

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form



999

1. Name of Property

Historic Name: Cunningham, Captain James and Susannah, Homestead
Other name/site number: Mountain Creek Ranch
Name of related multiple property listing: NA

2. Location

Street & number: 19601 Highway 16 South
City or town: Comanche State: Texas County: Comanche
Not for publication: Vicinity: X

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.

I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following levels of significance:
 national statewide local

Applicable National Register Criteria: A B C D

Mark Wolfe State Historic Preservation Officer
Signature of certifying official / Title Date 10/15/12
Texas Historical Commission
State or Federal agency / bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.
Signature of commenting or other official Date
State or Federal agency / bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register
- other, explain: _____

[Signature]
Signature of the Keeper

12/5/12
Date of Action

Cunningham Homestead, Comanche (vic.), Comanche County, Texas

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Private
<input type="checkbox"/>	Public - Local
<input type="checkbox"/>	Public - State
<input type="checkbox"/>	Public - Federal

Category of Property

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	building(s)
<input type="checkbox"/>	district
<input type="checkbox"/>	site
<input type="checkbox"/>	structure
<input type="checkbox"/>	object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
1	3	structures
0	3	objects
2	6	total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions: Domestic: Single dwelling

Current Functions: Domestic: Single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification: Other: Pre-Railroad: Double-pen Dogtrot (or Center Passage), Greek Revival

Principal Exterior Materials: Wood: weatherboard; Stone: Limestone

Narrative Description (see continuation sheets 7-7 through 7-12)

Cunningham Homestead, Comanche (vic.), Comanche County, Texas

Narrative Description

The Captain James and Susannah Cunningham Homestead is located on the James Cunningham Survey 12.2 miles south of Comanche, Texas just to the east of Highway 16 South. The house was constructed as a Pre-Railroad Era Dogtrot (or center passage) home in 1855 with a stone kitchen added to its east in 1873. The older portion of the house is one-story with a side gabled roof covered with wood shakes. It has a symmetrical arrangement typical of this common Southern vernacular form with two pens on either side of a central breezeway and a full-width shed-roofed porch. It was constructed with oak framing, cedar rafters and pine clapboard siding on a limestone foundation. The gable ends of each pen contain a wall end limestone chimney that pierces the ridge of the gable. Abutting the 1855 house and offset to it on the east is a one-story kitchen constructed in 1873 of solid limestone walls. It, too, has a side-gabled roof and a limestone chimney on the east elevation. Boxed eaves with cornices and gable returns lend a Greek Revival feel to its design. Although its setting within a valley on Mountain Creek retains a high degree of integrity, its immediate environment has been compromised with buildings that were constructed in the past three decades or with contemporaneous buildings that have lost their integrity due to alterations. The nominated area is defined by a rectangle outlined with picket, stone and barbed wire fences. Within this rectangle is one contributing building (the historic house and kitchen), one contributing structure (a hand dug well) and three noncontributing structures (a corncrib, grape arbor, and windmill) and three noncontributing objects (picket and barbed wire fences and a stone wall). The Cunningham Homestead retains a high degree of its historic and architectural integrity.

Comanche County is located within the ecosystems of the Western Cross Timbers and the Lampasas Cut Plain of North Central Texas. The Western Cross Timbers is known for its hilly terrain with post oak and blackjack oak woodlands and other associated woody species. The Lampasas Cut Plain crosses the southern section of the county with limestone mesas and their wooded escarpments set above swaths of grasslands and live oak savannahs.¹ The latter typifies the setting for the Captain James and Susannah Cunningham Homestead. The home was built in a valley approximately one mile wide (northeast to southwest) and a quarter mile across (north to south) on a flood plain to the south of Mountain Creek, a tributary of the South Leon River, part of the Brazos River system. This creek is the namesake for the ranch upon which the Cunningham Homestead is located. Mountain Creek traces the valley floor on its west, north, and east sides and is lined with wooded outcroppings. To the south is a rugged escarpment (see Map 2). At the base of this escarpment is a historic dry-laid (or gravity) limestone wall that is five feet high and approximately fourteen hundred feet long. It was originally over two miles long and constructed to keep cattle, used to grazing on the open range, from eating the crops. With the exception of being divided by Highway 16 from the north to the south, the valley has experienced few intrusions that mar its rural and rustic character.

A gravel drive extends eastward approximately one-quarter of a mile from Highway 16 to the Cunningham Homestead and the other buildings associated with Mountain Creek Ranch. On the south side of a portion of the drive is a dry-laid limestone wall. The historic house is located approximately 350 feet south of Mountain Creek on a slight incline. To its west and within the boundaries of the nominated property are two old cedar trees, their twisted trunks on either side of a gate set within a dry-laid limestone wall. The trees may date to the Cunningham occupation (1855-1899). Cedar elm, bur oak, pecan, plum, mesquite, and cedar trees surround the house to the north and south. The house faces south and consists

¹ "Cross Timbers and Prairies Ecological Region," Texas Parks and Wildlife Division ([http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/landwater/land/habitats/cross_timbers/ecoregions/cross_timper . . .](http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/landwater/land/habitats/cross_timbers/ecoregions/cross_timper...)), accessed May 23, 2012. See also E. H. Johnson, "Grand Prairies and Lampasas Cut Plain," *Handbook of Texas Online* (<http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/rxg02>), accessed May 29, 2012. Published by the Texas State Historical Association.

