-German culture that flourished in Fischer. The district also meets Criterion A in the area of Community Planning and Development as an excellent example of and one of the few remaining rural communities that was established in the mid-nineteenth century in Comal County and continued to thrive into the early-to-mid twentieth century. These communities developed outside of New Braunfels and typically consisted of all or a mixture of the following resources: a school, post office, mill, gin, meeting and dance hall, and store that serviced the surrounding farmers and ranchers. Fischer is a representative and lasting example of this important trend in Comal County's history. The period of significance for the district spans from ca. 1865, the estimated date of the oldest contributing building in the district, to 1957, the date Fischer School closed. The closing of the school represents a turning point for the once highly inclusive and self-sufficient rural community; the closing of the school meant that Fischer residents needed to travel outside the community for needs that were previously met within the district boundaries. The district contains 74 resources on 7 historic properties that contribute to its historic character and significance.

Historic Background

Permanent settlement in Comal County began around 1845, when Prince Carl of Solms-Braunfels of Germany brought with him German immigrants in the hopes of colonizing land he had acquired near present-day Fredericksburg. Needing a way-station between their destination and their arrival point at the port of Indianola, Solms chose a spot with plentiful water and timber on the Guadalupe River. This way-station would grow into the town of New Braunfels, and by the end of 1845, nearly 500 settlers occupied the area. In the years following the initial settlement of New Braunfels, small rural communities, typically with populations under 50, developed across the county, fanning out from the county seat as more people moved to the area in search of uninhabited land on which to ranch and farm. These settlements typically were on land purchased from holders of Spanish or Mexican land grants or land speculators. While communities such as the Comal Settlement and Honey Creek developed as a direct result of the German migration initiated by Solms, Fischer was founded by German settlers unaffiliated with Solm's colonization efforts.

Early Settlement

Five years after the arrival of Solms in New Braunfels, Hermann Fischer arrived in Texas from Germany with his aunt, Amalia, and a friend, Hermann Kronemann in May 1849 (fig. 12). Fischer, around the age of 21, left his

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hometown of Barmen, a city in the Wuppertal Valley, leaving behind his two younger siblings; a sister, Albertine, and a brother, Otto (fig. 13). An older brother, Johann Arnold had immigrated to New York City in 1845, where he became a partner at an import firm, Fischer and Brendt. Hermann's father, who died at the age of 46, and uncle, Wilhiem, were bankers in Barmen, where Hermann had apprenticed at the bank and was expected to become a banker himself. Not wanting to follow in the family's footsteps and also not wanting to join the Prussian military, Hermann opted to immigrate to the United States, writing his sister in August 1848, "You'll understand my plan to leave when we discuss the circumstances and conditions in America, most people think it a good idea."[20] Hermann was released from joining the Prussian military in January 1849 and left that spring, bound for Texas.

Hermann came to Texas during a period when many Germans were fleeing from political and religious tyranny in their own county. Known as "Freethinkers," this group of Germans came to the Texas Hill Country in search of religious and political freedoms. Arriving in the late 1840s, many of these men were highly educated and had little to no experience in their new farming or ranching endeavors. Freethinkers did not believe in slavery, and relied on the help of others in learning how to farm and ranch. They settled in various locations in the Hill Country, but Sisterdale and Comfort were their most successful communities. Research did not reveal that Hermann was part of this group of Freethinkers, but his thoughts and actions—his desire to avoid military service and immigrate to Texas and pursue agricultural endeavors despite his banking education and background—are seemingly in line with the group.

The trio traveled to Guadalupe County in July 1849, where Fischer and Kronemann purchased a tract of land along Geronimo Creek, a tributary of the Guadalupe River, on which they farmed. During this period, Guadalupe County was populated primarily by settlers from other southern states, as well as German immigrants. The soil in Guadalupe County was well-suited for farming, and many of the farmers owned slaves, though no record exists of Hermann owning slaves.[21] Fischer and Kronemann's mutual endeavor was short-lived, and the two sold their property in 1850 to Otto Wuppermann. Kronemann went on to open a store in Guadalupe County and Fischer purchased another piece of land near Seguin on Geronimo Creek, as well as another property on nearby Mill Creek, another tributary of the Guadalupe River. Two years later, Hermann's younger brother Otto joined Hermann and Amalia in Guadalupe County, and purchased 100 acres of land on Geronimo Creek on which to farm and ranch. During Hermann's years in Guadalupe County, he met Anna Lindemann, whose family had emigrated from Prussia in 1846. By 1850, Anna was living with her sister and brother-in-law in New Braunfels, and while traveling to visit her, Hermann discovered land on Lake Creek that he would soon claim.

Around 1853, the Fischer brothers left Guadalupe County and bought the headrights to 160 acres of land in Comal County granted to James F. Johnson of Seguin in 1838 by the Republic of Texas. Johnson had not settled on the land or improved it during his ownership. After acquiring the land, the Fischer's had it surveyed in November 1853, and their claim was filed in the Texas capital in Austin on January 3, 1854. The deed to the land was signed by Texas Governor Elisha M. Pease on July 20, 1854, and filed in Comal County on October 25, 1854.[22] The land they settled in Comal County was unlike that in Guadalupe County in that the soil was rockier and the terrain hillier, making it better suited to ranching and subsistence farming. The two built a log dogtrot house and began cattle ranching and cultivating the land they had dug out from the bottomlands along the creek (fig. 14). Hermann became a US citizen in 1854, and in 1855 he married Anna Lindemann and brought her to live in the house with him, Otto, and Amalia.[23] The family lived a subsistence life, growing and raising their own food and hunting for supplemental meat. In 1857, John Otto was born to Hermann and Anna. As the family grew and space in the house diminished, Otto built a new log home sometime between 1860 and 1870 on one corner of the land he

[20] Bryan Weidner, "The Fischer Family," (unpublished paper, 2003), 1.
[21] Vivian Elizabeth Smyrl, "Guadalupe County," *Handbook of Texas Online*, http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/hcg12, accessed May 13, 2016.
[22] Bryan Weidner, "Agricultural Society of Fischer's Store," (unpublished paper, 2015), 2.
[23] Weidner, "The Fischer Family," 4.

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jointly owned with Hermann, for himself and Amalia, who was listed as a servant in the 1860 census and as a housekeeper in the 1870 census.[24] Otto would go on to ranch the land and acquire more acreage over the years, but Hermann, who was said to have wanted neighbors, telling his wife, "I like neighbors. They will take up the land around us," never acquired more land.[25]

During this period, other families began to move to the area in search of agricultural opportunities. By the end of the 1850s, other German families, including the Kuhns, Suchses, Pantermuehls, and Deckers, had claimed land nearby, as had Danl George, a farmer from Alabama.[26] Like the Fischers, these families acquired large tracts of land, oftentimes in order to allow their cattle to roam freely on the open range. Because they settled on such large tracts, families were located far apart from one another, and very rarely interacted. The Civil War had minimal impact on the Fischers, as neither brother was sent to fight in the war.[27] In 1862, Hermann began the first of his two terms serving as Justice of the Peace for Precinct 8 in Comal County, possibly keeping him from active duty. Otto also avoided active duty, but he did provide horses from his ranch to the Confederacy. Other families though, including the Pantermuehls, saw members sent to battle. After the war, displaced southern families, including the Dickens and McNair families, came to the area, along with more German families, such as the Linnartz family. A freed black couple, Henry and Millie Hubbard, moved nearby to property on the Blanco River.[28] Despite more families moving to the area, there was no central meeting place, mill, or supply center for the growing population, and they continued to be spread out from one another on large parcels of land. Families traveled for miles to nearby communities for any needed goods and for mail service. By 1866 though, with enough people living in the surrounding area, Hermann saw the opportunity to shift away from ranching and use his banking background to open a mercantile business. While Otto, who would earn the nickname "Stock Fischer," continued to focus on agricultural endeavors, Hermann, known as "Store Fischer," shifted his energy to his new business.[29] Hermann opened the first store out of one end of his house, and the community he had hoped for began to take shape.

The Beginnings of a Community

Other communities were also forming in Comal County in the 1850s and 1860s, dotted across the county. Rebecca Creek, approximately 10 miles from Fischer, was founded in 1854 as a farming community. Crane's Mill, approximately 15 miles south of Fischer, began in the 1850s as a ranching community. J. B. Crain built a mill on the Guadalupe River and opened a post office before the Civil War. Prior to the opening of a post office in Fischer, its citizens had to travel to Crane's Mill to get their mail. Smithson Valley, around 15 miles from Fischer, also began in the 1850s. Settled in 1856, a post office opened in 1857 and a school opened in 1875 in Smithson Valley. Small communities like these were popping up across the county, and acted as supply and social centers for area ranchers and farmers. The community that would become Fischer began with the opening of Hermann's store in 1866.

Store and Post Office

Opened at one end of the cabin Hermann shared with his family, the store quickly became the supply center for area ranchers and farmers. Stocking the store in the early days was difficult, as most goods arrived in Texas via port and had to be transported inland. Without the railroad, goods were transported by ox cart to larger communities, such as New Braunfels and San Marcos, from where they had to go another 30 miles over hilly terrain to the store. By 1879, according to store records, Hermann was dealing with merchants and wholesalers in

[24] Ibid.
[25] Margaret Dietert, "The History of Fischer, Texas" (master's thesis, Southwest Texas State College, 1954), 4.
[26] "1860 United States Federal Census" [online database], *1860, Outside New Braunfels, Comal, Texas, Roll M653_1291, Page 216, Image 445, Family History Library Film, 805291, from* http://ancestry.com, accessed May 6, 2016.
[27] Both brothers are listed on Comal County muster rolls.
[28] Weidner, "The Fischer Family," 7.
[29] Ibid, 5.

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cities including Austin, San Antonio, and New Braunfels. In 1880, the International and Great Northern Railroad arrived in New Braunfels, and goods could be shipped to the depot and transported back to the store over a much shorter distance. In an effort to grow the business and the community, Hermann allowed customers to barter and purchase goods on credit. The 1870 store ledger shows he extended credit to not only white men, but also to women, those of Mexican descent, and to freemen.[30] The ledger lists over 150 customers, with a majority of those having German last names. As the community grew and the store prospered, Hermann, who had been nicknamed "Store Fischer," saw the need for a larger store. In 1875, the store moved out of the house and into a new board-and-batten building measuring 30 feet by 75 feet. The old house and store was converted into storage, although it is no longer extant.[31]

In March 1875, Hermann, upon the request of his customers, applied to open a post office for "Fischerdale." The application was not accepted, but a second application, with the name Fischer's Store was granted a year later, in 1876. The post office moved into the new store building and Hermann was appointed postmaster. The opening of the post office gave the community its first official name, "Fischer's Store." Hermann also opened a saloon in the new store building. Family history says the Federal government saw a conflict of interest of operating a post office and saloon out of the same building, but he was able to resolve the problem by threatening to close the post office and keep the saloon, as well as by giving the inspector a drink on the house.[32]

The store continued to prosper in its new building. Hermann's two sons, Hermann, Jr. and Willie, also began working at the store along with their father. Store records show a variety of goods that were sold, including: molasses, beer, oysters and crackers, tobacco, oil, snuff, flour, bacon, whiskey, soda, thread, shirts, and socks (fig. 15).[33] Hermann and his sons worked with a number of merchants and wholesalers in order to stock his store with such a variety of goods. Among these included: *The Congress Needle Co.* in Chicago; *M. Schlochauer Dealer in Groceries, Confectioneries, Cigars, Tobacco, Crockery and Country Produce* in Kyle; *Fort Worth Packing Co.* in Fort Worth; *B. E. Voelcker Druggist and Apothecary, School Books, Stationery and Toilet Articles* in New Braunfels; *Picker and Beardsley General Commission Merchants* in St. Louis; and *Walter Tips, Dealer in Hardware, Agricultural and Mechanical Implements* and *John Bremond Wholesale Dealer in Dry Goods, Notions, Hats, Boots, Shoes, and Groceries,* both in Austin.[34] The success and prosperity of the store is reflected in the number and variety of merchants the Fischers worked with, as well as inquiries he received from merchants looking to work with him. In 1894, *John Orr Wholesale Grocer and Importer* in Austin wrote Hermann, Jr. asking for his business as he had heard he was a "desirable man to do business with."[35]

Hermann, who died in 1893, left his sons to manage the store. Hermann, Jr. was appointed the next postmaster in 1894, and at this time Fischer's Store simply became Fischer Store. In 1895, Anna Fischer sold the store—"the stock of goods, wares and merchandise, also book accounts, cash on hand, and everything belonging to the store including horse and wagon"—to her sons for $8,800.[36] Under the sons' ownership, the store continued to prosper into the twentieth century. By 1902, the store had again outgrown its building, and the brothers built a third and final building for the store (PIDN 76783a). The store and post office moved into this new building and the saloon stayed in the old store building. The brothers also added a grain silo and two large warehouses for storage of goods and farm implements. Hermann, Jr. and Willie also began using a steam tractor rather than the ox- and

[30] The Peyton Community, a freemen settlement, was located nearby, on Henley Road, between Blanco and today's US Highway 290.
[31] Hermann also built a new house for his family during this period.
[32] Weidner, "The Fischer Family," 8.
[33] *Hermann Fischer Store Records, 1879-1904*, Dolph Briscoe Center for American History, University of Texas at Austin.
[34] Some accounts mention Hermann and Walter Tips having traveled to Texas together on the same ship from Europe, possibly leading to this business arrangement.
[35] *Hermann Fischer Store Records*.
[36] Bill of sale between Anna Fischer and Hermann, Jr. and Willie Fischer, January 1, 1895 (provided to report author by Bryan Weidner).

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mule-pulled wagons to haul freight to and from the store, allowing them to transport larger loads more easily, and expand the business.[37] Accounts state that the store employed 16 people in 1902 and there were claims that the store was one of the largest inland mercantile businesses of its kind in the state.[38]

As the business grew, so too did the community. Hermann, Jr., listed in the 1910 census as "Retail Merchant" in a "Dry Goods Store" and Willie, a "Salesman" in a "Dry Goods Store," each built themselves a new house. The brothers built two large Folk Victorian houses just north of the store around 1910 for their families (PIDNs 76775a and 76780b). Likely built using milled lumber from New Braunfels, the houses reflect the common form and style of the period. After the arrival of the railroad in New Braunfels in the late nineteenth century, the Folk Victorian wood trimmings and detailing found on both Hermann, Jr. and Willie's house were made readily available. Though both Hermann, Jr.'s and Willie's primary incomes came from the store, they both also continued to ranch (though on a smaller scale than other Fischer residents), so each property contained agricultural buildings as well.

