

CUNNINGHAM-HIGHT TENANT FARMSTEAD, SHED
372' northwest of the Cunningham-Hight
Tenant Farmstead, Main house
Waxahachie Vicinity
Ellis County
Texas

HABS No. TX-3379-G

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

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, SHED

HABS NO. TX-3379-G

Location: 372' Northwest 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 Shed 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 although described as a shed, may have been used as a dwelling. This is suggested by the presence of flues for wood-burning stoves as well as the remains of fabric attached to the interiors of walls. It was used for equipment storage in the late twentieth century.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. **Architectural Character:** It is a one-story, single-pen building with a gable roof and a shed addition and is located 372.0' northwest of the main house. (See HABS drawings, Sheet 2. Room numbers on the drawings are indicated in parentheses).

2. **Condition of Fabric:** The building is in poor condition.

B. Description of Exterior:

- 1. Overall dimensions:** The building, including the shed addition measures 20'-1" in width and 14'-1" in depth.
- 2. Foundations:** Piers of dry-laid stone are located at regular intervals.
- 3. Walls:** The walls are 3/4" in thickness and are covered in 3/4"x11 1/4" vertical planks. Remnants of 3/4"x3 1/2" battens placed over the interstices indicate that the original finish was board and batten.
- 4. Structural System, Framing:** The single-pen and shed addition are of plank frame construction. Sills, plates, and rafters are circular-sawn, nominal-sized 2"x4" members.
- 5. Roof:** The roof of the single-pen is gabled and has a slope of 7 in 12. The shed addition is 4 in 12. Both roofs are covered in vee groove metal.
- 6. Chimneys:** Two stove pipes served chimney flues for wood burning stoves in both the single-pen (100) and the shed addition (101).
- 7. Openings:** Only one cased window opening remains intact. All other original door and window locations are rough-framed openings. Windows are located at the east and west sides of the building. A doorway appears to have been located at the south side of the single-pen, and a board and batten door, measuring 2'-2" in width, survives in the north wall.

C. Description of Interior:

- 1. Floor Plan:** Entry to the single-pen (100) is provided by the remains of a doorway in the south wall. Access to the shed addition (101) is provided by a door on the north wall of the pen.
- 2. Flooring:** Flooring is laid east-west in both the single-pen and the shed addition and is 3/4"x7 1/4" and 3/4"x6 1/2" wood plank, respectively.

3. **Wall and Ceiling Finish:** The walls of both rooms were covered with fabric over unpainted planks. The ceiling of the pen is covered in 3/4"x11 1/4" circular-sawn boards.
4. **Heating:** Wood-burning stoves provided heat for the both rooms.