Cunningham Homestead, Comanche (vic.), Comanche County, Texas

of two distinct portions; the 1855 one-story wood-framed house and the 1873 one-story limestone kitchen located along the east elevation and set slightly forward of the house. Each is described in greater detail below.²

Exterior

The exterior of the 1855 portion of the Cunningham Homestead is sheathed with pine clapboards and pine board and batten siding. The clapboard siding is $\frac{1}{2}$ x 6 and cut in lengths of 14. The clapboard is laid so $4\frac{1}{2}$ to 5 is exposed. Some lengths have uneven edges. The side-gabled roof is sheathed with hand-split wood shakes. The house is approximately 45 feet wide (east/west) and 31 feet-8 inches deep (north/south), inclusive of the porches. The body of the house is painted gray. The shutters and doors are painted Hunter green. The window frames, porch columns, and other wood trim are painted white.

The front (south) elevation has a symmetrical arrangement (Photos 1 and 3). The porch extends beyond the front elevation by approximately eight feet. It has a slightly elevated wood deck. The porch roof is supported by six simple square oak posts with flat capitals. The porch roof's cedar rafters are exposed as is the original oak porch beam (see Figure 6). The roof is also braced by two cedar tie rods located on either side of the double-door entrance that extend from the wall to the porch beam just above the center columns. At the center of the front elevation are paired, vertical wood plank doors with horizontal bracing on the interior sides. These doors are protected by paired wood screen doors. Above the doors is a narrow multiple-light clerestory. This elevation also has two other entrances; one on either side of the center doors. Each has a single door built of vertical wood planks that is also fronted by a wood screen door. Flanking the doors are single 6/6 double hung wood windows. Wood shutters built of vertical boards with two horizontal braces frame each window. Below the upper brace is a triangular cut-out, meant to suggest a gun port.

The west elevation depicts the dual pitch of the gable roof (Photo 4). The gable over the main body of the house has a pitch of 6.5/12. That portion of the roof that covers the front porch and the rear of the house (formerly a full-width porch) has a pitch of 4.75/12. The wall is mostly sheathed with pine clapboard siding. A large gable end limestone chimney pierces the ridge of the gable. Attached to the chimney are the medallion and plaque recognizing the Cunningham Homestead as a Recorded Texas Historic Landmark (this designation was achieved in 1962 and the plaque installed in 1965). Board and batten siding (with the batts measuring 1 x 4) covers what was originally the west end of the rear porch. There are no window or door openings on this elevation. Just to the right of the board and batten siding is a small opening at ground level that reveals a portion of the house's historic oak framing.

The north (rear) elevation was originally the location of a full-width porch (Photos 4 and 5). The west end was partially enclosed prior to 1910. In 1950, the remainder of the porch was enclosed. When the house was rehabilitated in 1986, the center section of the porch was opened up, creating a small integral porch. The walls are covered with board and batten siding with the exception of the recessed wall under the porch. It is covered with pine clapboard. There is a door on each of the three walls surrounding the porch. Each is covered with a screen door similar to those on the front elevation. On either side of the porch are two 6/6 double hung wood windows. These windows are flanked by shutters similar to those found on the front elevation.

The east elevation also reveals the dual pitch of the roof (Photo 6). Its wall is also sheathed with pine clapboard siding with the exception of the board and batten siding that encloses the east end of the former porch. There is also a vertical plank door set within this section of the wall. As was the case on the west elevation, a large limestone chimney pierces the gable's ridge. To the left of the chimney is where the limestone kitchen abuts the main house. A low fence built of small

² The descriptions of the house and associated resources are based on information compiled by the late F. Lee Lawrence and Randall Walton, AIA, the architectural drawings of the late Raiford Stripling, and the author's observations.

Cunningham Homestead, Comanche (vic.), Comanche County, Texas

diameter logs is located to the left of the door and extends to the north wall of the kitchen. It conceals a concrete slab upon which the house's air conditioning units are placed.

The stone kitchen abuts the house's east elevation and sits slightly forward of it (Photos 1, 2, and 3). The kitchen measures approximately 22 wide (east/west) and approximately 16 deep. It has a side-gabled roof with an 8/12 pitch and is sheathed with wood shakes. Its boxed eaves and cornice provide a finished look compared to the plain wood trim used on the eaves of the house. The finished limestone walls have a soft yellow hue and are approximately 18 deep with the stones having an average dimension of 8 x 20 x 6. Tooled mortar joints bond the stones together. The limestone used in the kitchen is not the same as the limestone used for the chimneys or in the foundation of the house. That stone was likely gathered on the site or nearby whereas it is believed that the stone used for the kitchen came from a quarry located a short distance south of the homestead in Mills County.³ As with the house, the kitchen also has 6/6 double hung wood windows flanked by shutters although the kitchen's windows are smaller than those used for the house.

The façade (south elevation) of the kitchen has one entrance that is offset to the left of center. The threshold sits off of the ground and is composed of a large slab of limestone. Another limestone slab is used as a step in front of the threshold. The height of the door is 70 ¼ and it is 36 wide and constructed of vertical wood planks. It is fronted by a wood screen door. The surrounding door frame is 12 wide and constructed of black walnut. The door's lintel is composed of a continuous slab of limestone. To the right of the door is one 6/6 double hung wood window flanked by shutters. The window's sill and lintel are each composed of a long slab of limestone.

The east elevation has no windows or door openings (Photo 7). Gable returns provide a Greek Revival embellishment to an otherwise unadorned wall. The end chimney rises above the roofline. The rear (north) elevation also presents a refined look with its boxed eaves and cornice (Photo 6). There are two 6/6 double hung wood windows on this wall, each framed by wood shutters and having a long slab of limestone for the sills and lintels. Only a small portion of the west elevation of the kitchen is exposed as most of it is obscured by the adjoining house (Photo 3). There is a gable return at the south corner and one door that is 68 high and located under the porch roof of the house. Its features are similar to those of the door on the kitchen's façade and it is fronted by a wood screen door.

