

J A RANCH HEADQUARTERS, BUNK HOUSE / MESS HALL
Paloduro
Armstrong County
Texas

HABS TX-3530-B
TX-3530-B

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

FIELD RECORDS

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240-0001

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

J A RANCH HEADQUARTERS, BUNK HOUSE / MESS HALL

HABS No. TX 3530-B

The JA Ranch Headquarters consists of numerous buildings erected over an extended period of time and includes both historically and architecturally significant buildings as well as more recent auxiliary structures having little historical or architectural value. Exhibiting historical and architectural importance are the Main House, Post Office, Bunk House, and Corrals. This report focuses on the Main House. For more information on the other structures see:

HABS TX-3530 – J A Ranch Headquarters

HABS TX-3530-A – J A Ranch Headquarters, Main House

HABS TX-3530-C – J A Ranch Headquarters, Post Office

HABS TX-3530-D – J A Ranch, Corrals

BUNK HOUSE / MESS HALL

A. General Statement:

1. **Architectural Character:** The original rectangular stone JA Bunk House dates to circa 1885 and is located southwest of the Main House. Subsequent wood additions over the years has resulted in a rambling structure housing a large dining room, bunkhouse, living quarters for the ranch's cook and family, and storage areas for foodstuffs. The structure is one-story except for a partial lower level at the southeast corner used for storage of foodstuffs and has a cooler/freezer.
2. **Condition of Fabric:** The present condition of the Bunk House is good and fully functioning with permanent inhabitants. No apparent cosmetic, structural, electrical, or mechanical deficiencies exist.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. **Overall Dimensions:** The principally one-story irregularly shaped structure's overall exterior dimensions, including porches, are approximately sixty feet by one hundred feet.
2. **Foundations:** Concrete.
3. **Walls:** The original Bunk House exterior walls are stone. The exterior walls of several additions are wood siding on wood frame.
4. **Structural System, Framing:** Wood rafters and joists support the pitched roofs of the original Bunk House and the additions.

5. Porches, Stoops: A wood board porch extends the length of the north façade of the original Bunk House and returns around the east end. Thirteen chamfer wood columns support the pent roof along both façades. Additional concrete stoops with steps service secondary entrances. Soffit is hand hewn wood beams with similar rafters.
6. Chimneys: The original Bunk House has stone chimneys centered at its east and west ends as well as a third at the east end of the dining room. Additional chimneys exist at the south end of the southeast Bunk House addition and at the south end of the living quarters addition.
7. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and Doors: Simple painted wood jambs and heads surround painted double raised panel wood doors. Entrance door to main dining room has raised panels with four glass panels in the upper half. Door between dining room and kitchen has five panels with one removed and replaced with glass. Exterior doors also have screened doors and wood thresholds.
 - b. Windows and Shutters: Windows are single hung 4/4 wood windows. There were and are no shutters.
8. Roof:
 - a. Shape, Covering: The original Bunk House has a gable roof with pent roof over the porch and is covered with wood shingles. Two skylights were added in 1918 to add light to the main dining room.
 - b. Cornice, Eaves: Painted wood.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor Plans:
 - a. Basement: The partial basement at the southeast corner has an exposed wood ceiling structure (floor of the Bunk House addition above) and concrete walls and floor. Wood counters extend along the walls and the basement also houses two freezers with wood walls, floors, and ceilings. Access to the freezers is via two large wood doors identified as being made by “Jamison Cold Storage, Co., Hagerstown, MD.”
 - b. First Floor: The first floor is divided into a main dining room, living quarters including the kitchen for ranch meals, bunkhouse, dayroom and washroom.
 - c. Second Floor: None.
 - d. Attic: The attic is unfinished with exposed wood structure.

2. Stairways: None
3. Flooring: Narrow bead wood flooring is in the dining room, bunkhouse, and dayroom. A concrete floor is in the washroom. The bath in the Bunk House addition has vinyl flooring.
4. Wall and Ceiling Finish: The dining room has a fiberboard ceiling with wood battens. The walls are painted plaster in the dining room and dayroom. The bunkhouse and washroom have narrow bead wood walls and ceiling.
5. Decorative Features: None.
6. Architectural Furniture: None.
7. Hardware: No historically significant hardware exists.
8. Mechanical Systems:
 - a. Heating: Original heating was accomplished by use of the fireplaces. Central systems have been added.
 - b. Plumbing: Baths and washroom have updated fixtures.
 - c. Electric: Electricity served the Bunk House beginning with the 1922 installation and operation of an electric plant on ranch property.

D. Site:

1. Historic Landscape Design: The concrete wall that extends the length of the north façade was added in 1916.
2. Outbuildings: None.