

PHILLIPS HOUSE

HABS No. TX-3385

.20 miles southwest of the intersection of
Greathouse and Boz Roads
Waxahachie Vicinity
Ellis County
Texas

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

PHILLIPS HOUSE

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Location: .20 miles southwest of the intersection of Greathouse and Boz Roads Waxahachie Vicinity, Ellis County, Texas

USGS Boz, Texas Quadrangle, Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates
14.694940.3576250

Present Owner: Texas National Laboratory Research Commission (TNLRC)
1801 N. Hampton Road, Suite 400
DeSoto, Texas 75115

Present Occupant: None

Present Use Vacant

Statement of

Significance: The Phillips Farmstead stands on a 1.64-acre parcel in the Joshua Willshire survey in western Ellis County. The house, a front-gabled Craftsman bungalow, and its associated outbuildings are some of the last remaining buildings of Boz, an agrarian community that once consisted of a small cluster of houses in this area.

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

The house is named for Rufus and Jeffe Phillips, who acquired this property in 1936 from the Ellis County Board of School Trustees, and presumably built the house. Phillips was a farm and gin machinery operator, unlike most other Boz-area residents who farmed cotton. The Phillips House is thus associated with increased mechanization of the area's cotton trade during the early twentieth-century.

ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

Located on a flat and heavily wooded tract, 0.20 miles southwest of the intersection of Boz and Greathouse Roads, is a

one-story, front-gabled bungalow (ca. 1936), a shed and a garage or carriage house. (See photographic documentation HABS No. TX-3385-1 through HABS No. TX-3385-B-2 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 54.5' north of Greathouse Road, and is approached by a gravel drive. Built of balloon frame construction on a foundation of bois d'arc posts, it measures 28'-4" in width and 32'-3" in depth, has an engaged porch with tapered wood columns, is covered in wood drop siding, and is roofed in composition shingles. The house is simply trimmed at the corners with plain corner boards, terminating into a simple frieze board with wood eave brackets. The soffit is open with exposed rafter tails. Windows are double-hung one-over-one wood sash and the double front entry features glazed four-panel doors. Entry to the southeast and southwest rooms (102, 103) is made from the porch. Doors in both rooms provide access to a bedroom (104). A second bedroom with a closet and the kitchen (101, 100) are entered from the southeast room (102) and the first bedroom (104), respectively. All interior doors and light fixtures have been removed.

The garage or carriage house appears to date from the second quarter of the twentieth century and is a single-story, double-bay building, with a gable roof. Built of pole frame construction, using both unmodified and sawn wood posts, it measures 17'-0" in width and 19'-6" in depth and is covered with a mixture of vertical boards and random-width corrugated metal. It is entered through both bays at the front and through an opening at the east side of the building.

The shed appears to date from the same period and is a single-crib outbuilding with a gabled roof which extends 8'-0" over the front entry. It measures 10'-6" in width and 23'-2" in depth, is of balloon frame construction, and is covered with horizontal wood siding, and roofed in corrugated metal.

Sources:

McGregor, Frances Dunaway. Interviews by Terri Myers.
Written notes. Waxahachie, Texas.
20 May 1992 and 12 June 1992.

Murdock, Stanley, and Murdock, Yula Glenn. Interview by
Terri Myers. Written notes.

Waxahachie, Texas. 12 June 1992.

Ellis County, Texas. Office of the County Clerk. Deed Records.

Ellis County, Texas. Office of the County Clerk. Probate Records.

Ellis County, Texas. Office of the County Tax Assessor/Collector. Tax Abstracts of Lands.

Texas State Comptrollers Office. Ad Valorem Tax Rolls for Ellis County. On file at the Genealogical Collection at the Texas State Library.

Historians: David Moore, Hardy-Heck-Moore, and Stan Solamillo, July 1992.