Interior

Entering the front doors, one gets a true sense of the structural composition of a Double-pen Dogtrot (or Center Passage) style house. The central corridor (or breezeway) is 9 feet wide and approximately 15 4 long. Unlike the exterior walls which were sheathed with pine siding, the walls of the breezeway are covered with riven oak planks, typically 48 long and with an exposed width of 4.5 -5. The walls are painted grey and the trim is painted teal. On the west wall, below the peak of the ceiling, is a scuttle that provides access to the attic and the house's water heater (Photo 8). The ceiling has been removed in this space, exposing the structure of the roof. The rafters' cedar poles are peeled and have a diameter of 3 -4. The rafters are placed at 22 -25 on center. The roof was constructed without a ridge beam with the rafters butted end to end. Cedar lath is laid on top of the rafters to which the roof's cedar shingles are secured. The floor in the breezeway and elsewhere in the house and kitchen is of surfaced pine with a dark stain. These floors are not original but added during an earlier rehabilitation. At the north end of the breezeway is a wood plank door that leads to the rear porch.

The room on the east (right) side of the breezeway is used as a parlor (Photo 9). It is approximately 16 11.5 wide and 15 4 deep. The ceiling and walls are covered with wood planks. A simple 6 -wide wood cornice and 12 wide base molding encircle the room. At the east end of the room is the fireplace. It is constructed of limestone, including the firebox, and is flush with the surface of the surrounding wall. A single slab of limestone measuring approximately 16 high x 64 long x 6 deep serves as the lintel above the firebox. A simple wood mantelpiece surrounds the face of the fireplace. A block at

³ Randall Walton, AIA, conversation with Susan Allen Kline, February 3, 2012.

Cunningham Homestead, Comanche (vic.), Comanche County, Texas

the center of the mantle's cornice has the ranch's branch (VXΛ) carved into it. The mantle, cornice, and wood trim around windows and doors are painted teal. The walls are painted tan and the ceiling is painted grey.

On the north wall of the parlor are two 6/6 double hung wood window that look into the adjacent bedroom. The bedroom is located where the northeast corner of the rear porch has been enclosed. The room measures approximately 15 4 wide and 6 8 deep. A notable feature of this room is its sloped ceiling. The east and west walls have wood plank doors to the exterior (Photo 10).

The house's master bedroom is located to the west of the central breezeway and measures approximately 17 2 wide and 15 4 deep (Photos 11 and 12). It shares many of the same features as the parlor. A notable difference is that mantle's cornice has a center block with the initials "J C" for James Cunningham, the house's original owner. North of this bedroom is a small washroom with a bathroom located at its west end (Photo 13). This room has a sloping ceiling and a wood plank door on the east wall that leads to the rear porch.

There is not a direct connection between the house and the kitchen. One enters the kitchen either through the west doorway underneath the house's front porch or the entrance on the south elevation. The interior of the kitchen is characterized by the limestone walls on all four elevations, the limestone fireplace with its projecting chimney breast, and its exposed roof rafters and beams in place of a ceiling (Photo 14) A simple wood mantelpiece frames the firebox. One gets a sense of the thickness of the stone walls by the depth of the window casings. The mantelpiece, wood trim around the windows, and the base molding are stained (unlike the painted trim in the main house). During the 1986 rehabilitation, built-in kitchen cupboards and sink were added in the northwest corner (Photo 15).

Period-appropriate furnishings and other antiques fill the house and the kitchen. But modern conveniences such as a central heat and air, a refrigerator and electric dishwasher in the kitchen, and a flat screen television in the master bedroom bring the house into the twenty-first century.

Alterations

One of the earliest alterations to the house after the construction of the stone kitchen in 1873 was the partial enclosure of the rear porch along the west end. It is known that this was done by 1910 but may have been done during the Cunninghams' occupation. The ranch was sold in 1900 and then again in 1933. The house remained relatively unaltered until the late 1940s-early 1950s when it was sheathed with asbestos shingle siding, a metal roof added, a window at the north end of the breezeway was converted to a door, and new flooring, bathroom and electricity installed. Doorways connecting the master bedroom and the parlor with the breezeway were cut into the breezeway's west and east walls. The historic window and door arrangement on the façade was altered and 6/6 windows were installed. Brick was added to the front of the fireplaces. Other alterations included the replacement of the front porch's wood floor with concrete, and the addition of screens around the porch.

In 1985, the ranch was purchased by the Cunningham's great-great grandson, F. Lee Lawrence, and his wife, Ann. With the assistance of the renowned Texas restoration architect, Raiford Stripling, information gathered from former owners and others familiar with the house, and input from the staff of the Texas Historical Commission, the Lawrences removed much of the work done by the third owners and returned the house to an appearance appropriate to the Cunninghams' occupation. Exterior work included the removal of the asbestos siding, revealing the original pine clapboard. The metal roof was also removed and replaced with hand-split wood shakes. A brick chimney on the front slope of the kitchen's roof was removed (it originally was connected to a stove in the kitchen). The historic window and door configurations on the façade were restored. Although the historic doors had been removed, new doors were constructed based on the design of original doors found elsewhere on the site and were made with the use of hand-cut nails made in New England. A portion of the rear enclosure was removed to create an integral porch in the center. The ceilings under the front porch and in the

Cunningham Homestead, Comanche (vic.), Comanche County, Texas

breezeway and the kitchen were removed (according to the recollections of a former occupant, the kitchen did not have a ceiling). When the ceiling was removed in the breezeway, it was discovered that the riven oak planks on the gable ends had been removed. Because similar planks could not be found, the gable ends were closed off with rough-hewn pine boards. Nonhistoric plaster on the kitchen walls was also removed. Nonhistoric brick was removed from the front of the fireplaces and new wood mantles were constructed. The paint color chosen for interior walls was based on paint samples uncovered during the restoration. Concessions were made for modern living (new HVAC system, a new bathroom, and new cabinets and sink in the kitchen).

