

**BOZ GIN COMPLEX, SCALES HOUSE**  
27.58' South of Great House Road  
Waxahachie Vicinity  
Ellis County  
Texas

HABS No. TX-3386-A

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

### BOZ GIN COMPLEX, SCALES HOUSE

HABS NO. TX-3386-A

Location: 27.58' South of Great House Road, Waxahahie 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 Boz Gin Scales House is a component of the old Boz Gin Complex. The complex was a good example of one of the area farms that produced some of the highest yields of cotton in the nation.

### HISTORICAL INFORMATION

#### A. General Statement:

1. This building dates from ca. 1910 and was built presumably as an accessory building for a gin which began operations in 1880. It continued in use to service a second gin which was built in 1921. The scales house is approached by a gravel drive which turns southwest from a point 148.0' east of the structure. The drive leads to a queuing area on the south side of the building. Fully loaded wagons or carts were pulled onto this area because it provided a clearance necessary to turn the vehicles and then they were pulled northward, through the wagon way and onto the scales, then across Great House Road to the gin.

### ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

#### A. General Statement

1. Architectural Character: The building faces north and is located on a gently sloping site. It is oriented perpendicular to and is 27.58' south of Great House Road, .05 miles south of the intersection with Boz Road. (See

photographic documentation for HABS No. TX-3386-A-1 through HABS No. TX-3386-B-4 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 front porch, measures 20'-4" across and 22'-1" in depth.
2. Foundations: Piers are 10" diameter bois d'arc posts, located at regular intervals. The scale chase side walls are of red brick, laid in running bond, with a typical joint thickness of 3/16". The end walls are of poured concrete. A 4"x4"x1/4" steel angle is anchored to the top face of the end walls, transitioning to two concrete aprons, and a 2 1/4"x8" steel channel is located on the top face of the side walls. Two 16" concrete grade beams for the support of the scale mechanism are located in the bottom of the pit (001). The sill at the west wall is supported by wood blocks, varying from 8"x8" to 10"x16".
3. Wall Construction: Exterior walls are typically 4 1/2" in thickness, and are covered in drop siding, 3/4" thick with a 5" exposure, trimmed at the corners with 1"x3 3/4" corner boards, edged in 1/2" quarter round, and terminating into an open soffit, which is trimmed with a 7" frieze board.
4. Structural System, Framing: The scale house is of balloon frame construction, using circular-sawn sills, 5 1/2"x7 1/2", lapped at the corners; full dimension 2"x8" floor joists, 2"x4" studs, ceiling joists, top plates, and rafters. Two wood beams, 5 1/4"x7 1/4" and 3 1/4"x7 3/4", support the floor boards in the wagon way.
5. Porches: The entrance porch is 9'-10" x 5'-9", is fully-engaged, and has a floor of random width boards, varying from nominal sized 1"x6" to 1"x12". Original porch flooring was 3/4"x3 1/4" tongue and groove. The porch features an 8 1/2" frieze board, trimmed below by a projecting 1"x5 1/2" board and capped by crown molding and drip cap. It is supported by two 3 3/4" chamfered posts on 1" thick wood bases.
6. Chimneys: An interior chimney which served a flue for a wood-burning stove is located in the office (100). It is constructed of red brick, laid in running bond, with a typical mortar joint thickness of 3/16". It has been faced with 1/2"x3 3/8" beaded wall board.

7. Openings:

- a. Doorways and Doors: The building has a single 5-panel door, 2'-8" x 6'-7 3/4". The jambs are simply cased with 1"x4 1/2" wood trim and the head is capped by crown molding.
- b. Windows: Windows located in the north, south and west elevations are double-hung, one-over-one wood sash, 2'-4" x 5'-3". A single-light, vertical slider, 2'-8 1/8" x 2'-10 1/4", is located in the east wall of the office, adjacent to the wagon way. The jambs are cased with 1"x4 1/2" wood trim and are capped by crown molding. An opening, 2'-11 1/2" in height, trimmed at the head and sill with nominal 2"x6" members, and spanning the length of the wagon way, is located on the east elevation.

8. Roof:

- a. Shape, Covering: The roof is hipped with a pitch of 6 in 12. It has been covered in random-sized, Vee groove metal over circular-sawn wood shingle, with a 5" exposure.
- b. Cornice: None. Open soffit with exposed rafter tails, trimmed with a 1"x7" frieze board.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor Plans:

- a. First Floor: Entry is made from the porch directly into the office (100), or to the wagon way (101).
- b. Storage Loft: An unfinished storage loft is located above the office (100).

2. Ladder: Access to the storage loft above the office (100), is provided by a metal ladder, 2'-0" in width, which is located against the east wall. It has a typical rung spacing of 1'-2 1/4", and two bottom rungs, which are spaced on a 6" center.

3. Flooring: Access to the flooring in the office (100) and the entry porch is laid north-south, while the flooring in the wagon way (101) is laid east-west. The floor boards used are 3/4"x3 1/4" and random width 1 1/2" thick planks, ranging

from 6"-11" in length. Three planks are connected with rectangular-shaped pieces of thick canvas which act as hinges, so that the boards can be raised for visual inspection beneath the floor.

4. Wall and Ceiling Finish: The walls of the office (100) have been covered with horizontally-laid, 1/2"x3 3/8" beaded wall board, and have been painted. The ceiling is similarly finished, with boards laid north-south. The room also features 7/8"x6 3/4" baseboards, capped by a 1/2"x1 1/2" mold. Door and window jambs and heads are simply cased in 1"x4 1/2" wood trim, which has been painted. The east wall of the wagon way (101) has been left unfinished, with exposed studs, while the west wall is covered in drop siding. The underside of the roof is visible and is similarly unfinished, with exposed rafters and lath.
5. Decorative Features: A molded desk top, floor and wall-mounted equipment, as indicated by painted outlines on the east wall as well as openings in the floor, have been removed.
6. Lighting Fixtures: All period light fixtures have been removed.
7. Heating: A wood-burning stove provided heat for the office (100).