Until the Depression, the store continued to thrive, but like other businesses, Fischer Store struggled during the economic downturn. The policy of taking credit hurt the business, as people could no longer pay their bills and the store was forced to cancel those accounts. The store survived the Depression—they began selling gas—but it would never again see the prosperity it had during its heyday, and in an effort to withstand the changing economic atmosphere, the store began reducing stock "with a view to closing out."[39] Hermann, Jr. died in 1931, leaving Willie as postmaster. Willie served as postmaster until 1946, when Eddie Fischer, Hermann, Jr.'s son, took over the position. It was shortly thereafter, in 1950, that the Postal Service changed the town name from Fischer Store to Fischer, and in 1953, Willie sold his share of the business to Eddie.[40] As roads improved in the second half of the twentieth century and travel to larger communities became easier, the store became increasingly less of a necessity for area residents.

Community Life

As the population in and around Fischer increased in the late nineteenth century after the opening of Fischer Store, the needs of the community expanded beyond those that were met by the store. The community members—primarily made up of farmers and ranchers—needed support, ideas, and help from one another to succeed in their endeavors. Their families also wanted community engagement and social activities that would allow them to know each other. Other necessities emerged as well as the population grew, including the need for a school and a town cemetery. By the turn of the twentieth century, Fischer provided for all of these needs, and by the first decade of the twentieth century, in addition to the store, the core of Fischer boasted a cotton gin, a grist mill, a blacksmith shop, a school, and even a doctor's office.[41] The one house-settlement of the 1850s had evolved into a vibrant self-sufficient rural community, with everything conveniently located together. The amenities available in Fischer were seemingly dictated by the needs of its citizens. One common aspect of rural community life in Comal County that was not present in Fischer, though, was a church. Services were sometimes held at private homes or the school, non-denominational tent revivals would sometimes come through town, and a nearby minister would travel to town for marriages, baptisms, and funerals, but a church was never built in Fischer.

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[37] Bryan Weidner, "Steam Train Through the Texas Hill County," *Journal of Texas Shortline Railroads and Transportation*, V. 2, No. 2, August-October 1997.

[38] Don H. Biggers, "Quaint Fischer Store Community 85 Years Old," *San Antonio Express* (San Antonio, TX), September 4, 1938.

[39] Ibid.

[40] Bryan Weidner, "1902 Fischer Store," (unpublished paper, 2015), 8.

[41] Doctor Reeves purchased the 1890 teacherage and worked out of that building. Local lore states that Dr. Reeves also worked as the town barber. The building he worked out of has been moved multiple times, but is still located in the district on the property at 4060 FM 484. The blacksmith shop was opened and operated by Albert Kock. This building no longer exists.

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Agriculture and the Agricultural Society

The families residing in and around Fischer made their living primarily through agricultural activities, and like most of the rest of Comal County, Fischer ranchers and farmers did not use slave labor, but rather relied on paid or family labor. Most families grew crops on a subsistence basis, but there were larger commercial fields in the district, like the one on Otto Fischer's property. In the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, farmers grew cotton, wheat, and other grains commercially, and on a smaller-scale grew tobacco, peas, corn, beans, potatoes, onions, and cabbage. Families in Fischer also grew sugarcane which they would then take to Otto's property to make molasses using his sugar cane press. In addition to cattle, ranchers also raised horses which they sold to the military or to area polo players in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The terrain in Fischer was also suited to for sheep and goats, which ranchers raised in order to sell their hair for wool and mohair. Like much of the rest of Comal County, goats became increasingly more common by the 1920s and 1930s. Additionally, families also raised their own pigs, chickens, and turkeys, making their own sausage and butter and selling anything not used or needed for the family.

The earliest settlers were confronted with many hardships in their agricultural endeavors. Cattle grazed on the open range during this period, roaming as far away as the Pedernales and San Antonio rivers.[42] This type of ranching proved difficult, as weather, other animals, and thieves posed threats to the livelihood of the ranchers. Owners oftentimes had to participate in cattle drives, herding thousands of cattle to market on month-long trips, where they were sure to lose some animals. By the 1870s, ranching had become slightly easier and less risky, as fencing and new breeds of cattle were introduced, but many ranchers still encountered problems. Also, the distance between families did not allow for easy communication, so information and help was not easily disseminated.

To help with these problems and to provide one another with support, area ranchers and farmers formed the Agricultural Society of Fischerdale around 1875 (fig. 16).[43] The group's bylaws from 1897 state:

> It is the purpose of the society to promote agriculture and animal husbandry as far as possible under the local conditions, and to get the members and their families from the area acquainted through social events taking place every so often.

The group held meetings to discuss their agricultural issues and provide advice. Meetings were held in German, as evidenced by German meeting notes. Members also worked as a cooperative and helped each other during harvest, combined purchases for better feed and equipment prices, and traded excess produce and products. Meetings were held at various members' homesteads and were typically followed by a dinner and dance. Though women were excluded from membership originally, they were invited to the dances. Several instances of violence at these dances led to the temporary disbandment of the organization. In 1877, a fiddle player at a dance was shot and killed, and in 1892 another man was shot and likely killed at the Andreas Kuhn place near Crane's Mill. The society reorganized after both tragic events, but the need for a permanent meeting place was evident. Otto Fischer, who had carried on ranching, had also continued to acquire more ranch and farm land, and in 1897, donated a small portion of the 640 acres he purchased from the Gulf, Western Texas and Pacific (GWT&P) Railroad to the Agricultural Society on which to build a meeting and dance hall.[44] Agricultural Society members helped build the hall using lumber, in part, from Henne Lumber in New Braunfels. The plans of a "Mr. Kloepper," were used to build the hall (PIDN 76773a). It is unknown if this Kloepper is Al Kloepper, the carpenter from New Braunfels who is oftentimes found in local histories and credited with the design and construction of the hall.

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[42] Weidner, "The Fischer Family," 4.

[43] The society formed before the post office opened and before the community had been given the name "Fischer's Store." At the time the society formed, the community likely went by Fischerdale, as that was also the name on the first post office application.

[44] Bryan Weidner, "Agricultural Society of Fischer's Store," (unpublished paper, 2015), 11.

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Completed in 1897, the hall became the social center of the Fischer community, hosting the meetings and dances of the Agricultural Society, as well as Fourth of July balls, a costume ball, a May festival, and an Easter ball. Music for these dances was provided by local bands from nearby communities, such as the Guenther Band from Sattler, and Fischer's own Fischer Store Orchestra (fig. 17). These bands played traditional German music, including waltzes and polkas. The community also used the hall for plays, weddings, church meetings, and other social events. In 1940, the hall was painted and work completed on its underpinning. During the 1940s and 1950s, the hall hosted traveling bands playing country and Texas Swing, including Bob Wills. By 1970, the hall was used less frequently and was in need of extensive repair work, and some members proposed demolishing the hall. The motion was rejected, and the Agricultural Society, which continues to meet in the hall today, decided to rent out the hall for additional income.

In addition to the dances at the hall that the Agricultural Society organized, the group was also responsible for hosting annual fairs, barbeques, ice cream socials, and oyster fry gatherings. The society was also responsible for hosting a rodeo and for bringing bowling to Fischer. The society built an arena and pens on donated land from Otto, across from the hall, where the rodeo was held. The annual event continued into the 1940s. Though the rodeo no longer exists, another recreational tradition started by the Agricultural Society remains active in Fischer – nine-pin bowling. Popular in the United States until the early nineteenth century, nine-pin bowling was replaced in most places across the country, except Texas, where in 1837, the Republic of Texas enacted a tax on the sport. Nine-pin alleys had been in Texas since the 1830s and typically were built by clubs for use by families, rather than in saloons, where 10-pin bowling was often found. Particularly popular among German immigrants, nine-pin bowling all but disappeared in the state by the mid-twentieth century, except for a handful of lanes in largely German-settled communities in Central Texas, including Fischer. In 1897, the Agricultural Society commissioned members J. Lueders and F. Frerichs to prepare costs for constructing a bowling alley. Costing around $200, the open-air single-lane alley was likely completed in November 1897 and was paid for by selling bonds.[45] The game played on the lane was nine-pin bowling.[46] In the game, small wooden balls are used to knock down the pins, which are manually set up and local children were generally employed as pinsetters. The open air alley was eventually covered and added onto over the years, but the traditional nine-pin game continues on in Fischer. Fischer also boasted a polo team in the early twentieth century (fig. 18). Though not associated with the Agricultural Society, many of the horses used for the team were raised by local ranchers. During that period, ranchers could sell cavalry horses to the government for approximately $165, but polo ponies sold for up to $300.[47] The team played other local teams, like one from New Braunfels, on land from Otto's ranch across from the hall. The sport was popular into the 1930s and homemade mallets used by the team are on display in at Fischer Store.

School

Education was important to the Fischer family, as well as other early settlers. Prior to the building of a school in Fischer in 1888, some area children attended classes at Adolph Schlameus' house, and later traveled to Potters Creek School when it opened approximately four miles away in 1875. In 1886, Otto donated 30 acres of land for both a school and a cemetery. Located on a hill above the town, the new wooden building was built with the help of locals for a cost of around $500.[48] Funds for the school were raised by "subscriptions" and those who gave more than $10 could vote on school matters. Families also paid tuition for attending children, but as state funds increased, tuition decreased. Kids traveled by foot, horseback, wagon or buggy, and horses grazed on the 30 acres during the school day. Some children, like Gertrude Buescher who was born in nearby Potters Creek, would stay

[45] Weidner, "Agricultural Society of Fischers Store," 5.
[46] Mary Lou LeCompte, "Ninepin Bowling," *Handbook of Texas Online*, https://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/xtn01, accessed February 24, 2016.
[47] "Cecil Smith, Considered the Best Polo Player Ever, Dies at 94." *The New York Times* (New York, NY), February 14, 1999.
[48] Weidner, "The Fischer Family," 11.

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with relatives during the week in order to be closer to school.[49] Teachers first boarded with local families, until a teacherage was built in 1890. Books could be purchased at the Fischer's store. An 1899 receipt from *B.E. Voelcker* in New Braunfels to Fischer Store shows a purchase of 6 to 12 each of: spelling books, lower and higher arithmetic books, lessons in English, practical English grammar books, physiology, history, and penmanship books.[50] Clara Schlameus Fischer, who began school in Fischer around 1905 at the age of seven, remembered walking to school and taking English and German classes.[51] Around 25 children attended the Fischer Store School in 1888, and by 1905, 75 children attended the school. In January 1940, only 31 children attended the school when it caught on fire and burned down; no one was harmed in the fire.[52] Shortly after the school burned down, the community began efforts to construct a new building. A letter from W. M. Burnett, Hays County Judge, to Arnold Fischer dated February 2, 1940, states Burnett had inquired about Federal aid, in the form of help from the National Youth Administration (NYA), and would be writing Lyndon B. Johnson, who at that time was head of the Texas NYA, about aid for rebuilding the school (fig. 19).[53] Plans for the new school were prepared by Jeremiah Schmidt, an architect from New Braunfels, and list the NYA as a participant in the construction of the school.[54] The new two-room stone school (RIDN 81591a) opened sometime later that year and a new teacherage was built in 1953 (RIDN 81591b). Fischer School closed at the end of the 1956–1957 school year when all "one-room" schools in the county were closed upon the opening of the Comal County Rural High School. Fischer community members now lease the building from Comal Independent School District as a community center.

Grist Mill and Cotton Gin

After the Civil War, cotton and grains became big cash crops for the county. This trend made its way to northern Comal County and Fischer residents, who previously were largely subsistence farmers, also began growing these crops. Before 1900, farmers had to travel to the closest gins—one was in Blanco and one was on a nearby farmer's land on the Blanco River—with their cotton. Around 1900, Hermann, Jr. and Willie Fischer joined with Ernst Weichmann and formed the Fischer and Weichmann Company and built a cotton gin and a grist mill in town for area farmers (RIDN 76780a). Though the cotton gin was removed, probably sometime in the 1920s, farmers continued growing the crop and selling it when prices were high. Willard Schlameus, who grew up in Fischer in the 1930s, remembers his family talking about making money off of cotton after World War I, and a letter from Thelma Fischer to a schoolmate from 1927 recalls "chopping cotton" as a child.[55] The grist mill remains, though it, too, likely stopped operating in the 1920s.

Fischer: Mid-to-Late Twentieth Century and Today

In Comal County, after World War II farming and ranching declined and the county's economy began to diversify. Manufacturing of construction materials, food processing, and tourism all became important factors to the county's economy in the second half of the twentieth century. The historically large rural ranches and farms began selling off acreage and scaling back production, and people began moving to larger cities and communities with more job opportunities. This trend is reflected in the one-room school closures in the county and their subsequent consolidation.

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[49] Gertrude married Eddie Fischer in 1936 and would later become postmaster of the Fischer Post Office.
[50] *Hermann Fischer Store Records*, Dolph Briscoe Center for American History.
[51] Clara Schlameus Fischer, interview by Baron Schlameus, *Reflections*, 1420 KGNB, 1989.
[52] "School Classes Battle Flames: Fischers Store Group Driven Into Cold," Special Correspondence, *San Antonio Express* (San Antonio, TX) January 24, 1940.
[53] W. M. Burnett letter to Arnold Fischer, February 3, 1940, provided by Bryan Weidner.
[54] National Archives Records Administration, *Records of the National Youth Administration, 119.3.2 Records of the Deputy Executive Director and Deputy Administrator* (records provided to report author by Scot Kelley).
[55] Willard Schlameus, interview by Baron Schlameus, *Reflections*, 1420 KGNB, March 20, 1991; Thelma Fischer, letter to schoolmate, June 20, 1927 (letter provided to report author by Bryan Weidner).

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This larger trend, along with the improvement and expansion of highways and other roadways in the county, impacted Fischer much like it did in other small, rural communities. In 1940, the route of the new State Highway (SH) 232 (today's FM 32) was laid out. Many families donated land, without asking for compensation, so that the construction of the highway would avoid a nearby ranch.[56] Their effort was successful, and the highway avoided the ranch, and also bypassed "downtown" Fischer. Losing its prime location on the main road between San Marcos and Blanco combined with the fact that people could easily drive to larger commercial centers, there was no longer a real need to travel into Fischer.

In 1964, Canyon Lake, a 13 square-mile lake, was created approximately five miles south of Fischer. In the creation of the lake, two historic rural communities, Crane's Mill and Hancock, were lost, as was significant farm and ranch acreage. The creation of the lake did, however, spur development and invigorated the tourism industry in the surrounding area. By 1967, 50 new subdivisions had developed along the shores of Canyon Lake and in the surrounding hills, transforming the area into one of the largest population centers within the county. Surrounding communities, such as the historic settlement of Sattler, also benefitted from the lake's creation, as they grew to serve the influx of tourists and new residents. Despite its proximity, Canyon Lake had very little impact on Fischer; while it did bring more tourists through Fischer, the development did not encroach into the community. In the late 1970s, scenes from the film *Honeysuckle Rose*, starring Willie Nelson were filmed at Fischer Hall. This publicity also brought about a short-lived phase of tourism.

In recent years, Fischer has experienced a sort of resurgence. The Willie Fischer Homestead now operates as a bed and breakfast and hosts a summer concert series. The Fischer Store School Community Center members host an ice cream social, a fall market, and a German festival. The bowling alley is still in operation and Fischer Hall is still used by the Agricultural Society and often is rented out for events such as weddings and family reunions. Many of the descendants of the original settlers, including the Fischers, Schlameus, and Pantermuehls, still live in and around Fischer and are active in the revitalization and preservation of the community.