Contributing Resource

Hand-dug Well: Located approximately 33 6 south of the front doors in a stone-lined, hand-dug well that is 25 deep (Photo 16). The exact date of the well's construction is not known but it is believed that it dates to the period of significance (1855-1873) as a reliable source of water would have been a necessity for the family's survival (and convenience). For years, the well served as the source of water for the house but has been replaced by a modern well house northeast of the house (and outside the boundaries of the nominated property). The well is counted as a contributing structure.

Noncontributing Resources

Aermotor Windmill: Located above the hand-dug well is an oil-bath Aermotor windmill on an Aermotor prefabricated steel tower (Photo 2). In his book *A Field Guide to American Windmills*, T. Lindsay Baker said of the Aermotor: "By far the most popular water-pumping windmill of the twentieth century, the Chicago-built self-oiling Aermotor mills have been called the Cadillac of windmills because of their outstanding design and quality of workmanship."⁴ This particular windmill is possibly a 602 Model (made from 1916-1933) or a 702 Model (made from 1933-1980s). It is also possible that the tower predates the windmill.⁵ The windmill is no longer used to pump water. Because it post-dates the period of significance, the windmill is counted as a noncontributing structure.

Grape Arbor: A wood grape arbor is located approximately 20 6 north of the house and centered on a stone walk that runs from the gate in the picket fence south to the rear porch (Photo 17). The arbor consists of two walls of latticed wood panels attached to wood poles. Wood rafters span the stone walk from the top of one wall to the other. A bench stretches the length of the west side of the east wall, creating an intimate space inside the arbor. Built c. 1986, the arbor is counted as a noncontributing structure because it was not present during the period of significance.

Corncrib: Approximately 25 northeast of the house is a corncrib (Photo 18). The corncrib is constructed of logs with half dovetail notching at the corners. The chinking between the logs is missing. The south gable end is sheathed with wood planks; the north gable end is open. The roof is covered with overlapping wood planks. There is a small door on the south wall. The corncrib is an original structure to the homestead but was located west of the house. It was removed from the property and later returned after the current owners purchased the ranch. It is counted as a noncontributing structure because it has been moved from its original location and does not retain its historic integrity.

Stone Wall and Fences

The nominated property is defined by fences on its north, west and south sides. North of the house is a wood picket fence that was constructed after the 1986 restoration of the house (Photo 17). The western boundary is defined by a dry-laid limestone wall approximately 5 high (Photo 3). It was erected after the 1986 restoration and was built on the location of a

⁴ T. Lindsay Baker, *A Field Guide to American Windmills* (Norman, Oklahoma: University of Oklahoma Press, 1985), 116.

⁵ T. Lindsay Baker to Susan Allen Kline (email correspondence), June 2, 2012.

Cunningham Homestead, Comanche (vic.), Comanche County, Texas

previous stone wall. It resembles the historic stone dry-laid fences found along the drive from Highway 16 and the southern escarpment of the ranch. The southern boundary is defined by a fence of barbed wire attached to small diameter stripped limbs. It separates the residential area of the ranch from the pasture. These features are counted as three noncontributing objects because they were not present during the period of significance.

Features Outside of the Nominated Area

Because of the proximity of non-historic and altered buildings, the boundaries of the nominated property are narrowly defined (see Map 3). Approximately 16 east of the stone kitchen is a building constructed prior to 1900 that was formerly used as a carriage house. After the current owners purchased the property, it was used as a kitchen, dining room, and family room. In 2004, a great room was added to the south. Just east of the corncrib is a small pump house that was added in 1989. Approximately 136 northeast of the stone kitchen is a wood barn that is believed to have been constructed before 1900. To the north of this barn is an opened sided metal tractor shed (not included on map). South of the barn is a wood tool shed built before 1900 and a log barn with V-notched and half square-notched corners constructed in the 1850s. These two buildings are joined together by a canopy. South of the tool shed and log barn are two one-story guest houses that were constructed in 1987/2001 and 1991. Southeast of the log barn is a red metal barn with hayloft that was constructed in 1989. Southeast of the metal barn is a one-story modular home constructed in 2008 for the ranch foreman. With the exception of the tractor shed, these buildings are connected by a circular gravel-topped drive. Crop and pasturelands are located to the east and south of this complex.

As a result of the 1986 rehabilitation and the Lawrence family's loving stewardship, the Cunningham Homestead retains its integrity of design, materials, workmanship, location, feeling, and association. A high degree of historic material remains. When materials had to be replaced (i.e., some siding) or reintroduced (wood shakes on the roof and replicated wood plank doors), it was done in a manner that was sensitive to the house's historic characteristics. The valley in which the homestead is located retains a high degree of integrity yet its immediate setting has been slightly compromised with the addition of buildings constructed after the period of significance or with alterations to contemporary features.

Cunningham Homestead, Comanche (vic.), Comanche County, Texas

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	A	Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
<input type="checkbox"/>	B	Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	C	Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
<input type="checkbox"/>	D	Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations:

Areas of Significance: Exploration/Settlement; Architecture

Period of Significance: 1855-1873

Significant Dates: 1855

Significant Person (only if criterion b is marked): NA

Cultural Affiliation (only if criterion d is marked): NA

Architect/Builder: Unknown; Raiford Stripling, Architect (1986 restoration); Lohman Feist, Construction Supervisor (1986 restoration)

Narrative Statement of Significance (see continuation sheets 8-13 through 8-22)

9. Major Bibliographic References

Bibliography (see continuation sheets 9-23 through 9-24)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office (*Texas Historical Commission, Austin*)
- Other state agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University (*Cushing Memorial Library, Texas A & M University, College Station, Texas*).
- Other -- Specify Repository:

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): NA

Cunningham Homestead, Comanche (vic.), Comanche County, Texas

Statement of Significance

The Captain James and Susannah Cunningham Homestead is a Double-pen Dogtrot (Central Passage) style house built in 1855 with a stone kitchen added in 1873. The Cunninghams were among the earliest settlers on what was then the far western reaches of Anglo-American settlement in Texas as it encroached into Comanche territory. Their house is believed to be the oldest surviving house in Comanche County. For its association with the early non-native settlement of Comanche County, the Cunningham Homestead is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places at the local level of significance under Criterion A in the area of Exploration/Settlement. The Cunningham Homestead is also an excellent local example of a Pre-Railroad Era Double-pen Dogtrot, a vernacular style that originated in the Southern colonies and moved west with the advancing frontier. As is typical of the style, the Cunningham Homestead is one-story with a side-gabled roof and features a central breezeway flanked by single pens (or rooms) with chimneys on the gable ends. Less typical was the use of oak framing with pine clapboard siding instead of the more familiar log construction. The stone kitchen, added along the east elevation, introduced embellishments associated with the Greek Revival style. For its architectural significance, the Cunningham Homestead is eligible for listing in the National Register under Criterion C. The period of significance is from 1855, the year the Cunninghams arrived in what is now Comanche County, to 1873. The latter year corresponds to the year the stone kitchen was constructed, giving the house the form it has today.

The Comanches and the Advance of the Western Frontier in North Central Texas

Comanche County is located in the western reaches of what is defined as North Central Texas. From the eighteenth to the mid-nineteenth centuries, this part of Texas was the domain of the Comanche Indians. Although the Comanches concentrated their settlements in the Wichita Mountains in what is now southwestern Oklahoma, they roamed vast stretches from the Arkansas River on the north to the Mexican state of Coahuila on the south. Nomadic by nature, the Comanches did not have a strongly structured society. Different bands of the tribe would form alliances, including alliances with other tribes such as the Kiowa, or break apart as the need arose. The buffalo was their lifeblood as they depended on the animal as their main source of food and used its hide for clothing and shelter. Known for their skilled horsemanship, the Comanche were excellent buffalo hunters and marksmen. For decades, the Comanches served as a formidable barrier to white settlement across a wide swath of the middle of the country. Because of this barrier, some have contended that the Comanches were the most powerful tribe in U. S. history. As non-native settlers began to encroach on their territory, conflicts were inevitable.⁶

As an independent republic from 1836 to 1845, Texas's policy towards Native Americans included a refusal to acknowledge Indian title to land under the claim that Texas held absolute title to all of the land within its jurisdiction. Officials operated under the assumption that Native Americans had "the grim choice of emigration, expulsion, or extermination." As a result, "Texas settlers carried out a merciless campaign of harassment and intimidation toward their Indian neighbors."⁷ For their part, the Comanches were just as likely to participate in ruthless raids against the settlers, stealing livestock and often killing settlers and taking captives. Even after it joined the United States in 1845, Texas retained title to its land and the state legislature continued the policy of not recognizing Indian title to Texas land. Nor did the state give the federal government the right to negotiate a treaty with Native Americans within its boundaries without

⁶ Arrell Morgan Gibson, *The American Indian: Prehistory to the Present* (Lexington, Massachusetts: D.C. Heath and Company, 1980), 342; Carol A. Lipscomb, "Comanche Indians," *Handbook of Texas Online* (<http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/bmc72>), accessed June 5, 2012.

⁷ Gibson, *The American Indian: Prehistory to the Present*, 345. A recent book that contends that the Comanche were the most powerful tribe in U.S. history and one that vividly relates the confrontations between them and Anglo-American settlers is S. C. Gwynne's *Empire of the Summer Moon: Quanah Parker and the Rise and Fall of the Comanches, the Most Powerful Tribe in American History* (New York: Scribner, 2010).

Cunningham Homestead, Comanche (vic.), Comanche County, Texas

its consent. In 1848, the state did establish a temporary boundary between Anglo-American and Indian settlements but both sides ignored the boundary and the violence continued.⁸

In 1849, the U.S. army began establishing military posts in Texas along the advancing frontier but found it difficult to keep ahead of the eager settlers. In 1854, two reservations for Comanches were established in the state yet some bands continued their raids. In 1859, the reservation Comanches were removed to Indian Territory but raids continued as the reservation Indians were not the cause of the depredations. With the outbreak of the Civil War and the removal of federal troops, the Texas frontier remained vulnerable.⁹ It was under these risky circumstances that settlers such as James and Susannah Cunningham moved into the Comanche frontier and contributed to the continued westward thrust of that frontier.

James and Susannah Cunningham

The patriarch of the Cunningham family, James, was born in Warren County, Tennessee in 1816. He married Susannah Tate on February 14, 1835. In what would become a life filled with violent encounters with Native Americans, Cunningham first served in the Alabama Mounted Militia in the Florida Indian Wars from October 1837 until July 21, 1838 when he was discharged at Fort Payne, Alabama. Along with his wife and two children, he immigrated to the Republic of Texas in 1839-1840. He first obtained a land grant in what is now Morris County in East Texas. After contracting malaria, James and his family moved westward to Bastrop, Travis and Williamson counties in Central Texas in the 1840s.¹⁰

In 1855, with eight children in tow, the Cunningham family moved northwest, settling in a valley along Mountain Creek, a tributary of the South Leon River. The area was sparsely populated as only ten to fifteen families had immigrated to the area the previous year. The Texas legislature created Comanche County in 1856 from Coryell and Bosque counties. The town of Cora was designated the county seat but in 1859, Comanche, a town located in the heart of the county, was named the county seat. By 1860, the county had a population of 709 residents. Cattle ranching was the largest economic activity at the time. Wheat and corn were grown as cash crops.¹¹

The Cunninghams built for themselves a modest home on the valley floor just south of Mountain Creek, likely beginning with a single pen (or room) with a native stone fireplace on the east elevation. This allowed the family to have a secure enclosure until the rest of the home could be completed. The house was then expanded with a second pen (also with a native stone fireplace) built to the west and the two pens linked by a central breezeway, taking on the form of the familiar Southern Dogtrot. Not as common was closing off the north end of the breezeway, likely as an adaptation to the winters on the Southern Plains.¹² Although other early residents built their first homes of log,¹³ the Cunninghams' built theirs using hand-hewn oak framing sheathed with pine clapboard siding. This area of Texas had no pine forests which meant

⁸ Ibid., 346.

