

STILES-PIGG FARMSTEAD, MAIN HOUSE
1.7 miles northeast of the intersection of
Bakers Branch and Old Maypearl Roads
Waxahachie Vicinity
Ellis County
Texas

HABS No. TX-3382-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

HISTORICAL AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

STILES-PIGG FARMSTEAD, MAIN HOUSE

HABS NO. TX-3382-A

Location: 1.7 miles northeast of the intersection of Bakers Branch and Old May pearl Roads, 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 is a component of the Stiles-Pigg Farmstead dates to the late nineteenth century when Ellis County farms were among the most productive sources of cotton in the nation and played key roles in the local cotton trade.

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. History: The main house was built ca. 1897 and altered ca. 1963 when the rear porch was removed for the construction of a rear addition which included a kitchen, den, two bedrooms, a storage room and a garage.

ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural Character: The main house is a two-story, three-pile, Victorian house with Queen Anne details, an engaged, wraparound front porch, bay window and dormers, and a rear addition. (See photographic documentation HABS No. TX-3382-A-1 through HABS No. TX-3382-A-12 and HABS drawings,

Sheets 1 through 3. Room numbers on drawings are indicated in parentheses).

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall Dimensions: The building, including the front porch and rear addition, measures 55'-4" across and 79'-5" in depth.
2. Foundations: Inaccessible and covered with lapped metal siding, trimmed with a wood drip mold. The foundation of the rear addition is concrete slab on grade.
3. Wall Construction: Exterior walls are typically 4 1/2", and are covered in lapped wood siding, 5/8" thick with a 5" exposure. The house is trimmed at the corners with 1"x6" corner boards, terminating into an 1"x8" frieze board, and capped with a cornice mold. A projecting bay features intricate scrollwork with turned pendants and corner brackets. The addition is covered in novelty siding, 3/4" thick, with a 6 3/4" exposure, and asbestos siding, with a 12" exposure.
4. Structural System, Framing: The house is of balloon frame construction, using circular-sawn, full-dimension 2"x members. The addition is framed with nominal-sized 2" thick members.
5. Porches: The entrance porch measures 30'-2" in length and 6'-10" in depth on the east side of the house, is 16'-0" x 7'-0" on the north side, and is floored in 3/4"x3 1/2" tongue and groove. It has an engaged roof, trimmed with a thick cornice, a 12" frieze board with crown molding, and is supported by six turned wood columns. Each column has two scroll-sawn wood brackets, connected with intricate scrollwork, terminating in turned pendants.
6. Chimneys: Interior chimneys served fireplaces in a parlor (101), study (102), and kitchen (105). Chimney flues have been removed above the roof line and rebuilt ca. 1950. They are constructed of red brick, laid in running bond, with a concrete chimney cap. A masonry end chimney serves a fireplace in the den (111) of the rear addition and is similarly constructed of red brick, in running bond, with a masonry chimney cap.

7. Openings:

a. Doorways and Doors: A hollow-core slab door is located in the front doorway beneath a plywood-covered transom, through which the hall (100) is entered from the entry porch. It replaced a glazed, five-panel Victorian door, measuring 2'-8" x 6'-8", similar to one which provides access from the porch to the study (102). The heads and jambs are cased in 1"x5 1/4" wood trim with crown molding as a drip cap. Exterior doors in the rear addition are hollow-core slab doors, measuring 2'-8" x 6'-8", and are simply cased at the heads and jambs without drip caps.

b. Windows: Original windows are double-hung, two-over-two wood sash, in various sizes. Two-over-two sash are typically 2'-5" x 7'-0 3/4" at the first floor, 2'-1" or 2'-4 3/4" x 7'-0 3/4" at a projecting bay, and 2'-1" x 6'-0 5/8" at the second floor. One-over-one wood sash are replacement windows, located at the first floor and include 3'-4 1/4" x 7'-0 3/4", 2'-4 1/4" x 4'-5 5/8", and 2'-4" x 2'-10". The heads and jambs are trimmed in similar fashion to the doors.