Summary

Today, Fischer remains as a testament to the settlers and their families who moved to the area and created a prosperous rural community. These small communities were dotted across the county, and were vital to the survival and economy of the nearby families, farmers, and ranchers who could not easily or quickly travel to larger supply centers such as New Braunfels, Blanco, and San Marcos. Without Fischer Store and the Agricultural Society, a community likely would not have not existed. The school, grist mill, dance hall, cemetery, cotton gin, and blacksmith shop all reflect the needs of the community and are a testament to the viability of Fischer.

Otto Fischer's ranch and the large houses of Hermann, Jr. and Willie Fischer reflect the agricultural and commercial success experienced by those in the community. As the times changed in the second-half of the twentieth century, and people largely abandoned these small rural communities in the county, Fischer managed to survive, and today remains an excellent example of an early German settlement and community center. In 1938, in an article for the *San Antonio Express* Newspaper, Don H. Biggers wrote that Fischer was "A beautiful civic and industrial nonfading flower that developed and bloomed from the seed of a little log hut on a lonesome hill, the dream and achievement of a refugee from military servitude." The built environment and landscape of Fischer today, continues to reflect this endearing sentiment. For this reason, the Fischer Historic District is nominated under Criterion A in the area of Community Planning and Development, as it is representative of mid-to-late nineteenth and early-twentieth century rural development in Comal County. The district is also eligible under Criterion A in the area of Ethnic Heritage for its association with German immigration in Texas in the mid-nineteenth century and as a representative and lasting example of a Texas-German community created by these immigrants.

[56] Schlameus, *Reflections*.

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Period of Significance

The period of significance begins with the estimated construction of the oldest existing building in the district, the Otto Fischer residence, ca. 1865. The period of significance ends at 1957, when Fischer School closed. The closing of the school represents the ending of a period of self-sufficiency for the community. This date also reflects the overall trend during this period in Comal County, in which rural communities were diminishing as people moved to larger communities and the economy diversified and was no longer as dependent on agriculture.

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Geographical Data

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: NA

1. Latitude: 29.994942° Longitude: -98.260572°
2. Latitude: 29.995011° Longitude: -98.253311°
3. Latitude: 29.988056° Longitude: -98.253189°
4. Latitude: 29.980958° Longitude: -98.260464°
5. Latitude: 29.974261° Longitude: -98.260347°
6. Latitude: 29.976653° Longitude: -98.270914°
7. Latitude: 29.980925° Longitude: -98.270922°
8. Latitude: 29.979011° Longitude: -98.265333°
9. Latitude: 29.985172° Longitude: -98.265083°
10. Latitude: 29.986158° Longitude: -98.260506°

Verbal Boundary Description: Farm-to-Market (FM) Road 32 acts as the southern boundary of the Fischer Historic District. The eastern boundary follows the easternmost property lines of Fischer Cemetery (Property ID Number [PIDN] 81593), the school property (PIDN 81591), and 450 Fischer Store Road (PIDN 149689) until it hits Fischer Store Road, and follows the road northeast until it reaches the W. O. Fischer property at 1481 Fischer Store Road (PIDN 78563). At the easternmost edge of the resources on this property, the boundary turns north and follows the easternmost property line of PIDN 78562. The northern property line of PIDN 78562 acts as the northernmost boundary of the historic district. The western boundary is formed by the property lines of (from north to south) PIDN 78562, PIDN 78557, PIDN 76778, PIDN 76779, PIDN 114295, PIDN 114296, PIDN 76780, and PIDN 76775.

Boundary Justification: The boundaries for the Fischer Historic District were drawn to include the largest concentration of the domestic, agricultural, commercial, social, educational, industrial, funerary, and landscape resources that reflect the significance of the district's history. While other houses associated with early settlers exist, they are located miles away from the central core and are separated by properties and resources not associated with the significance of the district. The district boundaries were also selected using property lines. The district boundaries were drawn to exclude most of the twenty-first century undeveloped subdivision along Let's Roll Drive. It also includes properties that do not contain any built resources, but are included because they originally belonged to Otto Fischer, remain in the Fischer family, and remain in agricultural use.

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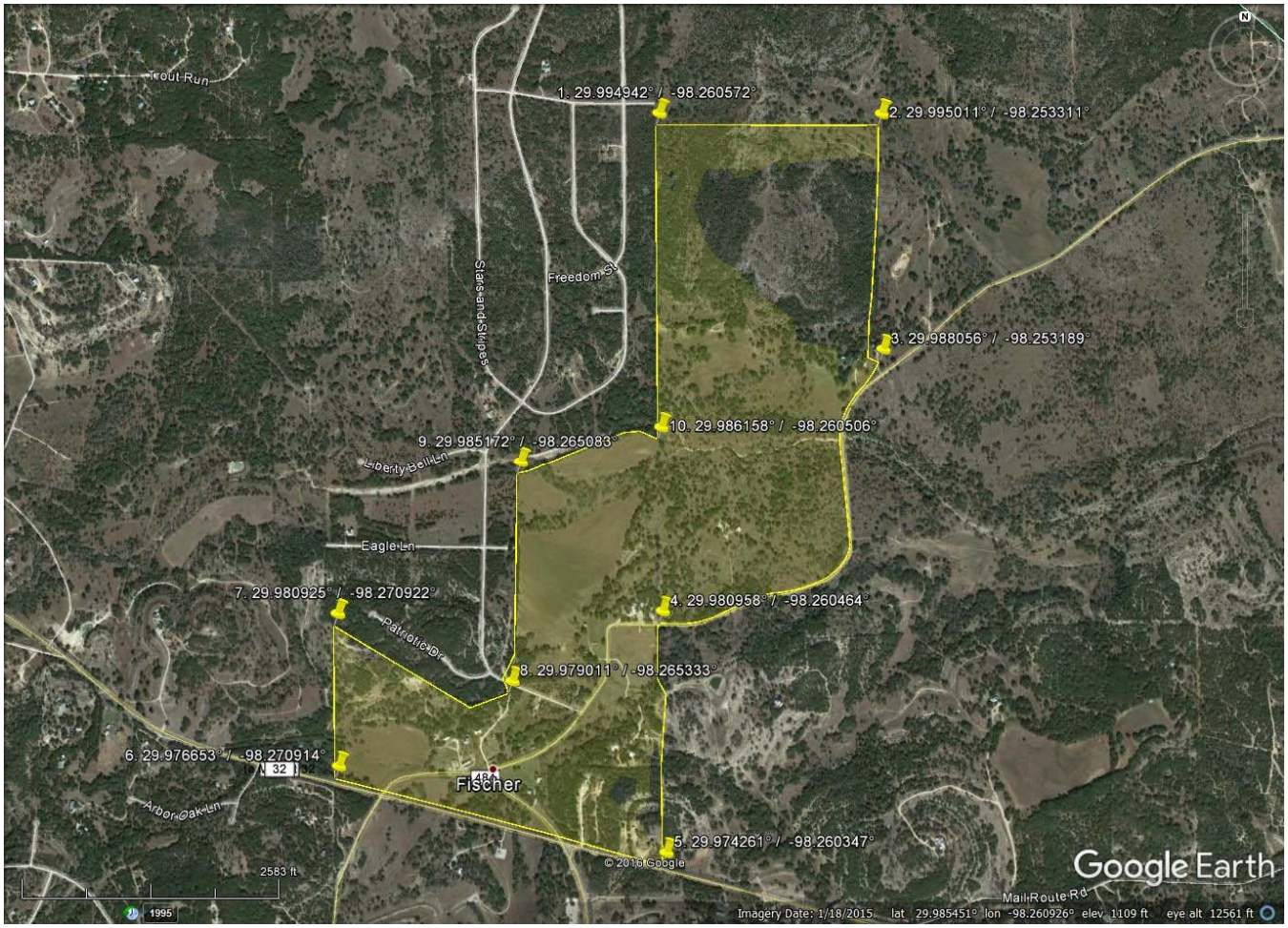
Google Earth, accessed October 12, 2016



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Additional Items

Figure 1. Ca. 1895 photograph of Otto Fischer outside his house. From left to right: W. O., Alfred Otto, Otto, Adolphina, and Rudolph Fischer. Source: Arnold B. Fischer Photograph Collection, courtesy of Bryan Weidner.

Figure 2. An 1893 photograph of Otto Fischer's house showing the addition of a front porch. Source: Arnold B. Fischer Photograph Collection, courtesy of Carol Asher.

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Figure 3. Undated photograph of Agricultural Society outside Fischer Hall. Source: Arnold B. Fischer Photograph Collection, courtesy of Bryan Weidner.

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Figure 4. Undated photograph of Fischer Store. Source: Arnold B. Fischer Photograph Collection, courtesy of Bryan Weidner.

Figure 5. Undated photograph of Fischer Store with the oil house set behind. Source: Arnold B. Fischer Photograph Collection, courtesy of Bryan Weidner.

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Figure 6. Undated photograph of the grist mill. Source: Arnold B. Fischer Photograph Collection, courtesy of Bryan Weidner.

Figure 7. Undated photograph of Willie Fischer's house. Source: Arnold B. Fischer Photograph Collection, courtesy of Bryan Weidner.

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Figure 8. Ca. 1910 photograph of Hermann, Jr.'s house under construction. Source: Arnold B. Fischer Photograph Collection, courtesy of Bryan Weidner.

Figure 9. Ca. 1910 photograph of Hermann, Jr.'s house. Source: Arnold B. Fischer Photograph Collection, courtesy of Bryan Weidner.

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Figure 10. Ca. 1915 photograph of the Arnold Fischer barn. Source: Arnold B. Fischer Photograph Collection, courtesy of Bryan Weidner.

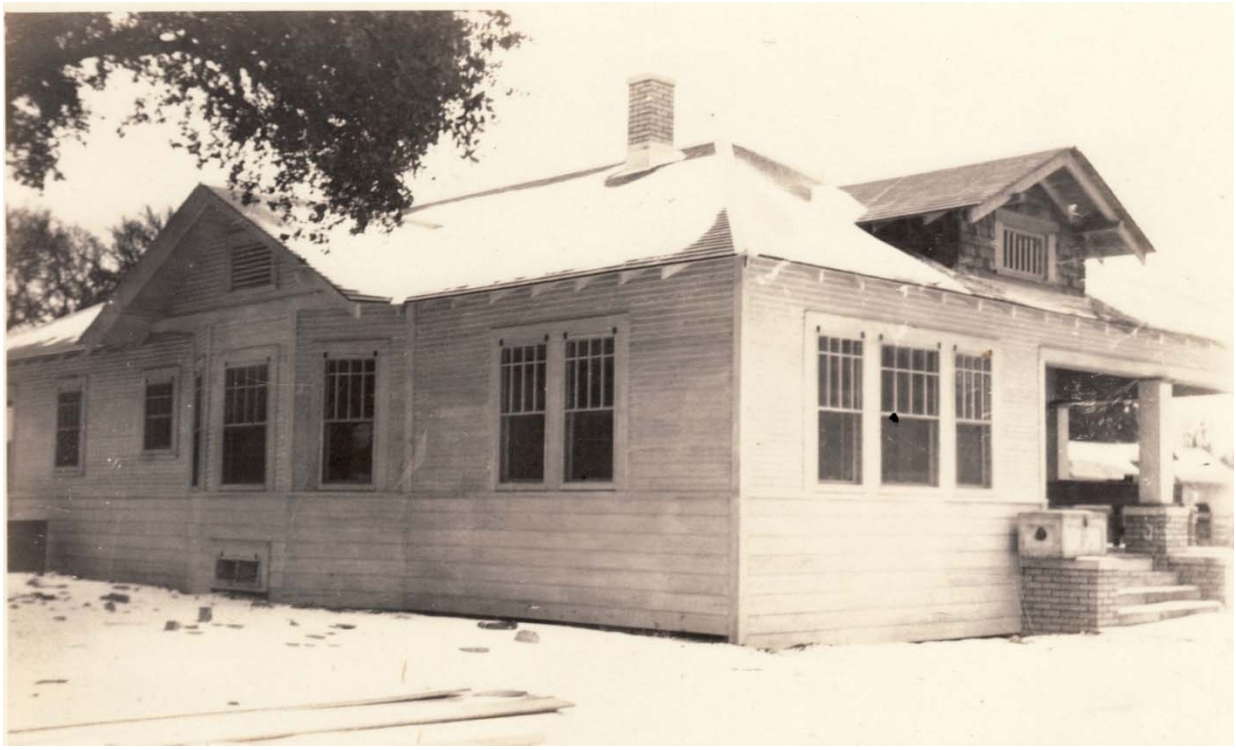

Figure 11. Ca. 1920 photograph of the Arnold Fischer house. Source: Arnold B. Fischer Photograph Collection, courtesy of Bryan Weidner.

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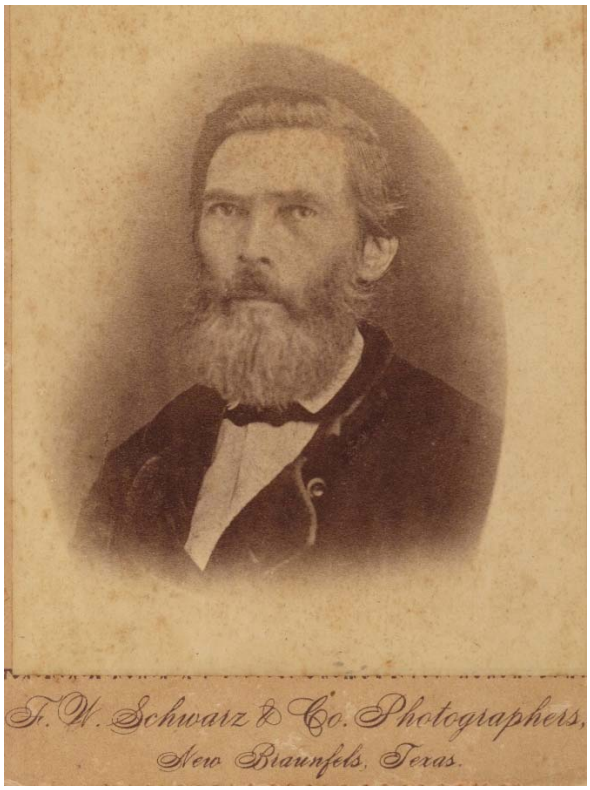

Figure 12. Undated portrait of Hermann Fischer. Source: Arnold B. Fischer Photograph Collection, courtesy of Bryan Weidner.

