

SPARKS FARMSTEAD, MAIN HOUSE
74.5 feet southeast of Old Maypearl Road
Waxahachie vicinity
Ellis County
Texas

HABS TX-3381-A
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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
INTERMOUNTAIN REGIONAL OFFICE
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
12795 West Alameda Parkway
Denver, CO 80228

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

SPARKS FARMSTEAD, MAIN HOUSE

HABS NO. TX-3381-A

Location: 74.5' Southeast of Old Maypearl Road
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

Statement of

Significance: The Main House was a component of the Sparks Farmstead which represented a successful, owner-occupied, family-run cotton farm in Ellis County.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

History: Although an earlier house stood at the site and was later incorporated into the existing bungalow, an examination of the deed records only indicated that the farmstead was acquired in 1900 by D.B. Sparks, a cotton farmer. Sparks died in 1906, leaving his wife Millie and son M.P. Sparks to run the family farm. About 1915 the family altered this residence on the property to become a front-gabled bungalow typical of the period. M.P. Sparks and his wife Norma acquired the property in 1930 and continued to live in the house and grow cotton on the surrounding land.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

The house faces northwest, is oriented perpendicular to and 74.5' southeast of Old Maypearl Road, and is approached by a gravel drive. Built of wood frame construction on a foundation of bois d'arc posts, it measures 32'-3" in width and 46'-3" in depth, has a gabled front porch with simple wood columns, is covered in lapped wood siding, and has a roof covered in composition shingles. Windows are a mixture of double-hung, four-over-four, two-over-two and one-over-one wood sash. Doors are original four-panel and later two-panel.

Entry to the house is made from the front porch directly into the hall (101), which is flanked on either side by the east (102) and west (100) rooms. The east room (102) has book-shelves filling the void left from an original chimney breast when it was removed from the east wall. The interior finishes of these three rooms, consisting of wide, circular-sawn, horizontally-laid sheathing, and floorboards laid east-west are different from the other rooms of the house. A smaller hall (108) is entered from the larger hall (101) and provides entry into a bathroom (107) and a dining room (104). Access to the kitchen (106) or to a bedroom with a closet (103) is made from the dining room. The kitchen is entered from the south side of the house through a screened, shed porch (105).