

HARRISON-HERRINGTON FARMSTEAD, HOUSE
50.5' northwest of Old Maypearl Road
Waxahachie Vicinity
Ellis County
Texas

HABS No. TX-3375-A

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
Intermountain Regional Office
National Park Service
P.O. Box 25287
Denver, Colorado 80225-0287

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HARRISON-HERRINGTON FARMSTEAD, HOUSE

HABS NO. TX-3375-A

Location: 50.5' Northwest 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 House is a component on the Harrison-Herrington Farmstead which is historically associated with a 305.5-acre tract in the Alanson Ferguson Survey in western Ellis County. The Farmstead represents the successful operation of a rural Ellis County cotton farm.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History

Located on a flat and lightly wooded tract, .70 miles northeast of the intersection of Bakers Branch and Old Maypearl Roads, is a one-and-a-half story double-pen house (ca. 1870), with an end chimney, gabled roof, and an engaged front porch addition of unknown date of construction. The engaged porch with the enclosed addition as well as its orientation to the road suggested to previous researchers a later date of construction, but further analysis supports the early date. The house survives with a one-story garage or carriage house, a two-story barn and cistern. (See photographic documentation HABS No. TX-3375-1 through HABS No. TX-3375-D-6 and HABS drawings, Sheets 1 and 2. Room numbers on the drawings are indicated in parentheses).

The house faces southeast, is oriented perpendicular to and 50.5' northwest of Old Maypearl Road, and is approached by a gravel drive. Built of wood frame construction on a foundation of dry-laid stone, it measures 32'-4" in width and 32'-5" in depth. It

is covered with pressed metal sheets in a masonry pattern, which conceals lapped wood siding, trimmed at the corners with corner boards, and terminating in a wide frieze board. The cornice is boxed and detailed with simple wood trim. Wood window sash have been damaged or removed, but the remains indicate four-over-four lights. The entries feature later, glazed 3-panel doors.

Entry to the house is made from the front porch into either the east (102) or the west (100) rooms and there is a doorway located in the wall which separates both rooms. Access to a kitchen (103) is provided by a doorway located in the east room (102). The porch addition (101) has an enclosed stair which provides access to a finished loft (200), and storage space is provided by a closet located beneath the stair. Interior finish consists of horizontally-laid, shiplap sheathing and flooring laid east-west. An excellent example of a vernacular mantle remains in the west room (102) and the interior doors are four-panel.