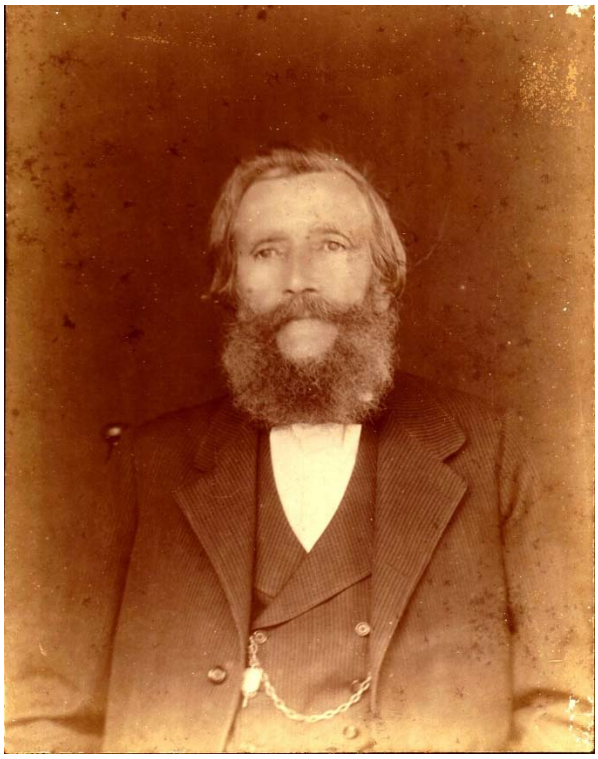

Figure 13. Undated portrait of Otto Fischer. Source: Arnold B. Fischer Photograph Collection, courtesy of Bryan Weidner.

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Figure 14. Undated photograph of the dogtrot Hermann and Otto Fischer first built. This building is not extant. Source: Arnold B. Fischer Photograph Collection, courtesy of Bryan Weidner.

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Figure 15. Fischer Store stationary. Source: Arnold B. Fischer Photograph Collection, courtesy of Bryan Weidner.

Figure 16. An undated bar token with label "The Agricultural Society of Fischerdale, Comal County." Source: Arnold B. Fischer Photograph Collection, courtesy of Bryan Weidner.

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Figure 17. Undated photograph of the Fischer Store Orchestra outside of Fischer Hall. Source: Arnold B. Fischer Photograph Collection, courtesy of Bryan Weidner.

Figure 18. Undated photograph of the Fischer polo team. Source: Arnold B. Fischer Photograph Collection, courtesy of Bryan Weidner.

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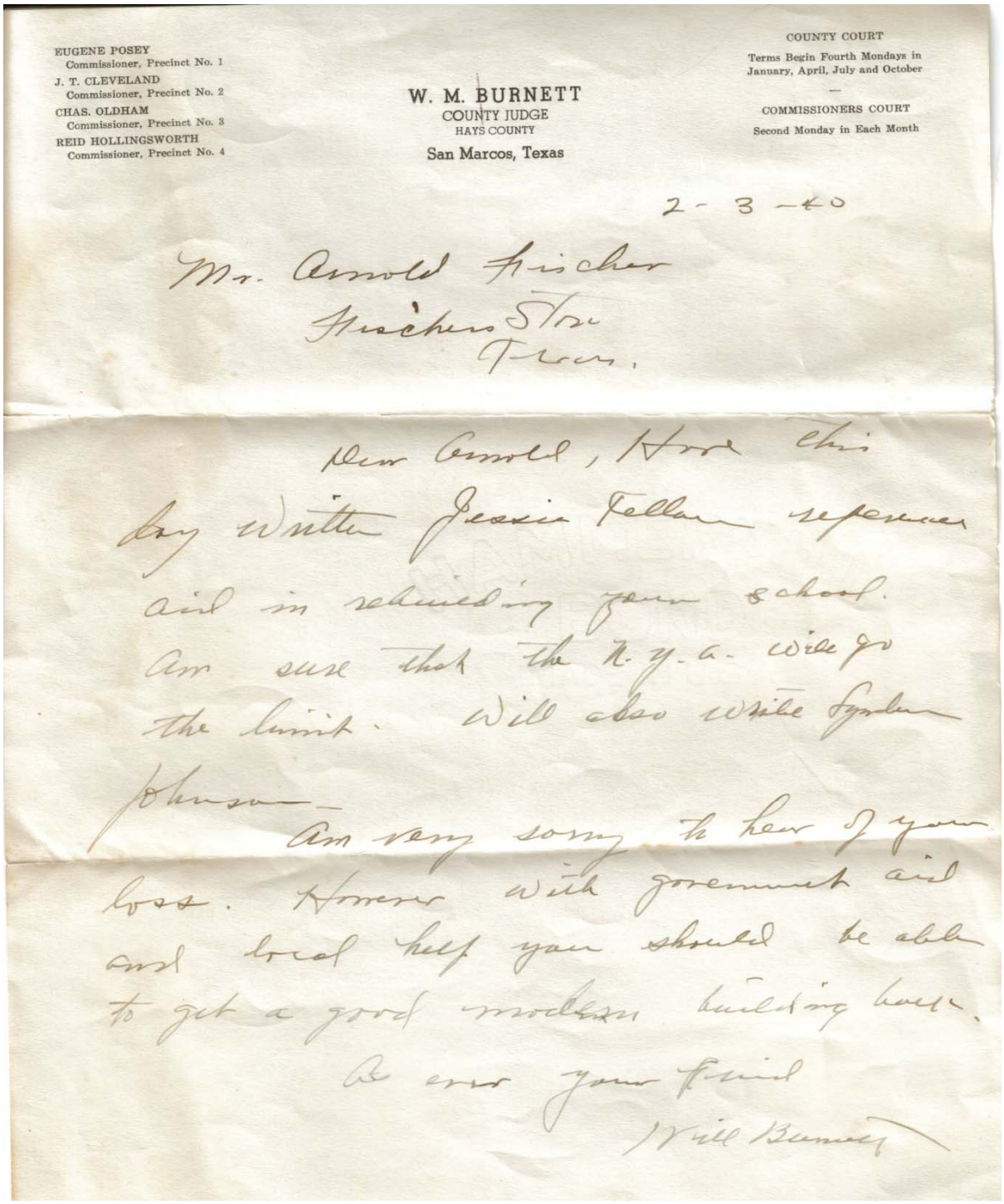

EUGENE POSEY
Commissioner, Precinct No. 1
J. T. CLEVELAND
Commissioner, Precinct No. 2
CHAS. OLDHAM
Commissioner, Precinct No. 3
REID HOLLINGSWORTH
Commissioner, Precinct No. 4

W. M. BURNETT
COUNTY JUDGE
HAYS COUNTY
San Marcos, Texas

COUNTY COURT
Terms Begin Fourth Mondays in January, April, July and October
—
COMMISSIONERS COURT
Second Monday in Each Month

2-3-40

Mr. Arnold Fischer
Fischers Store
Texas.

Dear Arnold, Have this day written Jessie Fellows reference aid in rebuilding your school. Am sure that the N.Y.A. will go the limit. Will also write Lyndon Johnson—

Am very sorry to hear of your loss. However with government aid and local help you should be able to get a good modern building here.

As ever your friend
Will Burnett

Figure 19. Letter from Hays County Judge W. M. Burnett to Arnold Fischer regarding the rebuilding of Fischer School. Source: Arnold B. Fischer Photograph Collection, courtesy of Bryan Weidner.

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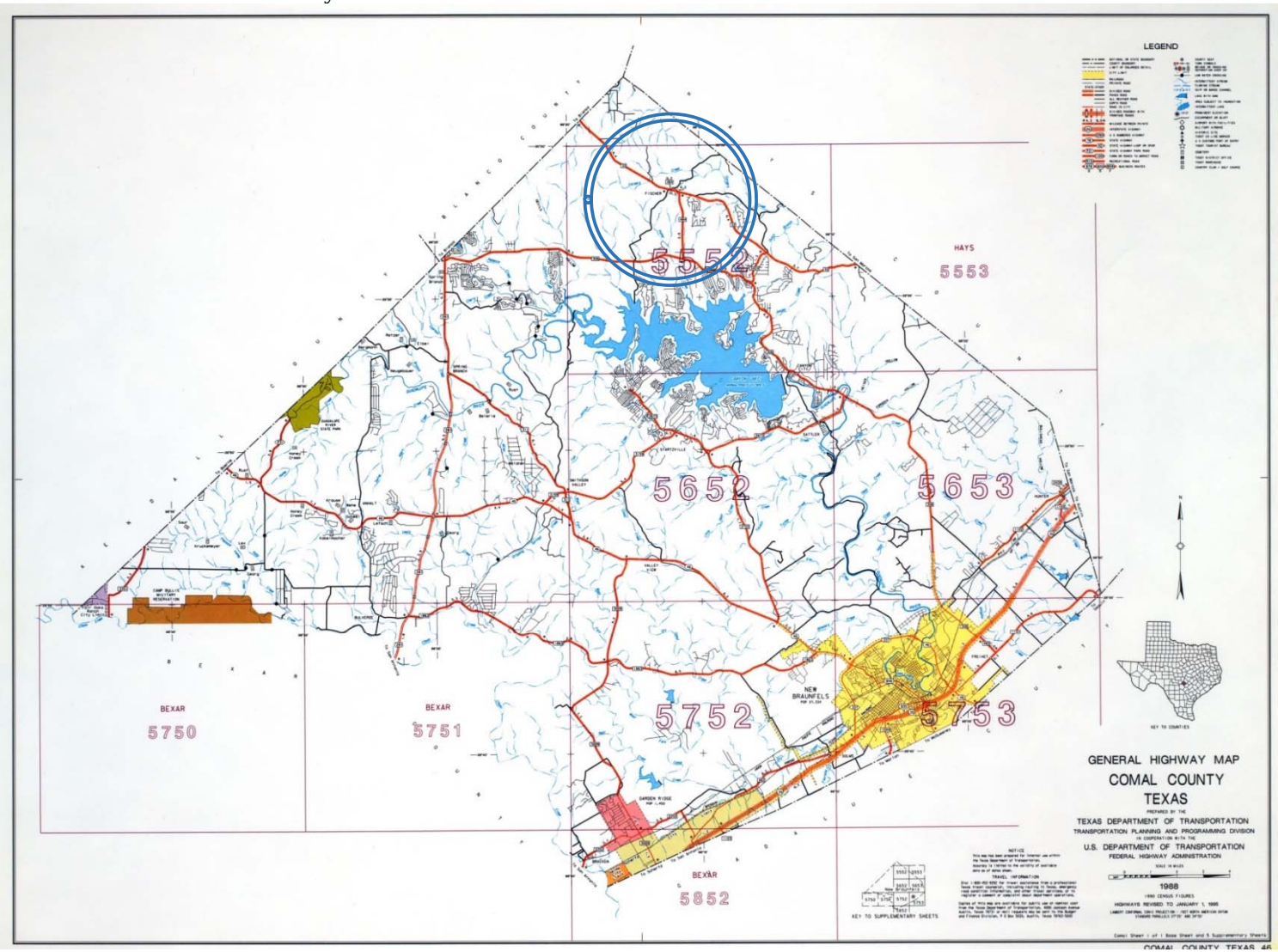
Map 2. Comal County Highway Map (Source: http://www.lib.utexas.edu/maps/txdot/tccoma01.jpg). Fischer is located in the circled portion in the northern corner of Comal County.



Map 1.
Comal County, Texas

SBR Draft

Map 3. 1953 USGS aerial photograph. Red line showing Fischer Historic District boundary. Source: USGS EarthExplorer. Overlay by HHM, 2016.

