

ROBERTS-DOLEZAL FARMSTEAD, MAIN HOUSE
70' northwest of FM 1722 Roadway
Garrett Vicinity
Ellis County
Texas

HABS No. TX-3380-A

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

ROBERTS-DOLEZAL FARMSTEAD, MAIN HOUSE

HABS NO. TX-3380-A

Location: 70' Northwest of FM 1722 Roadway
Garrett 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

Statement of

Significance: The Main House is a component of the Roberts-Dolezal Farmstead symbolic of the assimilation of Eastern Europeans, mainly Bohemian, into early twentieth century American culture in Ellis County, Texas

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. **History:** The main house was built ca. 1880, and altered ca. 1900 and ca. 1905-10 with the construction of a side ell and porch additions, with a bungalow porch added to the front of the house, ca. 1920.

PART II. ARCHTECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. **Architectural Character:** The main house is a one-story, single-pile vernacular house, with side ell, rear and front porch additions. (See photographic documentation HABS No. TX-3380-A-1 through HABS No. TX-3380-A-9 and HABS drawings, Sheets 1 and 2. Room numbers on the drawings are indicated in parentheses).

B. Description of Exterior:

1. **Overall Dimensions:** The building, including the ell and porch additions, measures 54'-2" across and 39'-11" in depth.

2. **Foundations:** Piers are of bois d'arc posts, located at regular intervals.

3. **Wall Construction:** Exterior walls are typically 4 1/2" to 4 3/4" in thickness and are covered in lapped wood siding, 5/8" in thickness with a 4 1/2" exposure. The bungalow addition is covered in 3/4" thick, wood drop siding with an exposure of 5 1/2". The building is trimmed at the corners with 3/4"x4 1/2" corner boards, terminating into an 11" frieze board.
4. **Structural System, Framing:** The house is of balloon frame construction, using circular-sawn, 4"x8" and 6"x8" wood sills, full-dimension 2"x6" floor joists, and full and nominal-size 2"x4" studs and rafters.
5. **Porches:** The entrance porch is gabled and ell-shaped. It is asymmetrically positioned at the front of the house, and measures 22'-2" in width and 7'-9" in depth, and 24'-4"x7'-10" as it wraps around the east side of the house. The porch is supported by 8"x8" columns, trimmed at the bases and caps with crown molding. The gable end is interrupted by an 11" frieze board and features a centrally located, fixed wood sash below an open soffit, with chamfered knee braces characteristic of the Craftsman style. The west porch is engaged and wraps around the west room (104). It is supported by simple 4"x4" chamfered wood columns, and included scroll-sawn brackets, which are indicated by the painted outlines on columns and beams. The rear porch has been enclosed to form three rooms (105, 106, 107).
6. **Chimneys:** Two interior chimneys served flues for wood-burning stoves in the south and west rooms (100, 104) and are supported by a wood cabinet with shelves (102), and wood bracing which spans the ceiling joists (104), respectively.
7. **Openings:**
 - a. **Doorways and Doors:** Exterior doors are typically, four-panel, measuring from 2'-5 1/2" to 2'-6" in width, and 6'-4" to 6'-6" in height. A glazed, single-light, three-panel door is located on the north side of the house and measures, 2'-5 1/2" x 6'-4". All are simply cased with 5" to 5 3/4" wood trim at the heads and jambs, and feature a cornice mold with drip cap.
 - b. **Windows:** Windows include double-hung, four-over-four wood sash, measuring 2'-0" x 5'-1 3/4"; two-over-two wood sash, 2'-4 1/4" x 5'-6 1/4"; and one-over-one wood sash, 2'-

4" x 4'-5". Reused wood sash appear as one-over-two light, measuring 2'-2" x 5'-6", with a 2'-3" height for the upper sash. The windows are trimmed in similar fashion to the doors and feature 1 1/2" crown mold or quarter round beneath 1 1/2" thick sills.

8. Roof:

a. **Shape, Covering:** Defined in Virginia McAlester's "A Field Guide to American Houses", p. 43, the main roof is gabled with a slope of 11 in 12, and features a similarly-pitched, gable-on-hip on the west side of the house, and a bungalow gable end and porch roof with a slope of 6 in 12 on the south side. The roofs are covered in composition shingles over circular-sawn wood shingles, with a 5" exposure.

b. **Cornice:** The original roof has a boxed soffit, simply trimmed without bed or shingle molds. The bungalow gable end and porch feature an open soffit with exposed nominally-sized 2"x4" rafter tails.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor Plans:

a. **First Floor:** Entry is made from the front porch directly into the south (100) or northeast (101) rooms. A central room (102) is entered from the south and northeast rooms, as well as a hall (103) with a foyer (105). A west room (104) is entered through a pair of four-panel doors, and provides access to two rooms (106, 107) which were formed when the porch was enclosed.

2. **Flooring:** The flooring of five rooms (100, 102, 103, 105, 106) is 3/4"x3 1/4", laid north-south. The floors of the northeast and northwest rooms are of similar dimension, laid east-west, and covered with sheet linoleum (104). Porch floors are covered in 3/4"x3 1/4" tongue and groove and are laid east-west and north-south.

3. **Wall and Ceiling Finish:** Interior wall thickness varies from 4 1/2" to 5 1/2", and finishes include circular-sawn 3/4"x3 3/8" shiplap siding (103); 3/8"x3 3/8" beaded wall board (101, 104, 107) beneath wallpaper; 3/8"x 3 3/8" beaded wall board beneath 1/4" painted gypsum board (105, 106) and

- 3/4"x5" beaded wall board beneath wallpaper (100, 102) or 1/4" gypsum board (101). Ceiling finishes range from painted pressed metal (100, 102) and painted beaded wall board (101, 103, 107), to painted 1/4" gypsum board (104, 105, 106).
4. **Doorways and Doors:** Doors are four-panel and measure 2'-6" x 6'-6 3/4" to 6'-7" in height. A pair of four-panel doors, measuring 4'-11 1/4" x 6'-6", is located in the west wall of the hall (103). Doors are simply cased in 3/4" thick wood trim which varies from 3 5/8" to 4 5/8" in width.
 5. **Decorative Features:** Three storage cabinets with shelves are located in the north room (102), two of which are trimmed with a decorative vernacular wood cornice and feature doors constructed from vertically-laid, beaded wall board.
 6. **Lighting Fixtures:** All period light fixtures have been removed except for ca. 1955 florescent fixtures in the north (102) and south (100) rooms.
 7. **Heating:** Wood-burning stoves provided heat for the south (100) and northwest (104) rooms. Open gas heaters provided heat for other rooms in the house.