8. Roof:

a. Shape, Covering: The main roof is hipped with cross gables. Slopes are 12 in 12 and the roofs are covered with composition shingles over circular-sawn wood shingles. The front porch roof is hipped with a slope of 4 in 12 and is covered in similar materials. A gabled dormer is located on the south side of the house and is shingled in a diamond pattern. The rear addition has a gable on hipped roof with a slope of 4 in 12, and is covered with composition shingles. A ca. 1960 photograph indicates that the roof of the main house featured metal ridge crests, finials, and lightning rods.

b. Cornice: A simple boxed soffit with crown molding serves as the bed mold and cornice. Barge boards are sculpted at the ends.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor Plans:

a. First Floor: Entry is made from the front porch into a hall (100) which is flanked on either side by a parlor with

closet (101), a front room (107), and a dining room (106). Beyond the hall is located a stair hall with closet (108), which provides access to the kitchen (105), and a bathroom with closet. The north wall of the stair hall (108), bathroom, and study (102) defines the limits of the original house, which was enclosed by a rear porch, oriented east-west. The ca. 1963 addition is entered from the kitchen (105) into either a den with a fireplace (111), or a storage room or pantry (110), or from the study (102) into a foyer (103) and hall with closets (112). Two bedrooms (110, 115) and a common bathroom (114) are located at the end of the hall.

b. Second Floor: A central bedroom with closet (201) is flanked on the northeast and southeast by two bedrooms (203, 202).

2. Stairway: Access to the second floor is provided by an ell stair with 11" treads, a landing and return. The stair features simple chamfered newel posts and 1"x1" balusters. A single window provides light for the landing (200), and entry to the bedroom (201) is through a doorway without the benefit of a second landing. The stringer includes a panel mold which is used to face each tread. Space beneath the stairway has been utilized as a bathroom.
3. Flooring: The flooring is laid north-south directions in four rooms (100, 108, 105, 107) and east-west directions in four rooms (101, 102, 106, bath room) on the first floor. The south bedroom (202) on the second floor features floorboards laid in both directions, the flooring is laid east-west in the northeast bedroom (203) and closet, north-south in the central bedroom (201), and has been covered in carpet (201). The floorboards throughout the original house are 3/4"x3 1/2" tongue and groove and have been covered with carpet in the parlor (101), and study (102). Sheet vinyl has been used as a floor covering in the kitchen (105), stair hall (108), and bathroom. The floor finishes of the rear addition include sheet vinyl and carpet.
4. Wall and Ceiling Finish: Interior wall thickness averages at 4 1/2". Original wall finish for the first floor rooms is horizontally-laid, 1/2"x7" shiplap sheathing beneath wallpaper, and is located in the front room at the southwest corner (107). The walls of other rooms (100, 101, 102, 106) have been covered in wood paneling and feature ceiling

finishes ranging from wood paneling with faux beams to 12"x12" ceiling tiles. The stair hall (108) and bathroom feature original vertically-laid, 3/4"x3 3/8" beaded wall board with a faux tile patterned sheet applied to wainscot height. The rear addition wall and ceiling finishes include wood paneling as well as textured and painted gypsum board. The walls and ceiling of the stairwell (200) is covered in vertically laid, 3/4"x3 3/8" beaded wall board, and the second floor bedroom walls and ceilings (201, 101, 103) are finished in horizontally-laid, circular-sawn 1/2"x7" shiplap sheathing. Baseboards are 3/4"x7" and are capped with 3/4"x1 1/2" catalogue molding, terminating into base corner beads, with 3/4" quarter round used as a shoe mold.

5. Doorways and Doors: Original doors are horizontal five-panel, measuring 2'-8" x 6'-8", or vertical five-panel measuring 2'-8" x 6'-8". Closet doors are vertical five-panel and measure 2'-0" x 6'-8". Original doors in the second floor are vertical five-panel and vary in dimension from 1'-10" x 6'-0" to 2'-5 3/4" x 6'-5". All are cased with 3/4"x6 3/8" wood trim at the jambs, 3/4"x7 1/8" trim with crown molding at the heads, and feature 3/4" base blocks, capped with catalogue molding.
6. Decorative Features: Paneled mantels are located in the parlor (101) and study (102). A built in china cabinet and pass-through from the kitchen are located in the dining room (106).
7. Lighting Fixtures: All period light fixtures have been removed. Late twentieth century light fixtures are located in various rooms.
8. Heating: Fireplaces provided heat for the parlor (101) and study (102). A flue for a wood-burning stove was located in the kitchen (105). Open gas heaters provided heat for the other rooms in the house. A fireplace and central heat was provided for the rear addition.