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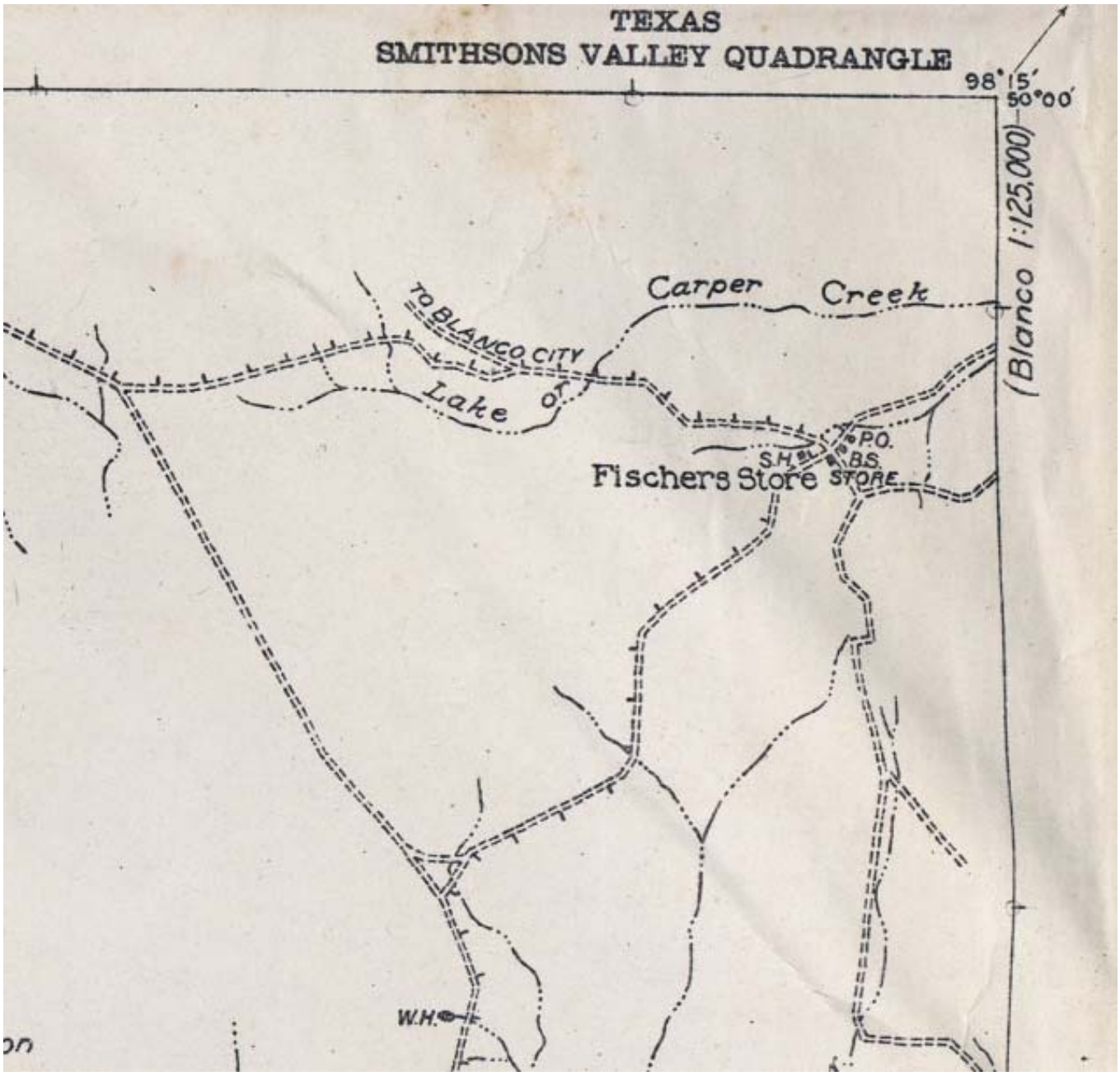
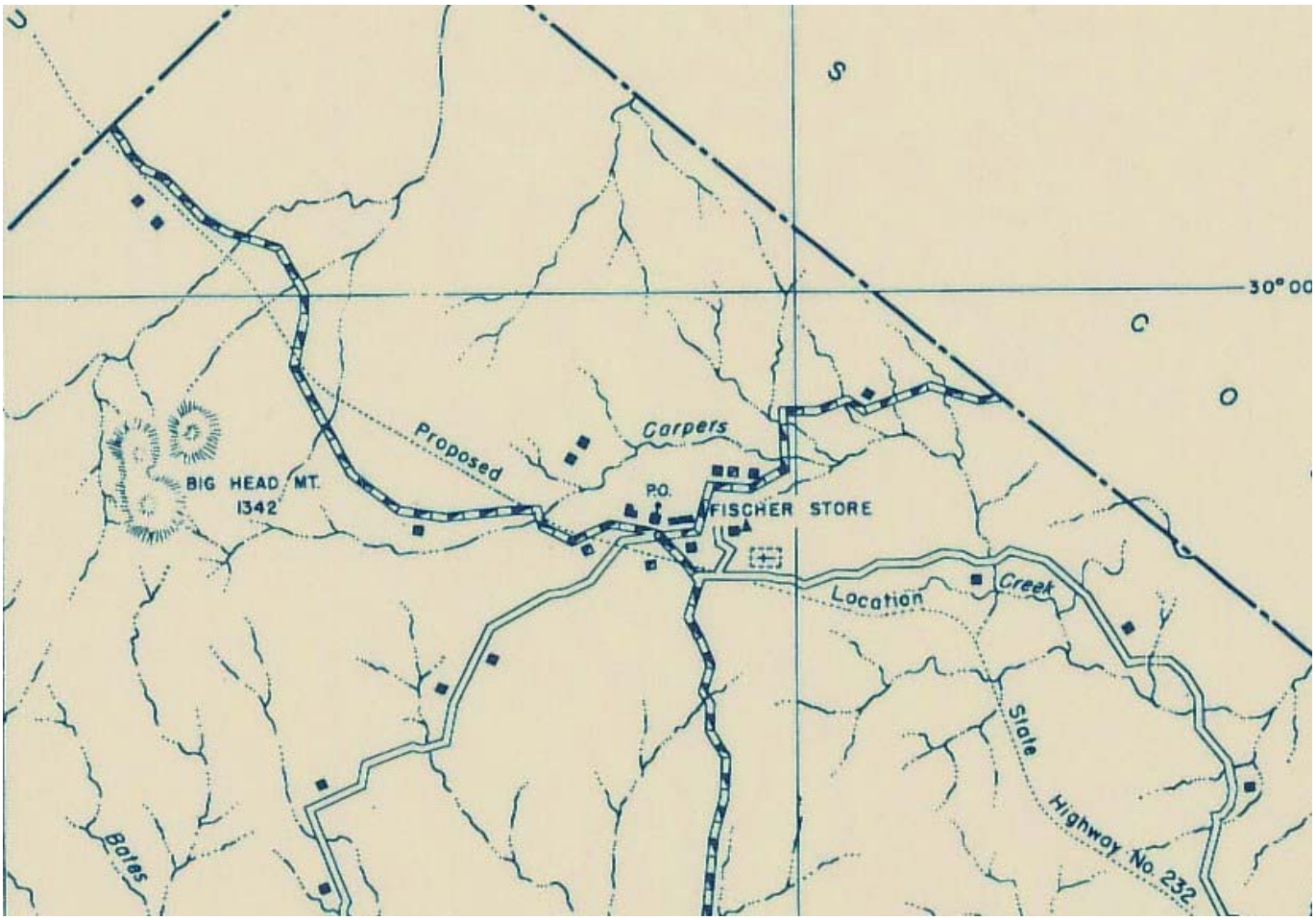
Map 4. 1920 Corps of Engineers, U.S. Army Progressive Military Map show Fischer's location at the intersection of several roadways. Source: Perry-Castaneda Library Map Collection.



SBR Draft

Map 5. 1940 Comal County General Highway map zoomed in showing the proposed new alignment for the future FM 32 (shown as State Highway No. 232 on map). Source: Texas State Archives Map Collection.



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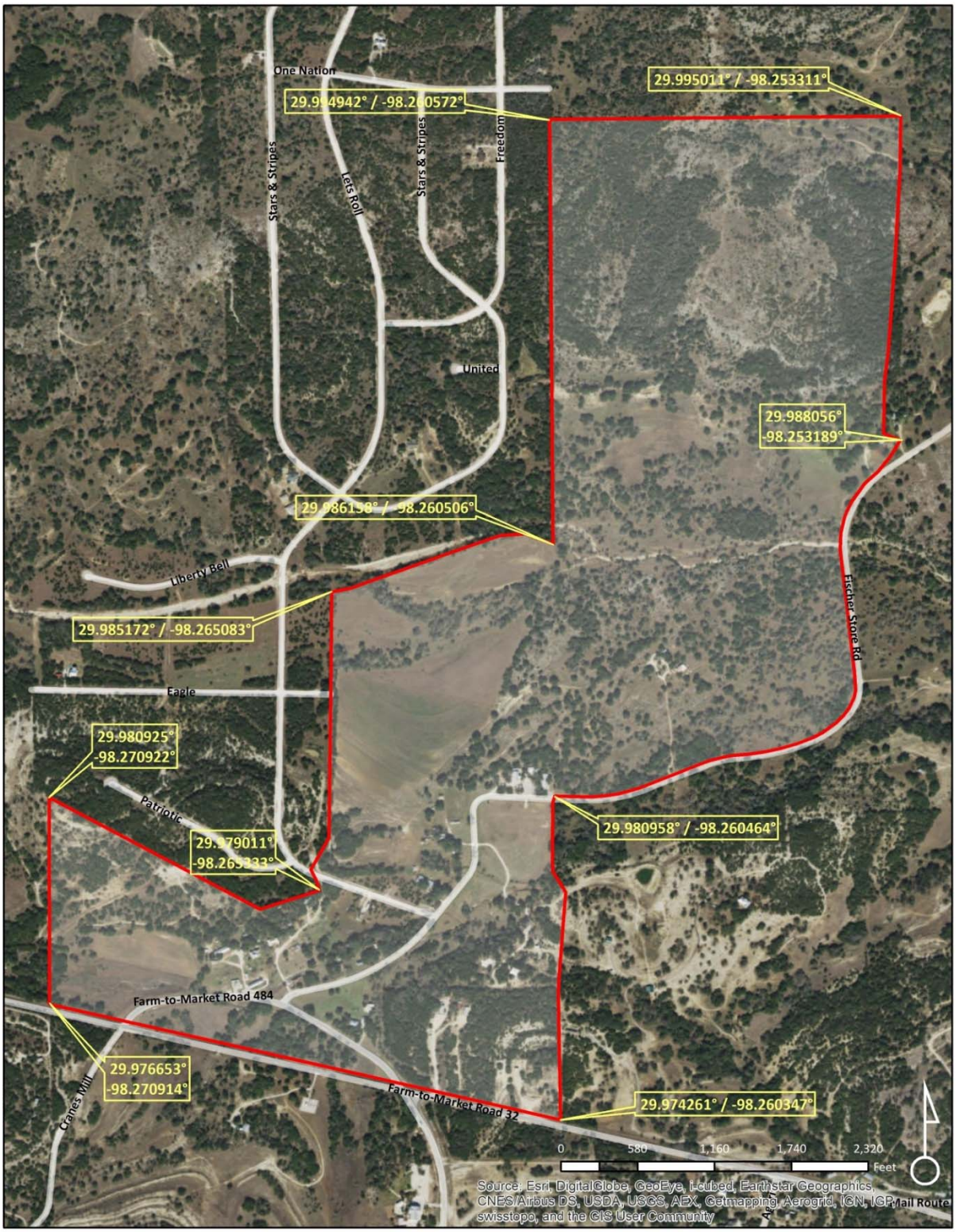
Map 6. Fischer Historic District with boundary in red, showing latitudinal and longitudinal points.



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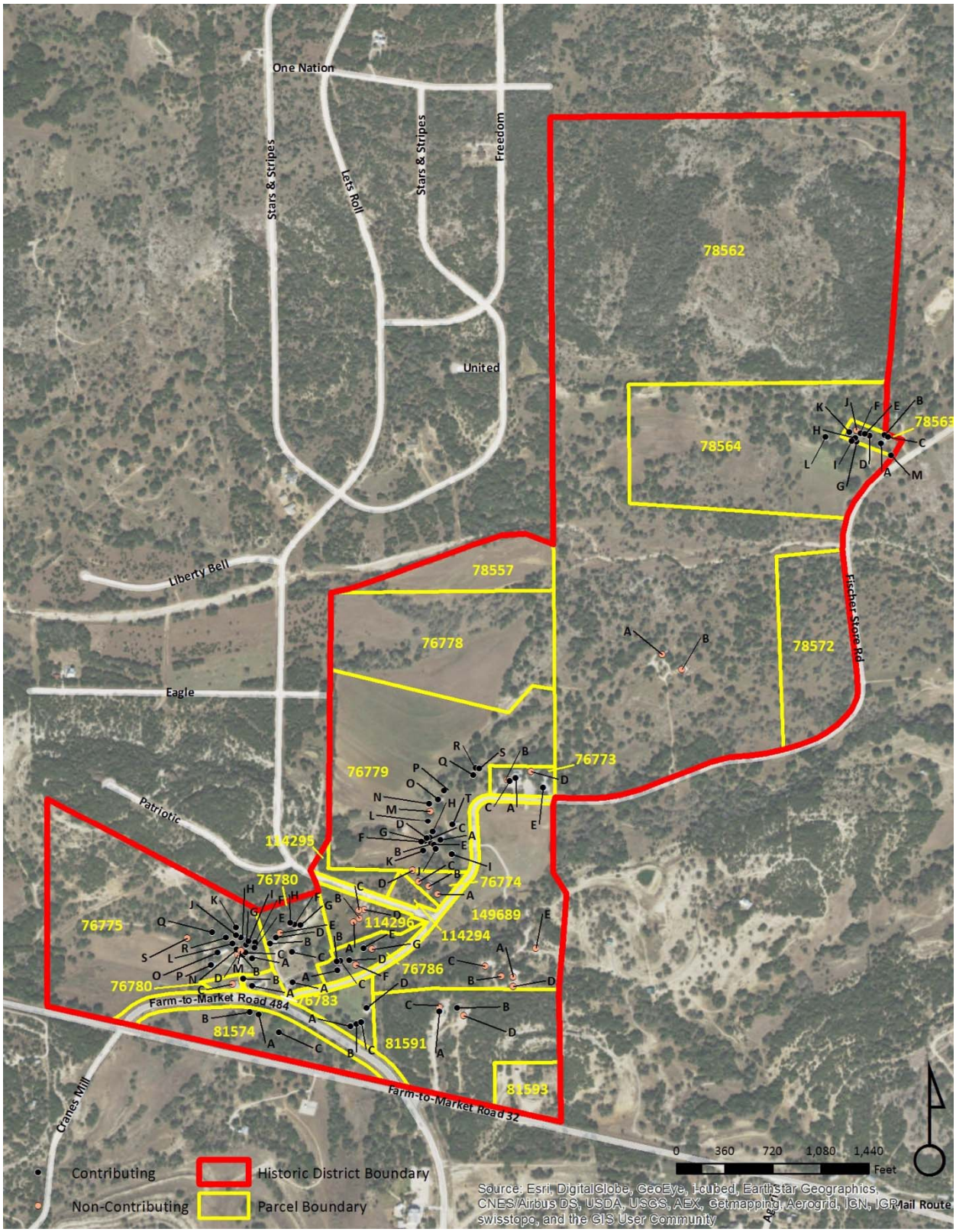
Map 7. Overview of Fischer Historic District with boundary in red, parcel boundaries in yellow, and contributing and noncontributing resources identified as black and orange.



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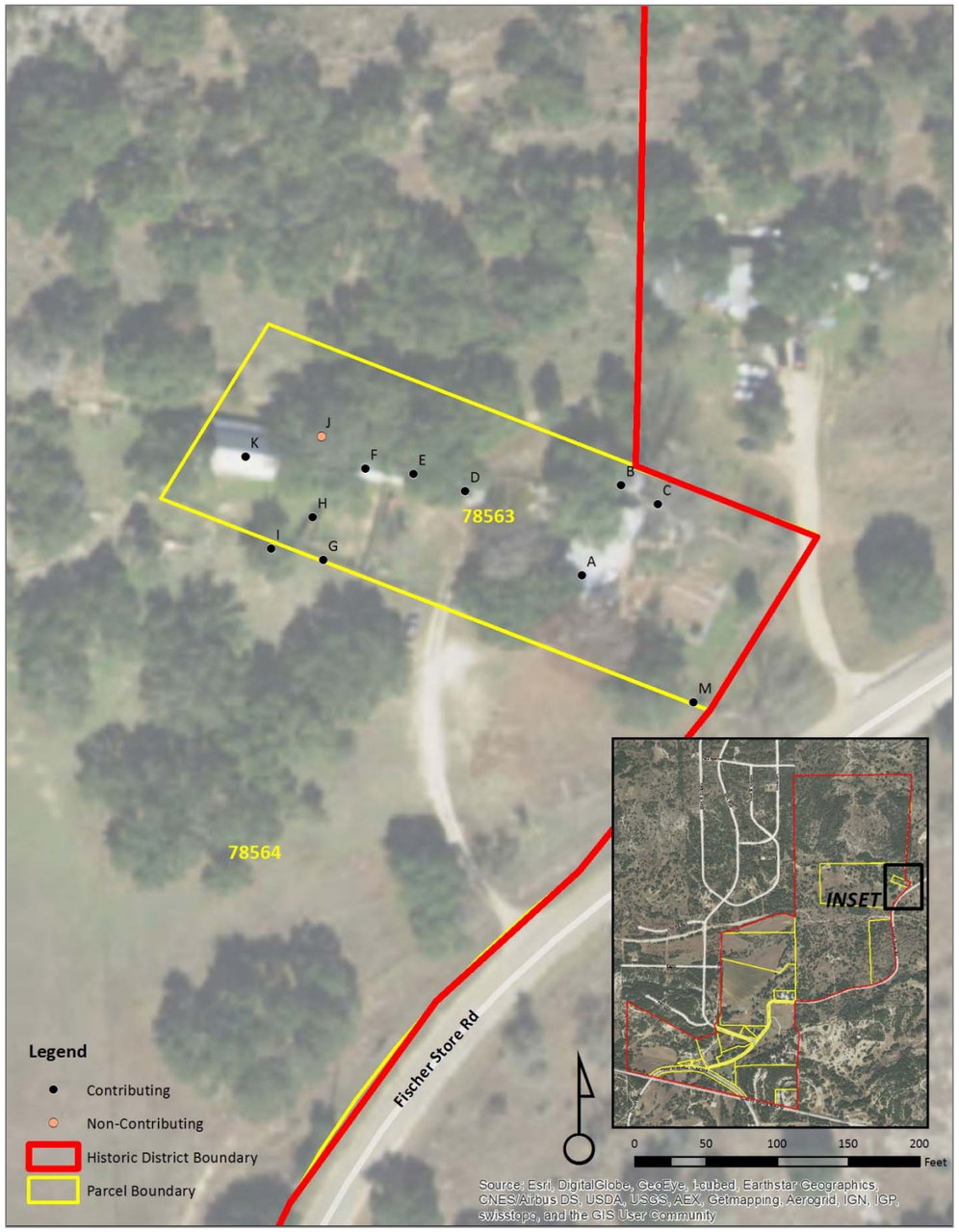
Map 8. Waldemar Otto (W. O.) Fischer Homestead (PIDN 78563)