⁹ Lipscomb, "Comanche Indians."

¹⁰ F. Lee Lawrence, "Cunningham, James," *Handbook of Texas Online*, (<http://tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/fcu64>), accessed January 4, 2012. Published by the Texas State Historical Foundation; Patricia Haas, "The Celebration and Preservation of the Cunningham Legacy," *Heritage* 8 (Number 4, Fall 1990): 8 (<http://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph5429>) accessed February 5, 2012. University of North Texas Libraries, The Portal to Texas History [crediting Texas Historical Foundation, Austin, Texas.

¹¹ John Leffler, "Comanche County," *Handbook of Texas Online* (<http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/hcc20>), accessed January 22, 2012.

¹² When the house was rehabilitated in 1986, the architect, the late Raiford Stripling, undertook a thorough investigation of its structural components. It was his conclusion that the east pen of the house (currently used as a parlor) was the first portion of the house to be completed. The adjoining breezeway and west pen were completed soon after that. Stripling's study of the home led him to believe that the north end of the breezeway was originally enclosed.

¹³ F. M. Collier is credited with building the first log house in the county in 1855, see Leffler, "Comanche County."

Cunningham Homestead, Comanche (vic.), Comanche County, Texas

that the siding had to be imported from more established areas of the state. In this case, it is believed that the lumber was hauled by wagon from Waco, a city located over eighty miles to the southeast.¹⁴

Frontier life was filled with hardships. In the early years, mail service was nearly nonexistent. There were no improved roads with the exception of an old military road established in 1849-50. The nearest railroad was 300 miles away.¹⁵ But the Cunningham family eventually thrived in their new home. In 1859, James was granted a patent to a 160-acre tract straddling Mountain Creek and bearing his name. By the time of the 1860 census, the family had grown to include eleven children; three daughters and eight sons ranging in age from 23 years to two months. Oldest daughter Elizabeth had married T. J. Holmsley in 1856 (the wedding having taken place at the Cunninghams' home and was the first recorded marriage in the county) but was enumerated with her father's family. The census lists James's occupation as a stock raiser. The value of his real estate was given as \$2,557 whereas his personal estate was valued at \$6,939.¹⁶ The 1860 Slave Schedule for Comanche County indicated that the Cunninghams owned one female slave, possibly 24 years old. Comanche County was not a large slave owning county with twenty-five individuals owning sixty-one slaves.¹⁷ The family would be increased by one in 1862 with the birth of their twelfth child, a daughter named Unity Ann. All of the Cunningham children survived well into adulthood.

Family history relates that the oldest sons slept in a log barn located west of the house. This barn still exists but has been moved northeast of the house. Other early structures included a log corncrib (still extant but moved), a log kitchen located a few feet east of the house, and a stone-lined well. In 1873, the log kitchen was replaced with a stone kitchen that abutted the house's east elevation but was not directly connected to it through internal passageways. The kitchen was constructed with 18 thick limestone walls and an interior fireplace with a projecting chimney breast. The roof rafters were left exposed and treated with a linseed oil and black walnut stain to hide discoloration caused by smoke. It is believed that a German stonemason by the name of Rosser (or Roesser) constructed the kitchen and introduced a Greek Revival flavor to it with the use of boxed eaves, cornices, and gable returns around the roof. Other structures that were constructed during the Cunninghams' occupation included a wood barn and a carriage house.¹⁸

In June 1858, James Cunningham organized a company of volunteers in response to Comanche depredations in the area. He reported to Governor Hardin Runnels that the company was active and that he had been elected to its command. Cunningham and his sons became involved in nearly every skirmish with Native Americans in the area. With the onset of the Civil War, Cunningham was elected captain of a company of minutemen from Comanche County. At the request of Confederate general Henry McCullough, Cunningham and his company journeyed to Camp Colorado (located to the west in Coleman County) to wrest the post away from the U.S. Cavalry. Although many others left the area, Cunningham and his family remained and he served as captain of the Comanche County Company of the Second Frontier District under the command of Maj. George B. Erath. Five of his sons also served; some as officers, others as enlisted men. The Cunninghams were involved in fights with Indians at Rush Creek, Buffalo Gap, Tater Hill, Blanket Creek, Salt Mountain, and Brown Creek, among others. Cunningham and his company also participated in a fight with Kickapoo Indians at the Battle of Dove Creek in Tom Green County on January 8, 1865.¹⁹

¹⁴ Haas, "The Celebration and Preservation of the Cunningham Legacy," 8.

¹⁵ "Courageous Pioneers: Captain James Cunningham and Family," Typed manuscript compiled by Mollie Moore Godbold for Fred Holmsley Moore, February 1960. Copy in possession of Amy and Randall Walton, Fort Worth, Texas.

¹⁶ 1860 U.S. Census, Texas, Comanche, Cora P.O., Series M635, Roll 1289, Page 258, HeritageQuest Online ([http://persi.heritagequestonline.com/hqoweb/library/do/census/results/image/print?urn=urn:...\)](http://persi.heritagequestonline.com/hqoweb/library/do/census/results/image/print?urn=urn:...) accessed June 6, 2012.

¹⁷ Weldon I. Hudson and Shirley Brittain Cawyer, compilers, *Comanche County, Texas Census Records: 1860 and 1870 Federal Census; with Index to the 1880 Heads of Households and the Special 1890 Census of Union Veterans and Widows; also the 1860 Slave List; and the 1867 Voter's Registration* (N. p., 1981), 17-18.

