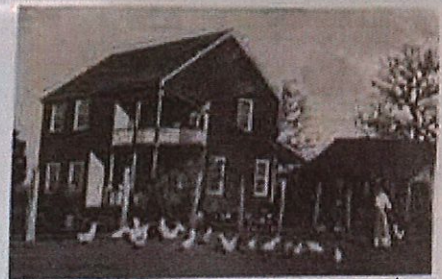


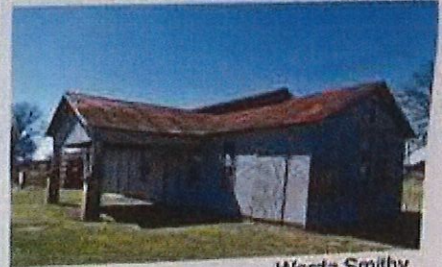
Environmental Studies

Historic Resources

- One Official Texas Historical Marker for Rabbs Prairie is within the existing right of way.
- 265 historic-age resources (constructed in 1979 or earlier) were documented.
- Recommending three properties eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places:
 - Kunze Farm (Resource 8)
 - Warda Smithy (Resource 13A)
 - Fayette County Fairground (Resource 59)
- The proposed project would require 2.41 acres of right of way from within the historic boundary of the Kunze Farm; TxDOT is working to avoid an adverse effect to an existing stock pass under US 77 at the farm.
- No adverse effect is anticipated to Resources 13A or 59.
- The potential Section 4(f) and Chapter 26 effects would be finalized following the intensive historic survey, which is ongoing.



19th Century house at Kunze Farm



Warda Smithy

Nov. 18, 2021

Next Steps

WE ARE HERE



PRELIMINARY – SUBJECT TO CHANGE





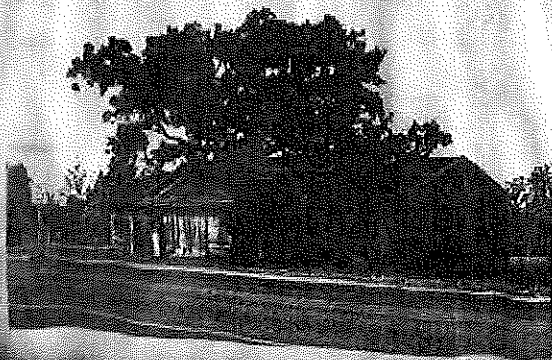
Business History of the
blacksmith shop in Wards, Texas

The blacksmith shop in Wards, Texas, located approximately 100 yards south of the intersection of FM 1482 and US Highway 77, was built by Frederick Hermann Steglich on land purchased from John C. Heitsch on January 14, 1882. In February 1885 Karl Gustav Rothmann from Niederfunnersdorf, Germany, came to Wards as an assistant to Mr. Steglich. Gustav Rothmann had received his blacksmith certification April 12, 1873, in Niederfunnersdorf, Germany.

After the death of Hermann Steglich in 1885, Gustav Rothmann continued to operate the blacksmith shop.

On February 16, 1886, Anna (Weislich) Steglich and Gustav Rothmann were married. After the death of Gustav Rothmann (Dec. 3, 1917) Anna Rothmann sold the blacksmith shop to Paul Lehmann on December 19, 1919 and it then was operated by Paul Lehmann until December 1966. (Paul Lehmann replaced the original shop building in about 1932-33.)

The shop building and land were sold to the Wards Investors, Inc. by Anita Boll, an heir of Paul Lehmann, on January 31, 1994. One of the stockholders of the Wards Investors is Flora (Rothmann) Kunze of Wards, Texas. Flora Kunze is the granddaughter of Anna and Gustav Rothmann.



Wards Blacksmith Shop
Steglich 1882-1885
Rothmann 1885-1917
Lehmann 1917-1966