PIDN		Address	Property Type	Year Built	Contributing Status
78563	78563 a	1481 Fischer Store Rd.	Building – Single-family dwelling	1922	Contributing
	78563 b	1481 Fischer Store Rd.	Building – Smokehouse and Washhouse	Ca. 1922	Contributing
	78563 c	1481 Fischer Store Rd.	Structure – Cistern	Ca. 1922	Contributing
	78563 d	1481 Fischer Store Rd.	Building – Garage	Ca. 1922	Contributing
	78563 e	1481 Fischer Store Rd.	Structure – Chicken coop	Ca. 1922	Contributing
	78563 f	1481 Fischer Store Rd.	Structure – Chicken coop	Ca. 1922	Contributing
	78563 g	1481 Fischer Store Rd.	Structure – Pen	Ca. 1922	Contributing
	78563 h	1481 Fischer Store Rd.	Structure – Loading chute	Ca. 1922	Contributing
	78563 i	1481 Fischer Store Rd.	Structure – Trough	Ca. 1922	Contributing
	78563 j	1481 Fischer Store Rd.	Structure – Shed	Ca. 1980	Noncontributing
	78563 k	1481 Fischer Store Rd.	Building – Barn	Ca. 1922	Contributing
	78563 l	1481 Fischer Store Rd.	Building – Barn	Ca. 1922	Contributing
	78563 m	1481 Fischer Store Rd.	Structure – Fencing	Ca. 1922	Contributing

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Map 9. Fischer Store Rd. (PIDN 78562)

PIDN		Address	Property Type	Year Built	Contributing Status
78562	78562 a	Fischer Store Rd.	Building – Single-family dwelling	Ca. 1985	Noncontributing
	78562 b	Fischer Store Rd.	Building – Garage	Ca. 1985	Noncontributing

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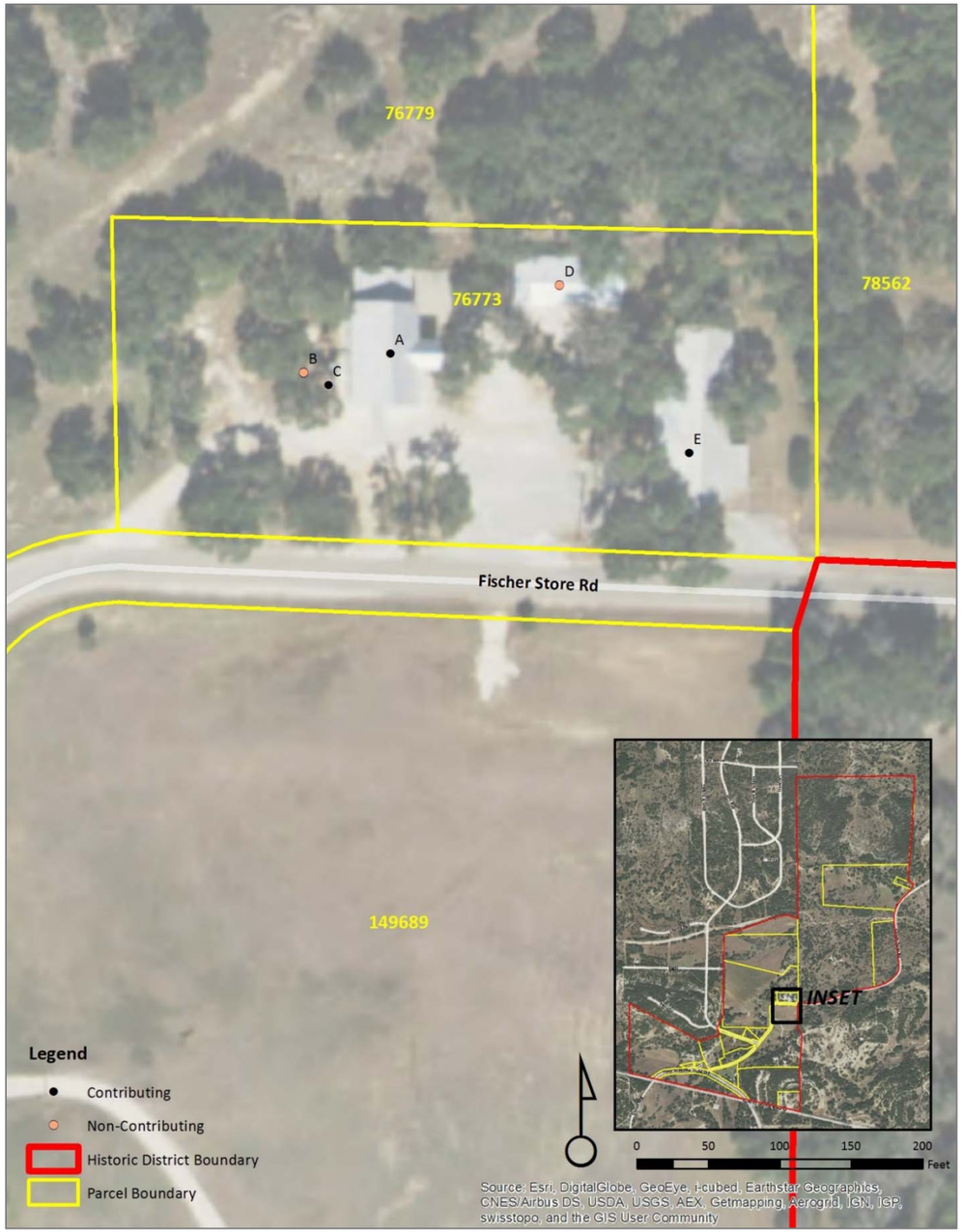
Map 10. Fischer Hall and Fischer Bowling Alley (PIDN 76773)



PIDN		Address	Property Type	Year Built	Contributing Status
76773	76773 a	701 Fischer Store Rd.	Building – Meeting and dance hall	Ca. 1897	Contributing
	76773 b	701 Fischer Store Rd.	Building – Outhouse	Ca. 2010	Noncontributing
	76773 c	701 Fischer Store Rd.	Structure – Cistern	Ca. 1930	Contributing
	76773 d	701 Fischer Store Rd.	Building – Garage	Ca. 1990	Noncontributing
	76773 e	701 Fischer Store Rd.	Building – Bowling alley	Ca. 1897	Contributing

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Map 11. Otto Fischer Homestead (PIDN 76779) and 451 Fischer Store Road (PIDN 76774)

PIDN		Address	Property Type	Year Built	Contributing Status
76779	76779 a	475 Fischer Store Rd.	Building – Single-family dwelling	Ca. 1865	Contributing
	76779 b	475 Fischer Store Rd.	Structure – Cistern	Ca. 1940	Contributing
	76779 c	475 Fischer Store Rd.	Building – Smokehouse	Ca. 1920	Contributing
	76779 d	475 Fischer Store Rd.	Structure – Chicken coop	Ca. 1920	Contributing
	76779 e	475 Fischer Store Rd.	Building – Outhouse	Ca. 1920	Contributing
	76779 f	475 Fischer Store Rd.	Building – Garage	Ca. 1940	Contributing
	76779 g	475 Fischer Store Rd.	Structure – Chicken coop	Ca. 1940	Contributing
	76779 h	475 Fischer Store Rd.	Building – Garage	Ca. 1920	Contributing
	76779 i	475 Fischer Store Rd.	Building – Garage	Ca. 1940	Contributing
	76779 j	475 Fischer Store Rd.	Structure – Fencing	Ca. 1920	Contributing
	76779 k	475 Fischer Store Rd.	Object – Molasses press	Ca. 1930	Contributing
	76779 l	475 Fischer Store Rd.	Building – Tractor shed	Ca. 1920	Contributing
	76779 m	475 Fischer Store Rd.	Structure – Shed	Ca. 1990	Noncontributing
	76779 n	475 Fischer Store Rd.	Structure – Hog pen	Ca. 1940	Contributing
	76779 o	475 Fischer Store Rd.	Building – Barn	Ca. 1920	Contributing
	76779 p	475 Fischer Store Rd.	Structure – Trough	Ca. 1920	Contributing
	76779 q	475 Fischer Store Rd.	Structure – Loading chute	Ca. 1920	Contributing
	76779 r	475 Fischer Store Rd.	Building – Goat shed	Ca. 1920	Contributing
	76779 s	475 Fischer Store Rd.	Structure – Worm house	Ca. 1940	Contributing
	76779 t	475 Fischer Store Rd.	Building – Barn	Ca. 1920	Contributing
76774	76774 a	451 Fischer Store Rd.	Building – Single-family dwelling	Ca. 1960	Noncontributing
	76774 b	451 Fischer Store Rd.	Building – Garage	Ca. 1960	Noncontributing
	76774 c	451 Fischer Store Rd.	Building – Barn	Ca. 1990	Noncontributing
	76774 d	451 Fischer Store Rd.	Building – Barn	Ca. 1990	Noncontributing

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Map 12. Arnold Fischer Homestead (PIDN 76786), 3900 FM 484 (PIDN 81585), & 101 Let's Roll Dr. (PIDN 114296)

PIDN		Address	Property Type	Year Built	Contributing Status
114296	114296 a	101 Let's Roll Dr.	Structure – Water tower	Ca. 2008	Noncontributing
	114296 b	101 Let's Roll Dr.	Building – Shed	Ca. 2008	Noncontributing
	114296 c	101 Let's Roll Dr.	Building – Shed	Ca. 2012	Noncontributing
	114296 d	101 Let's Roll Dr.	Building – Shed	Ca. 2012	Noncontributing
76786	76786 a	171 Fischer Store Rd.	Building – Single-family dwelling	1920	Contributing
	76786 b	171 Fischer Store Rd.	Building – Smokehouse	Ca. 1920	Contributing
	76786 c	171 Fischer Store Rd.	Building – Washhouse	Ca. 1920	Contributing
	76786 d	171 Fischer Store Rd.	Building – Feed house	Ca. 1915	Contributing
	76786 f	171 Fischer Store Rd.	Building – Single-family dwelling	Ca. 1850	Noncontributing
	76786 e	171 Fischer Store Rd.	Building – Barn	Ca. 1915	Contributing
	76786 g	171 Fischer Store Rd.	Structure – Shed	Ca. 2000	Noncontributing
81585	81585 a	3900 FM 484	Building – Single-family dwelling	Ca. 1920	Contributing
	81585 c	3900 FM 484	Building – Barn	Ca. 1940	Contributing
	81585 d	3900 FM 484	Building – Barn	Ca. 1920	Contributing
	81585 b	3900 FM 484	Structure – Cistern	Ca. 1940	Contributing

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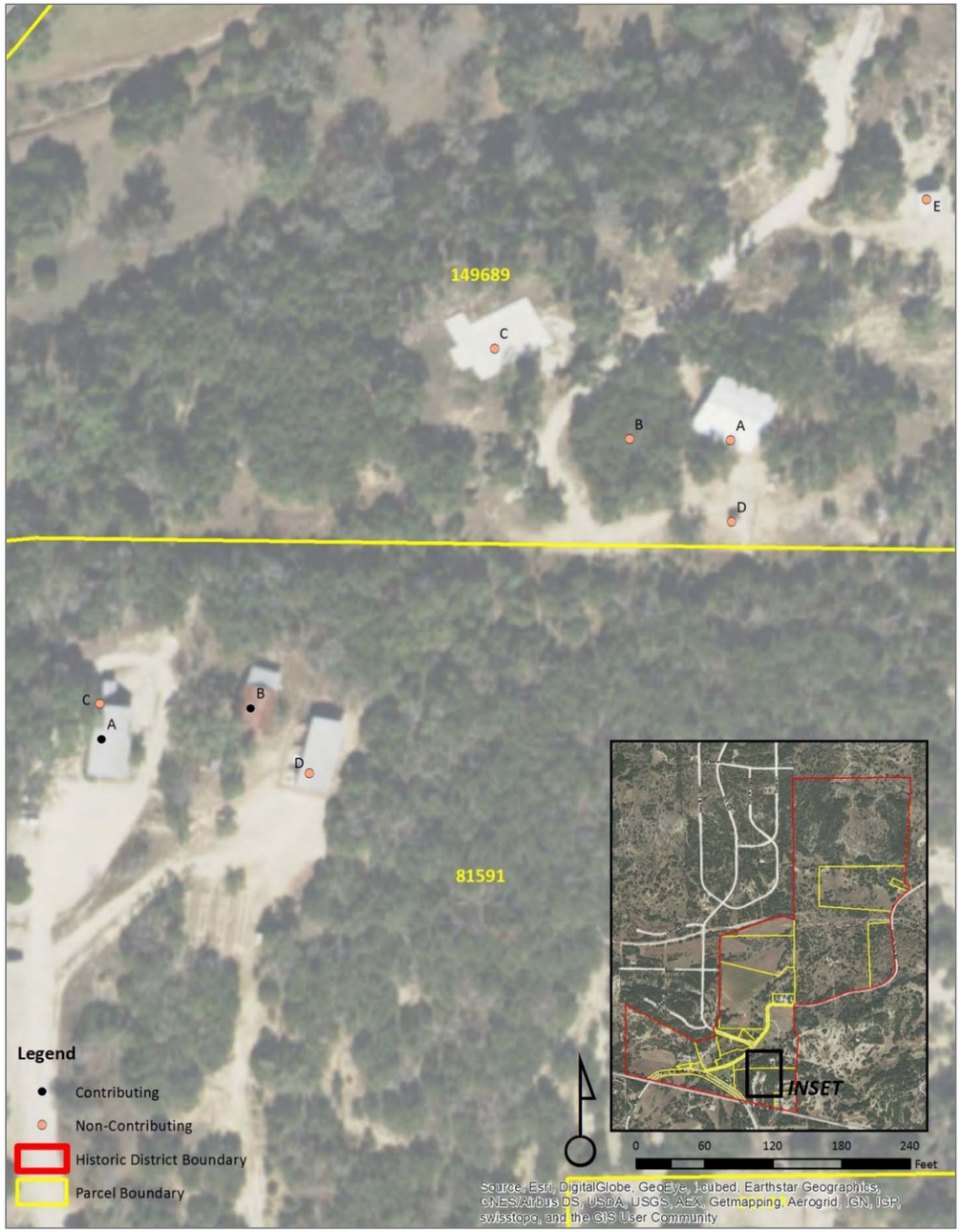
Map 13. Fischer School (PIDN 81591) and 450 Fischer Store Rd. (PIDN 149689)