¹⁸ Haas, "The Celebration and Preservation of the Cunningham Legacy," 8. Efforts to find a stone mason by the name of Rosser/Roesser in the 1860 and 1870 censuses have been unsuccessful.

¹⁹ Lawrence, "Cunningham, James."

Cunningham Homestead, Comanche (vic.), Comanche County, Texas

A vivid account of one encounter was relayed by a Comanche County resident in a letter she wrote to her sister in Lavaca County, Texas on April 19, 1861. Two days prior, a fight had occurred between seventeen white men and nineteen Native Americans. The skirmish began after the Indians made a raid on the town of Comanche about an hour before sunrise, stealing the sheriff's horse and several others as well as some mules. A company of local men was raised, including James Cunningham and three of his sons, to pursue the Native Americans. They rode for approximately thirty miles before engaging them in a running battle for several miles. None of the settlers were killed but they did suffer the loss of a dog and a horse and the wounding of several others. One Indian was killed (and presumably scalped as the letter noted that the men "got one Indian skelp [sic]") and several were wounded. The settlers recovered blankets, guns, and other weapons. The matter-of-fact way in which the author relayed the news suggests that such occurrences were not uncommon.²⁰

For her part, Susannah Cunningham, James's wife, was a resilient pioneer woman who contributed much to the family's success. Words used to describe her included "brave and scrappy" as well as artistic and well-read.²¹ She bore all twelve of her children without the assistance of a doctor. One source suggests that she was assisted in her manual and child-rearing labors by "well-trained slaves."²² She arrived at Mountain Creek with nine children and records indicate that in 1856, the Cunninghams owned no slaves. Tax rolls indicate that they owned two slaves in 1859 and then only one slave in 1860.²³ The early years at Mountain Creek were particularly difficult. The family did not want for meat as wild game was bountiful but wheat and corn were in short supply. Because of James's ill health, Susannah supervised the clearing of land, fence building, and planting and harvesting of crops.²⁴ She is credited with establishing the first garden in the county.²⁵ Family history abounds with stories of "Susie's" tenacity and bravery. One account states that she shot and killed an Indian who was attempting to steal her favorite mare. There is an account of her taking in a young orphaned girl named Lou who was being abused by a foster father. When the man tried to forcibly take the girl from the Cunningham's ranch, Mrs. Cunningham whacked him with a stick she had been using as she and the girl washed clothes at the creek. The man left empty-handed and the girl later married the Cunningham's son, Thomas. Other stories report that she pulled an arrow from the chest of a wounded man and then nursed him back to health.²⁶ There are stories of Susannah feeding hungry Indians who stopped at her home asking for food. This generosity extended to the community at large as demonstrated when James and Susannah invited neighbors to help themselves after they butchered a beef.²⁷

²⁰ "Old Letter Tells of Indian Fight Here in Year 61," *Comanche (Texas) Chief*, undated, c. 1925. F. Lee Lawrence Papers. The letter was written by Mrs. C. M. Neal to her sister, Mrs. Disa Cox, of Hope, Lavaca County, Texas. Before launching into the story of the skirmish, Mrs. Neal wrote "I haven't much news that is worth relating."

²¹ See F. Lee Lawrence, *The Cunningham Legacy: To Grandma and Grandpa with Love* (Tyler, Texas: 1989), 10, and Floy Cunningham, "Comanche County Customs from Long Ago" in Eulalia Nabers Wells, compiler, *Blazing the Way: Tales of Comanche County Pioneers* (Blanket, Texas: printed by author, 1942), 68.

²² Mrs. Howard B. Cox, "Mrs. James Cunningham: Born Susannah Tate," in *Pioneer Women in Texas*, ed. Annie Doom Pickrell (Austin, Texas: E.L. Steck, 1929), 156.

²³ Margaret Waring to Randall Walton, July 31, 2011 (email correspondence).

²⁴ Cox, "Mrs. James Cunningham: Born Susannah Tate," 156.

²⁵ Godbold, "Courageous Pioneers: Captain James Cunningham and Family," 5-6.

²⁶ Haas, "The Celebration and Preservation of the Cunningham Legacy," 10. The story of Susannah Cunningham killing an Indian was related in a letter from F. Lee Lawrence to Raiford Stripling, April 23, 1985, Raiford L. Stripling Collection. Series 13, Box 17, Folder 10a and 10b, Mountain Creek Ranch, Tyler, Texas [sic]. Cushing Memorial Library, Texas A & M University, College Station, Texas [hereafter referred to as Stripling Collection, TAMU].

²⁷ Lawrence, *The Cunningham Legacy: To Grandma and Grandpa with Love*, 14.

Cunningham Homestead, Comanche (vic.), Comanche County, Texas

The Cunninghams (and their house) contributed to the safety and well-being of the community in other ways. The house was used as a school in 1862 and 1863. During times of attacks by Native Americans, other families would seek protection (or “fort up”) in the Cunningham house.²⁸

During the Civil War, cattle wandered untended over the open range as their owners were engaged in life and death struggles against Indians or had left the area for safer climes. The animals multiplied and soon the range was filled with unbranded cattle. After the war, Capt. Cunningham estimated that during the intervening years, five hundred head of cattle would have been born to his herd. When the Cunningham sons had branded that number, the captain told his sons to stop, displaying an honesty for which he was well known.²⁹

