

CUNNINGHAM-HIGHT TENANT FARMSTEAD, POLE BARN HABS No. TX-3379-D
126' northeast of the Cunningham-Hight
Tenant Farmstead, Main House
Waxahachie Vicinity
Ellis County
Texas

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, POLE BARN

HABS NO. TX-3379-D

Location: 126' 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 Pole 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 second quarter of the twentieth century. It is a variation of the Four Crib barn, and includes four framed cribs under a single roof, which were used for feed storage and stabling of livestock. The barn is an example of a traditional plan being used in the construction of farm buildings during the early twentieth century.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. **Architectural Character:** This large single-story pole-barn is located 126.0' northeast of the main house. It was built for the tethering and feeding of livestock, and is five bays in width and nine bays in length. (See photographic documentation HABS No. TX-3379-D-1 through HABS No. TX-3379-D-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.

B. Description of Exterior:

- 1. Overall Dimensions: The barn measures 55'-9" in width and 78'-3" in depth.**
- 2. Walls: The walls are covered in corrugated metal, over random-width boards, supported by nominal 2"x6" wood nailers, which span from post to post, along the north wall.**
- 3. Structural System, Framing: The barn is of pole and balloon frame construction. The pole frame structure consists of unmodified wood posts, ranging from 5 1/2" to 8" in diameter, which are placed directly into the ground at 9'-0" to 12'-0" centers. The storage cribs are of balloon frame construction, consisting of nominal 2"x4" wood studs and joists. Crib walls are framed with nominal 2"x4" studs and lined with corrugated metal. Roof framing consists of 2"x4" and 2"x6" rafters.**
- 4. Openings, Doorways: The barn is open on the east, west, and south sides, and the north side was originally open as well. It is now enclosed with corrugated metal and supported by wood nailers. Loading doors are located on the east sides of the northeast (102) and southeast (103, 104) cribs, and on the west wall of the northwest crib (101). The south side of the southwest crib (105) is open.**
- 5. Roof: The roof is gabled with a slope of 5 in 12 and covered with corrugated metal. The south shed addition has a slope of 2 in 12**

C. Description of Interior:

- 1. Floor Plan: The main floor of the barn (100) is open, and has one crib located at each corner, with widths varying from 13'-8" to 14'-0", and lengths, from 21'-10" to 22'-7". The location of the four cribs creates a central east-west passage, 12'-0" in width, which is intersected by the north-south orientation of the main floor. A large wood hay manger, measuring 3'-0" in width and 31'-0" in length, is located between five posts, which also support the ridge. Access to the storage cribs (101, 102, 103, 105) is through doorways located along the central passage. Both the southeast (103) and southwest (106) cribs have been**

partitioned to form an additional bay (104, 105). The south side of the barn is open for livestock, and the north side was originally open as well.

2. **Flooring:** The barn has an earth floor and the cribs are floored with 3/4"x8" tongue and groove floor bards, laid north-south. The southwest storage crib has both wood and earth floors.

3. **Doorways and Doors:** Access doors for each crib (101, 102, 103, 106) are board and batten. A second door is located in the partition wall of the southeast crib (103) to provide access for an additional storage area (104).