PIDN		Address	Property Type	Year Built	Contributing Status
149689	149689 a	450 Fischer Store Rd.	Building – Single-family dwelling	2014	Noncontributing
	149689 b	450 Fischer Store Rd.	Structure – Carport	2013	Noncontributing
	149689 c	450 Fischer Store Rd.	Building – Barn	2014	Noncontributing
	149689 d	450 Fischer Store Rd.	Structure – Shed	2014	Noncontributing
	149689 e	450 Fischer Store Rd.	Structure – Shed	2014	Noncontributing
81591	81591 a	12400 FM 32	Building – School	1940	Contributing
	81591 b	12400 FM 32	Building – Teacherage	1953	Contributing
	81591 c	12400 FM 32	Building – Bathroom	Ca. 2000	Noncontributing
	81591 d	12400 FM 32	Building – School	Ca. 2000	Noncontributing

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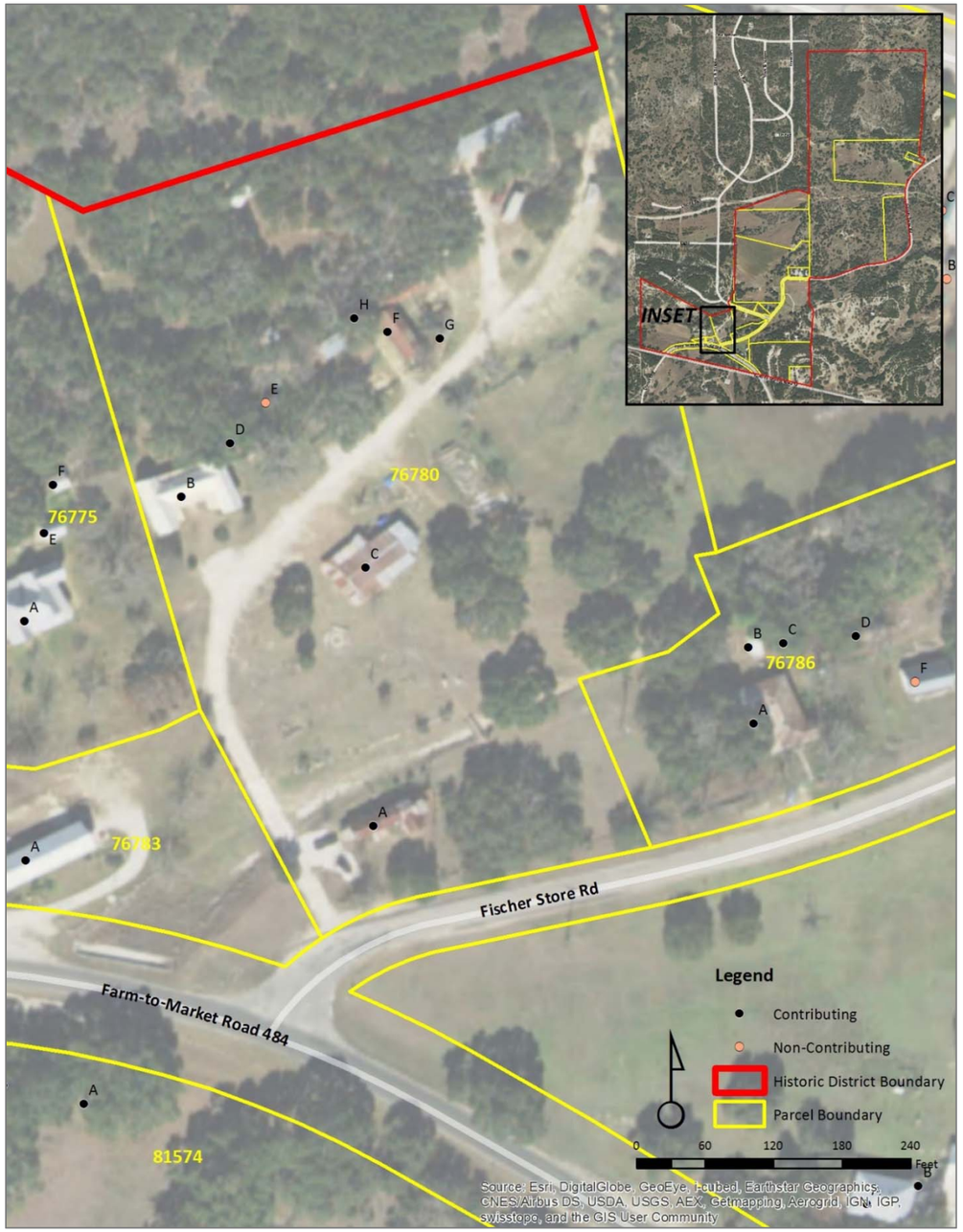
Map 14. Grist Mill and Willie Fischer Homestead (PIDN 76780)



PIDN		Address	Property Type	Year Built	Contributing Status
76780	76780 a	115 Fischer Store Rd.	Building – Grist mill	Ca. 1900	Contributing
	76780 c	115 Fischer Store Rd.	Building – Garage	Ca. 1920	Contributing
	76780 b	115 Fischer Store Rd.	Building – Single-family dwelling	Ca. 1908	Contributing
	76780 d	115 Fischer Store Rd.	Building – Washhouse	Ca. 1910	Contributing
	76780 e	115 Fischer Store Rd.	Structure – Shed	Ca. 1990	Noncontributing
	76780 f	115 Fischer Store Rd.	Building – Barn	Ca. 1900	Contributing
	76780 g	115 Fischer Store Rd.	Structure – Loading chute	Ca. 1900	Contributing
	76780 h	115 Fischer Store Rd.	Building – Barn	Ca. 1900	Contributing

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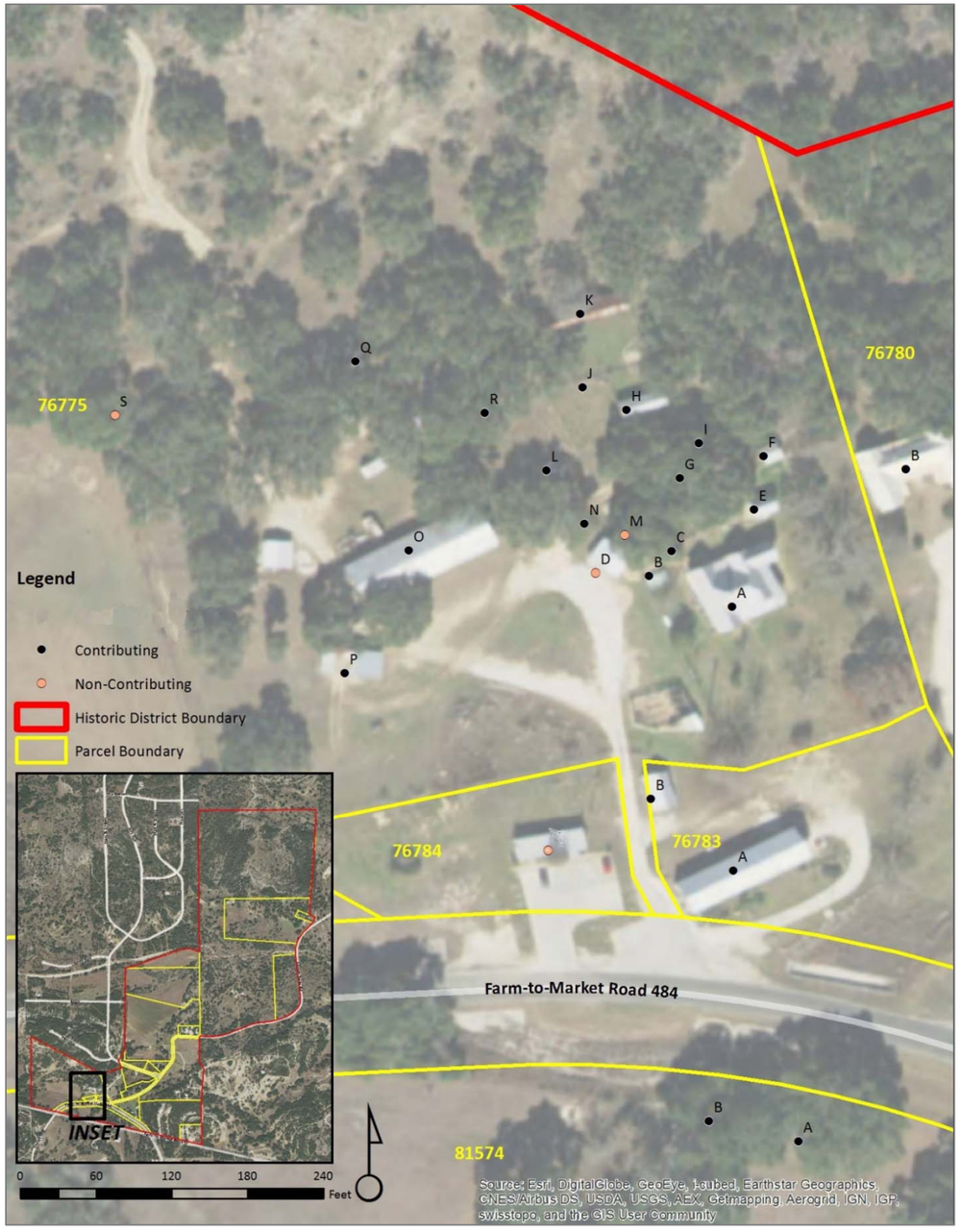
Map 15. Hermann Fischer, Jr. Homestead (PIDN 76775), Fischer Store (PIDN 76783), & 4050 FM 484 (PIDN 76784)



PIDN		Address	Property Type	Year Built	Contributing Status
76775	76775 a	4060 FM 484	Building – Single-family dwelling	Ca. 1910	Contributing
	76775 b	4060 FM 484	Structure – Cellar	Ca. 1910	Contributing
	76775 c	4060 FM 484	Structure – Cistern	Ca. 1910	Contributing
	76775 d	4060 FM 484	Structure – Carport	Ca. 2005	Noncontributing
	76775 e	4060 FM 484	Building – Washhouse	Ca. 1920	Contributing
	76775 f	4060 FM 484	Building – Smokehouse	Ca. 1940	Contributing
	76775 g	4060 FM 484	Building – Feed barn	Ca. 1910	Contributing
	76775 h	4060 FM 484	Building – Horse barn	Ca. 1910	Contributing
	76775 i	4060 FM 484	Structure – Loading chute	Ca. 1910	Contributing
	76775 j	4060 FM 484	Structure – Trough	Ca. 1910	Contributing
	76775 k	4060 FM 484	Building – Horse barn	Ca. 1910	Contributing
	76775 l	4060 FM 484	Structure – Chicken coop	Ca. 1910	Contributing
	76775 m	4060 FM 484	Structure – Well house	Ca. 2000	Noncontributing
	76775 n	4060 FM 484	Structure – Loading chute	Ca. 1910	Contributing
	76775 o	4060 FM 484	Building – Warehouse	Ca. 1902	Contributing
	76775 p	4060 FM 484	Building – Warehouse	Ca. 1902	Contributing
	76775 q	4060 FM 484	Building – Doctor's office	Ca. 1910	Contributing
	76775 r	4060 FM 484	Structure – Chicken coop	Ca. 1910	Contributing
	76775 s	4060 FM 484	Building – Outhouse	Ca. 1920	Noncontributing
76784		4050 FM 484	Building – Post Office	Ca. 1995	Noncontributing
76783	76783 a	4040 FM 484	Building – Store	1902	Contributing
	76783 b	4040 FM 484	Building – Oil house	Ca. 1920	Contributing

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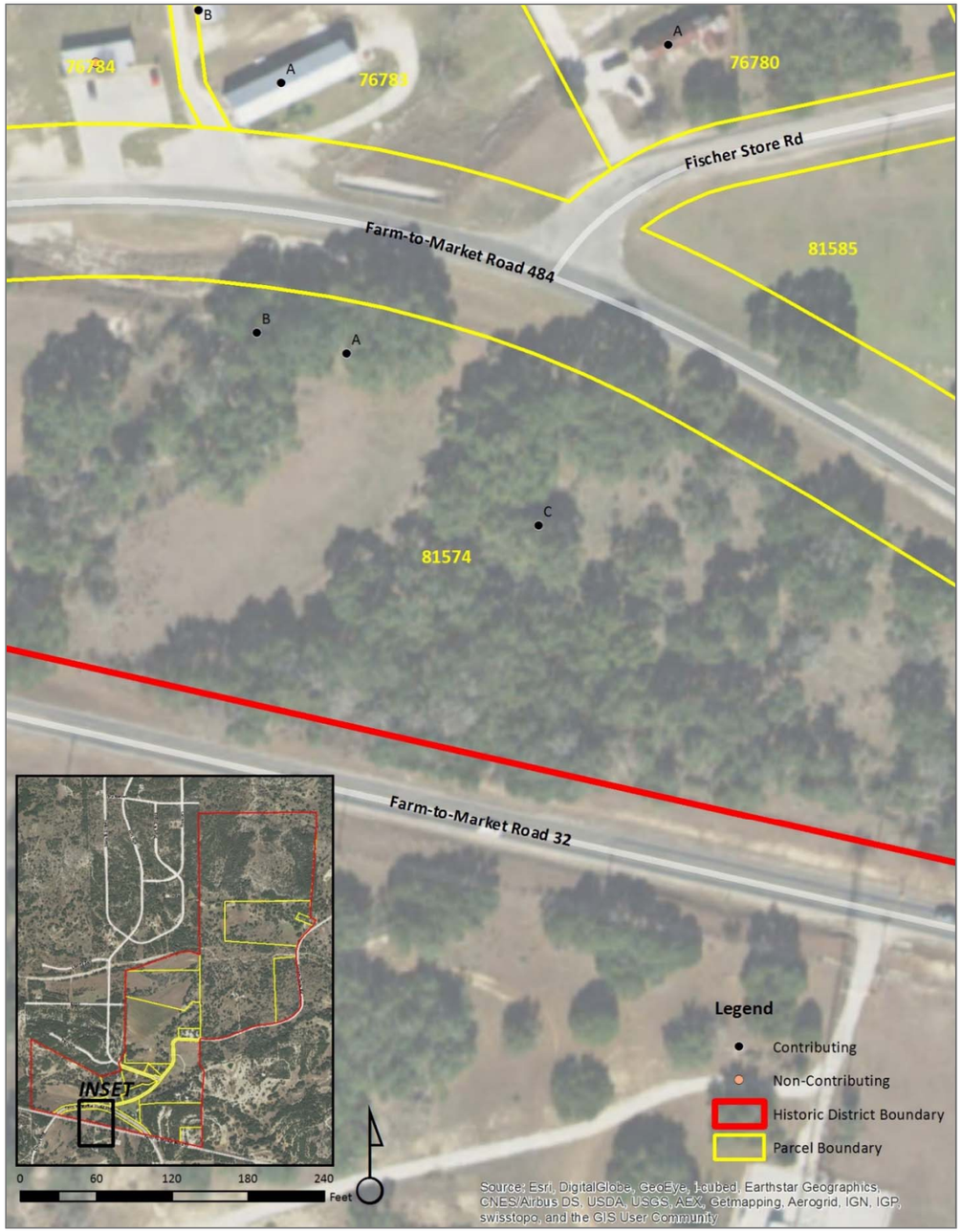
Map 16. FM 32 (PIDN 81574)



PIDN		Address	Property Type	Year Built	Contributing Status
81574	81574 a	FM 32	Building – One-room building	Ca. 1870	Contributing
	81574 b	FM 32	Structure - Well	Ca. 1900	Contributing
	81574 c	FM 32	Building – Horse/goat barn	Ca. 1900	Contributing

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Photo No. 1. Contextual view of the dry creek running through the district on the Willie Fischer Homestead (PIDN 76780), view facing northeast. October 2015.

