

CUNNINGHAM-HIGHT TENANT FARMSTEAD, BARN
245' northeast of the Cunningham-Hight
Tenant Farmstead, Main House
Waxahachie Vicinity
Ellis County
Texas

HABS No. TX-3379-C

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

CUNNINGHAM-HIGHT TENANT FARMSTEAD, BARN

HABS NO. TX-3379-C

Location: 245' Northeast of the Cunningham-Hight Tenant 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

Statement of

Significance: The Barn is a component of the Cunningham-Hight Tenant Farmstead significant since it was associated with early to mid twentieth-century tenant farming in western Ellis County, Texas.

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 is a variation of the Transverse Crib barn.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. **Architectural Character:** Located 245.0' northeast of the main house is a barn. It is a two-story, 4-bay barn, with a gable roof and two shed additions. (See photographic documentation HABS No. TX-3379-C-1 through HABS No. TX-3379-C-6 and HABS drawings, Sheet 1. Room numbers on the drawings are indicated in parentheses).

2. **Condition of Fabric:** The barn is in fair condition and has been covered over 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 additions, measures 42'-4" x 39'-2".
- 2. Foundations:** Piers are of dry-laid stone and bois d'arc posts, 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. Interior wall surfaces are covered in circular-sawn, 3/4"x8" shiplap sheathing.
- 4. Structural System, Framing:** The barn is constructed using a mixture of pole and balloon framing. Wood sills are 4"x6", corner posts are 4"x6", studs and rafters are nominal 2"x4", with 1"x6" collar ties. Loft floor joists are nominal 2"x8" members.
- 5. Openings:** The barn is entered through two doorways located in the gable end on the west side, allowing access to the central bay (101) and a storage crib (103). Loading openings for feed are located in each storage crib (101, 102, 103) on the north, east and west sides. The south shed addition (100) is open along the south wall for livestock, is fenced and has two gates located in the east and west sides. The north shed addition (104) has a gate located on the east end and is open at the west end.
- 6. Roof:** The main roof of the barn is gabled with a slope of 8 in 12, and is covered in random-sized corrugated metal sheets over circular-sawn wood shingles, with a 6" exposure. The shed roofs on the pole-frame additions have a slope of 5 in 12, and are covered in corrugated metal.

C. Description of Interior:

- 1. First Floor Plan:** The interior of the barn is divided into four bays in width and four bays in length. The south shed addition (100) and south bay (101) on the first floor feature a simple corral system to channel livestock for tethering and feeding. A small wood hay manger, measuring 1'-8" x 8'-6", is located along the north wall. The north bay has been divided into two storage cribs (102, 103) and the north shed

addition (104) is fenced and remains separate from the other bays.

2. **Loft Plan:** The loft is divided in half, into two equal, open bays (200, 201). It features two floors, one of which (201) is stepped at a height of 2'-6" above the other (200).
3. **Flooring:** The flooring of the lofts and storage cribs are 3/4"x7" tongue and groove floor boards, laid east-west, with openings cut in the lower loft floor (200), and located directly above the hay manger on the main floor. The open bays (100, 101, 104) are earth-floored.
4. **Doorways and Doors:** Two interior doors are board and batten and provide entry to each of the storage cribs (102, 103). They measure 1'-6" x 6'-4" and 1'-11 3/4" x 2'-5". Four wooden gates are located in the interior corrals, and are of random widths, varying from 2'-10" and 3'-2" for humans, and from 7'-4" to 7'-9" for livestock.