

BALES BARN

HABS No. TX-3383

.41 miles southwest of Bearden Road

Waxahachie Vicinity

Ellis County

Texas

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

FIELD RECORDS

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

Intermountain Regional Office

National Park Service

P.O. Box 25287

Denver, Colorado 80225-0287

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

BALES BARN

HABS NO. TX-3383

Location: .41 miles southwest of Bearden Road
Waxahachie vicinity, Ellis County, Texas

USGS Boz, Texas Quadrangle, Universal
Transverse Mercator Coordinates
14.695180.3576290

Present Owner: Texas National Research Laboratory Commission
(TNRLC)
1801 N. Hampton Road, Suite 400
DeSoto, Texas 75115

**Present
Occupant:** None

Present Use: None

Significance: The Bales Barn is the lone surviving building of a late nineteenth and early twentieth century cotton farm near the rural community of Boz in western Ellis County, Texas. The building is on an 81.66-acre parcel in the Benjamin Barton Survey and it is a rare local example of a brace frame barn. It is linked with a tenant and owner-occupied cotton farm of the late nineteenth and early to mid twentieth centuries.

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

The Bales Barn dates to the late 1800s. The land originally was part of the Walter M. Turner Farm. Turner was a native of South Carolina who relocated to Georgia and Tennessee before settling in Ellis County in 1854. In 1867, he acquired this land and leased it to tenant farmers. It adjoined the 160-acre Walter M. Turner Survey where he maintained his homestead. After Turner's death in 1900, a partition deed among his surviving children resulted in the conveyance of this property to Mollie T. Bales (a daughter of Turner) and her husband J.S. Bales. They lived in a house that stood near the barn for the rest of their lives. J.H. Sims acquired the property in 1948 and moved the house to another location, leaving the barn largely intact. The barn was used for hay storage until the 1980s and is severely deteriorated and near collapse.

ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

Located on a promontory overlooking open, sloping pastures, .41 miles southwest of Bearden Road, the Bales Barn is a one-and-a-half story, double-crib barn with a hipped metal roof. The barn consists of a north (101) and south (104) crib, separated by a center bay or wagon way (100). Built on a foundation of dry-laid stone, it is enclosed on the north, south and west sides. The north crib and the wagon way were partitioned into two storage areas (102, 103), and a wood hay manger was built in the south crib (104). A loft covers a third of the north crib (201) and is located above the wagon way (202, 200) and the south crib (203). Loading doors are located in the west side of the barn, for both the ground and loft floors. (See photographic documentation HABS No. TX-3383-1 through HABS No. TX-3383-10 and HABS drawings, Sheets 1 and 2. Room numbers on the drawings are indicated in parentheses).

The barn is covered with 1"x12" boards laid vertical on the south, east, and west sides, and horizontal on a portion of the west and north sides. The barn structure is of braced frame construction, with circular-sawn sills, connected with bridled joints at the corners and lap joints at mid-span. Tusk-tenoned studs, spaced in between sawn corner posts with tension braces, support the loft. Partitions for storage areas (102, 103, 201) are of later balloon frame construction and are sheathed in horizontally-laid, 1"x12" circular-sawn boards.

Sources:

McGregor, Frances Dunaway. Interviews by Terri Myers.
Written notes. Waxahachie, Texas.
20 May 1992 and 12 June 1992.

Murdock, Stanley, and Murdock, Yula Glenn. Interview by
Terri Myers. Written notes.
Waxahachie, Texas. 12 June 1992.

Ellis County, Texas. Office of the County Clerk. Deed
Records.

**Ellis County, Texas. Office of the County Clerk. Probate
Records.**

**Ellis County, Texas. Office of the County Tax
Assessor/Collector. Tax Abstracts of Lands.**

**Texas State Comptrollers Office. Ad Valorem Tax Rolls for
Ellis County. On file at the
Genealogical Collection at the Texas State Library.**

**Historians: David Moore, Hardy-Heck-Moore, and Stan Solamillo,
July 1992.**