Photo No. 2. PIDN 149689, contextual photo of former rodeo grounds, view facing northeast. October 2015.

SBR Draft

Photo No. 3. PIDN 81574, contextual view of FM 32 and FM 484 at the southern edge of the district, view facing east. October 2015.

Photo No. 4. PIDN 76775, 4060 FM 484, contextual of fencing around the agricultural cluster on the Hermann Fischer, Jr. Homestead, view facing southeast. October 2015.

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Photo No. 5. PIDN 76779, 475 Fischer Store Road, contextual view of the Otto Fischer Homestead, view facing south. November 2015.

Photo No. 6. PIDNs 76779j and 76779a, 475 Fischer Store Road, contextual view of fencing around house on the Otto Fischer Homestead, view facing west. November 2015.

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Photo No. 7. PIDN 76779a, 475 Fischer Store Road, front façade of main house on the Otto Fischer Homestead, view facing north. November 2015.

Photo No. 8. PIDN 76779a, 475 Fischer Store Road, oblique of main house on the Otto Fischer Homestead, view facing southeast. November 2015.

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Photo No. 9. PIDN 76779, 475 Fischer Store Road, contextual of clusters on the Otto Fischer Homestead, view facing north. November 2015.

Photo No. 10. PIDN 76773a, 701 Fischer Store Road, front façade of Fischer Hall, view facing north. October 2015.

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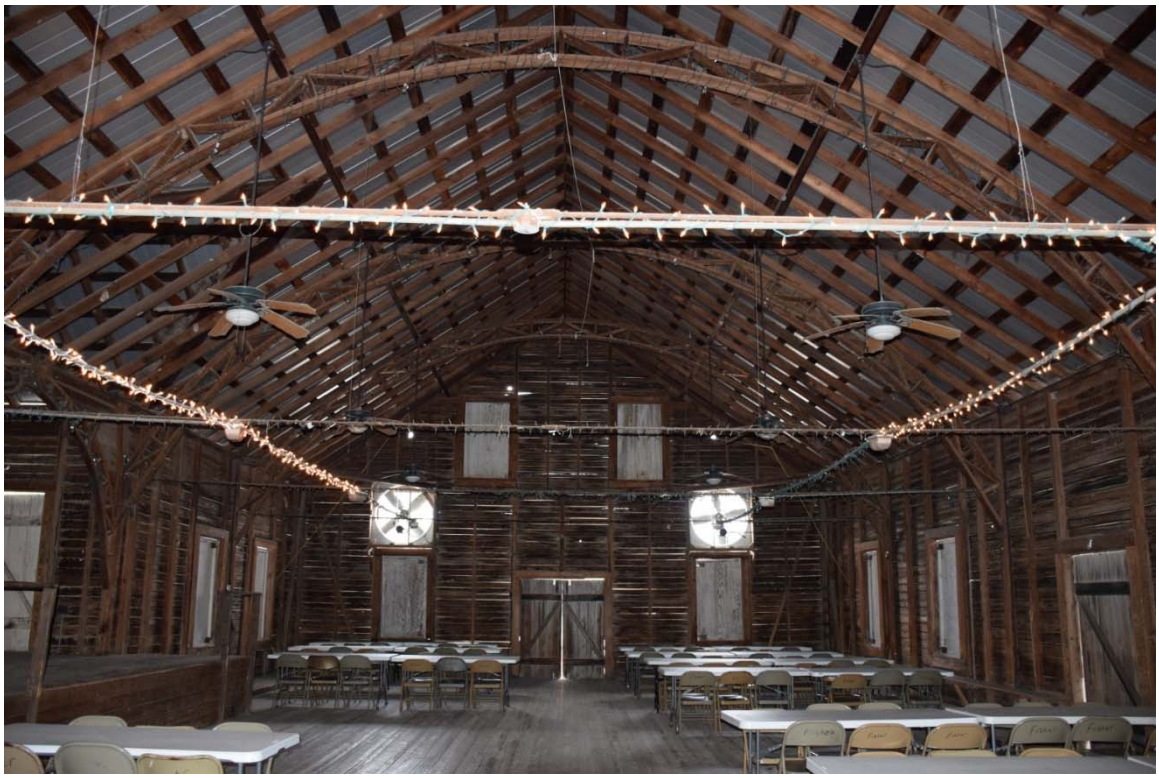

Photo No. 11. PIDN 76773a, 701 Fischer Store Road, interior view of Fischer Hall, view facing south. October 2015.

Photo No. 12. PIDN 76783a, 4040 FM 484, oblique view of Fischer Store, view facing east. October 2015.

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Photo No. 13. PIDN 76783a, 4040 FM 484, front façade of Fischer Store, view facing northeast. October 2015.

Photo No. 14. PIDN 76783b, 4040 FM 484, oblique view of oil house, view facing northeast. October 2015.

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Photo No. 15. PIDN 76780a, 115 Fischer Store Road, oblique view of grist mill, view facing northeast. October 2015.

Photo No. 16. PIDN 81585, 3900 FM 484, contextual view of site of former cotton gin, view facing southwest. October 2015.

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Photo No. 17. PIDN 76780b, 115 Fischer Store Road, front façade of main house on the Willie Fischer Homestead, view facing northwest. October 2015.

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Photo No. 18. PIDN 76775a, 4060 FM 484, front façade of main house on the Hermann Fischer, Jr. Homestead, view facing northwest. October 2015.

Photo No. 19. PIDN 76775, 4060 FM 484, contextual view of domestic cluster on the Hermann Fischer, Jr. Homestead, view facing northeast. October 2015.

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Photo No. 20. PIDN 76775, 4060 FM 484, contextual of agricultural cluster on the Hermann Fischer, Jr. Homestead, view facing east. October 2015.

Photo No. 21. PIDN 76775o, 4060 FM 484, oblique view of warehouse on the Hermann Fischer, Jr. Homestead, view facing northeast. October 2015.

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Photo No. 22. PIDN 76786e, 171 Fischer Store Road, oblique of barn on the Arnold Fischer Homestead, view facing northeast. October 2015.

Photo No. 23. PIDN 76786a, 171 Fischer Store Road, front façade of main house on the Arnold Fischer Homestead, view facing northwest. October 2015.

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Photo No. 24. PIDN 78564, 1481 Fischer Store Road, contextual view of linear arrangement of buildings on the W. O. Fischer Homestead, view facing northeast. October 2015.

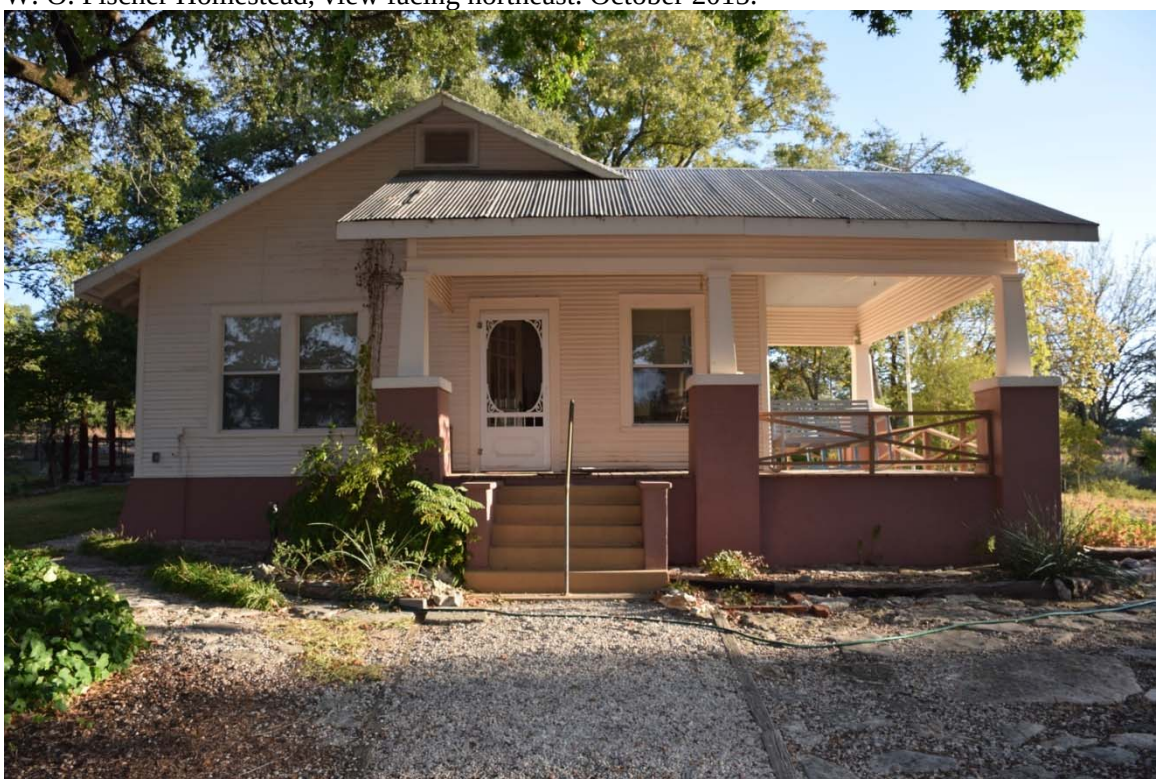

Photo No. 25. PIDN 78563, 1481 Fischer Store Road, front façade of main house on the W. O. Fischer Homestead, view facing northeast. October 2015.

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Photo No. 26. PIDN 76773, 701 Fischer Store Road, contextual view of buildings on property, view facing west. October 2015.

Photo No. 27. PIDN 76773b, 701 Fischer Store Road, oblique view of bowling alley, view facing northwest. October 2015.

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Photo No. 28. PIDN 81591a, 12400 FM 32, oblique view of school, view facing southeast. October 2015.

Photo No. 29. PIDN 81591a, 12400 FM 32, oblique view of rear of school, view facing southwest. October 2015.

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Photo No. 30. PIDN 81593, 12300 FM 32, contextual view of Fischer Cemetery, view facing north. October 2015.

Photo No. 31. PIDN 76773d, 701 Fischer Store Road, oblique view of non-contributing outhouse, view facing northeast. October 2015.

Photo No. 32. PIDN 76773e, 701 Fischer Store Road, oblique view of non-contributing garage, view facing northeast. October 2015.

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Photo No. 33. PIDN 76784, 4050 FM 484, view of non-contributing post office, view facing northwest. October 2015.

Photo No. 34. PIDN 76774a, 451 Fischer Store Road, façade of non-contributing house, view facing west. November 2015.

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Photo No. 35. PIDN 81593, 12300 FM 32, contextual view of Fischer Cemetery, view facing north. September 2016.

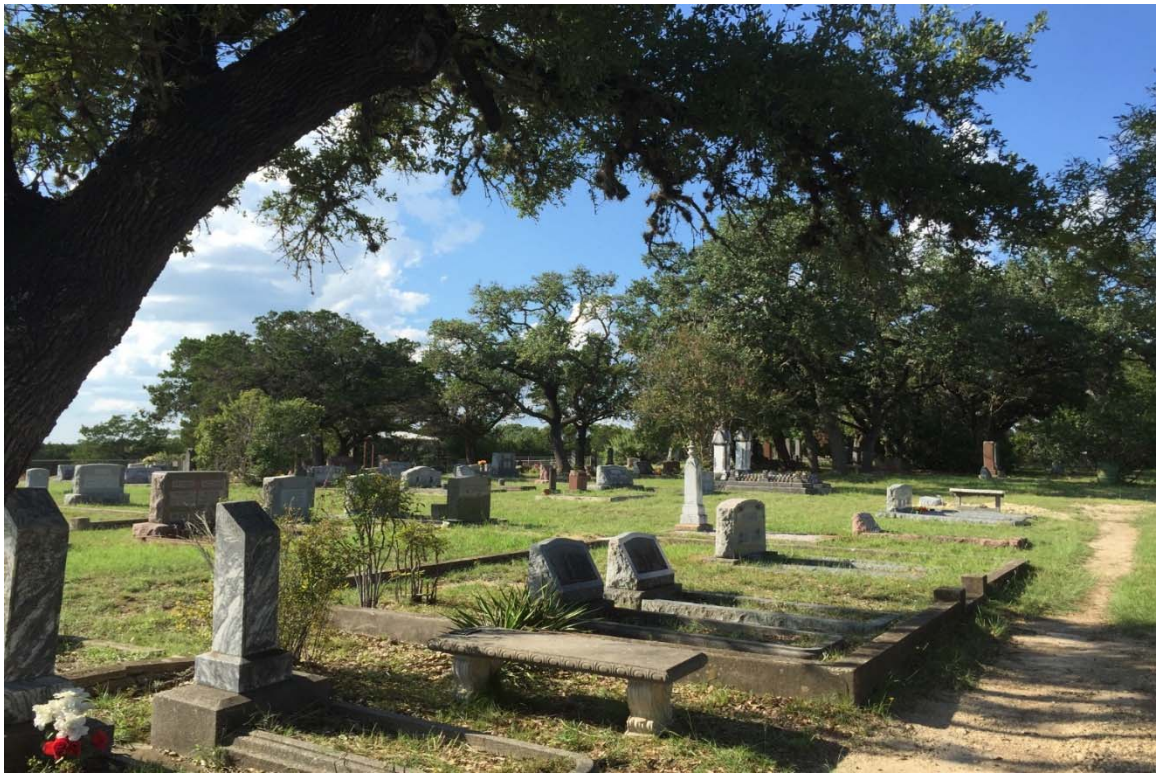
Photo No. 36. PIDN 81593, 12300 FM 32, contextual view of Fischer Cemetery tombstones, view facing northwest. September 2016.

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