

OLD G.H. CUNNINGHAM FARMSTEAD, BARN
228' northwest of the Old G.H. Cunningham
Farmstead, Main House
Waxahachie Vicinity
Ellis County
Texas

HABS No. TX-3378-D

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

FIELD RECORDS

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDING SURVEY
Southwest System Support Office
National Park Service
P.O. Box 728
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

OLD G.H. CUNNINGHAM FARMSTEAD, BARN

HABS NO. TX-3378-D

Location: 228' Northwest of the Old G. H. Cunningham Farmstead, Main House
Waxahachie vicinity, Ellis County, Texas

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

Present Occupant: None

Present Use: Vacant

Significance: The Cunningham Farmstead Barn was a component of the Old G. H. Cunningham Farmstead that was associated with George H. Cunningham, who owned vast amounts of land in Ellis and nearby counties. Cunningham was more interested in land acquisition than farming.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. **History:** This building appears to date from the first quarter of the twentieth century and was built to provide feed storage for livestock. It is entered from both gable ends and appears to be a variation of the Transverse Crib barn.

PART II. ARCHTECTURAL CHARACTER

a. General Statement:

2. **Architectural Character:** Located 228.0' northwest of the main house is a barn, HABS No. TX-3378-D. It is a two-story, 3-bay barn, with a gable roof and shed addition. (See photographic documentation HABS No. TX-3378-D-1 through HABS No. TX-3378-D-7 and HABS drawings, Sheet 1. Room numbering on the drawings are indicated in parentheses).
3. **Condition of Fabric:** The barn is in fair condition and has been covered with random-size corrugated metal sheets in an attempt to prevent further deterioration.

B. Description of Exterior:

- 1. Overall Dimensions:** The barn, including the shed addition, measures 33'-1" x 36'-1".
- 2. Foundations:** Piers are of dry-laid stone, located at regular intervals.
- 3. Walls:** The walls are covered in corrugated metal over wood drop siding, 3/8" thick with a 5-1/2" exposure and random-width vertical board.
- 4. Structural System, Framing:** The barn is constructed using a mixture of pole and balloon framing.
- 5. Openings:** The barn is entered through doorways located in the gable ends on the east and west sides, allowing access to the central bay (101). Loading openings for feed are located in each storage crib (103, 104, 105) on the north, east and west sides. The shed addition (100) is open along the south wall for livestock.
- 6. Roof:** The main roof of the barn is gabled with a slope of 8 in 12, and is covered in corrugated metal over circular-sawn wood shingles, with an 8" exposure. The shed roof on the pole-frame addition has a slope of 5 in 12, and is covered in corrugated metal.

C. Description of Interior:

- 1. First Floor Plan:** The interior of the barn is divided into three bays in width, and five bays in length. The south (100) and middle (101) bays on the first floor are open for the tethering and feeding of livestock. A large wood hay manger, measuring 4'-9" x 15'-0", is centrally-located between the columns which support the loft above (200). Smaller feed troughs, measuring 2'-0" x 19'-0" and 2'-0" x 11'-0", are located along the north wall of the central bay (101). The north bay has been divided into three storage cribs (102, 103, 104).
- 2. Loft Plan:** The loft is divided into two open bays (200, 201), separated by random-spaced 2" vertical planks which support the ridge.

3. **Flooring:** The flooring of the lofts and storage cribs are 1"x8", laid east-west, with openings cut into the floor boards, located directly above hay mangers on the main floor. The open bays (100, 101) are earth-floored.
4. **Doorways and Doors:** Three interior doors are board and batten and provide entry to each of the storage cribs.