The 1870 Census indicates that there were five children—three boys and two girls—still living in the house with James and Susannah during that year.³⁰ The 1880 Census indicates that none of the Cunningham children were living with their parents. The census did include 15-year old Lou, the young orphan Susannah Cunningham rescued from an abusive situation, and a 21-year-old farm hand named Berry (?) Brown. As the Cunningham children married and started families of their own, many of them settled within a few miles of the original homestead. Richard T., William H., and Thomas A. Cunningham lived just to the north and east of their parents. Mary Jane Cunningham Neely, David H., Aaron, and James lived a few miles north near the community of Newburg. Joseph, George W., and Unity Ann Cunningham Lewis lived south of their parents in what became Mills County.³¹ Three Cunningham sons and one grandson became sheriffs of Comanche County. One son became the first sheriff of Mills County and one was the sheriff of Taylor County for twenty-four years.³²

The Cunninghams prospered in Comanche County. Capt. Cunningham’s land holdings increased to 9,000 acres.³³ He owned a hog operation in northwest Comanche County along Jimmy’s Creek (supposedly named for him). He was an original stockholder of the Comanche National Bank. He and his wife were wealthy enough that they gave each of their children \$1,000 in gold. For all of their success, James and Susannah continued to live in the modest house they built on Mountain Creek until their deaths. In their twilight years, they were affectionately known as “Uncle Jimmy” and “Aunt Susie” by the community.³⁴

In 1889, the family gathered at Susannah and James’s home for its first reunion. After that, reunions were held sporadically over the next decade. James died in 1894 and Susannah died in 1899. Both were buried in Newburg Cemetery, located a few miles north of their Mountain Creek ranch. The Cunningham heirs sold the ranch in 1900. In 1901, David and Aaron Cunningham invited the members of the family to a reunion at a spot along Mercer Creek, approximately nine miles south of the town of Comanche. This was the beginning of an annual event held in August that continues to this day. In 1908, the *Dallas Morning News* ran an account of that year’s reunion, stating that 159 of the 287 family members were present.³⁵ Originally, 1.5 acres was set aside for the reunion until the Cunningham descendants

²⁸ Ruth Adele Waggoner, “James Cunningham and Susannah Tate Cunningham,” in *Comanche County History, Volume 1: Comanche County Family Histories*, compiled by Fredda Davis Jones (Abilene, Texas: Ram Business Forms and Printing, 2008), 221. Ruth Adele Waggoner is a great-great granddaughter of the Cunninghams.

²⁹ Haas, “The Celebration and Preservation of the Cunningham Legacy,” 11.

³⁰ 1870 U. S. Census, Comanche, Comanche P. O., Series M593, Roll 1580, Page 181, HeritageQuest Online (<http://www.heritagequestonline.com/hqoweb/library/do/census/results/image/print?urn=urn:. . .>), accessed June 6, 2012.

³¹ Cunningham Family 100th Anniversary Reunion brochure, 1989. Courtesy, Randall Walton, Fort Worth, Texas.

³² Godbold, “Courageous Pioneers: Captain James Cunningham and Family,” 19.

³³ Lawrence, “Cunningham, James.”

³⁴ Haas, “The Celebration and Preservation of the Cunningham Legacy,” 11; Godbold, “Courageous Pioneers: Captain James Cunningham and Family,” 1.

³⁵ “How’s This for Family Reunion: 159 Members Out of 287 Gather and Rejoice,” *Dallas Morning News*, August 23, 1908 (http://infoweb.newsbank.com/iw-search/we/HistArchive/?p_product=EAN . . .), accessed January 22, 2012.

Cunningham Homestead, Comanche (vic.), Comanche County, Texas

purchased additional acreage in 1988. In 1989, the Reunion's centennial year, the spot was marked with an Official Texas Historical Marker. Over 600 attended that year. Currently, there are approximately 1,800 living descendants.³⁶

One chronicler of Comanche County history attested to the esteem with which the Cunningham family was held a generation after the passing of James and Susannah. In her book *Blazing the Way: Tales of Comanche County Pioneers*, published in 1942, Eulalia Nabers Wells described the Cunninghams as "temperate, conservative, deliberate of demeanor, absolute strangers to fear and modest in the knowledge of their standing in the county which they have blessed. In all the State of Texas, a more splendid brood never came from a single nest."³⁷

The Cunningham Homestead after 1900

The Cunningham Homestead was purchased by James DeWitt in 1900. According to an interview conducted in 1985 with Mrs. Hollis DeWitt, James DeWitt's daughter-in-law, there were no alterations made to the house during the time it was owned by that family (Mrs. DeWitt lived in the house with her husband from 1921-1933). J. B. Alcorn purchased 136 acres, including the original house, in 1933. In the late 1940s-early 1950s, the Alcorns made numerous alterations to the house including covering the limestone fireplaces with brick, the application of a metal roof and new flooring, and the installation of a bathroom and electrical wiring. In addition, the exterior of the 1855 portion of the house was sheathed with asbestos siding. With the assistance of F. Lee Lawrence, the Cunningham's great-great grandson (and future owner of the house), the house was designated as a Recorded Texas Historic Landmark in 1962.³⁸

The house stood vacant for nearly twenty years until it was purchased by F. Lee Lawrence, the Cunninghams' great-great grandson, and his wife, Ann, in 1985. The Lawrences engaged renowned Texas restoration architect Raiford Stripling to restore the ranch house to an approximation of its appearance in 1873. An early consideration was to link the house with a nearby carriage house but that proposal was abandoned. The restoration plan included the removal of the asbestos siding to expose the original 1 x 6 pine clapboard siding; repointing the mortar in the stone kitchen and the stone chimneys; removal of the screen enclosure and concrete floor on the front porch and replacing it with a wood floor; installation of new clapboard siding to replace deteriorated material as needed; removal of one bathroom and the installation of another at the northwest corner of the house; restoration of the three fireplaces, including the removal of the non-historic brick; removal of the nonhistoric ceiling, asphalt tile floor, and plaster from the stone walls in the kitchen; restoration of the wood-shingled roof; and the removal of closets and pantries added by the Alcorns. Because the house was designated as a Recorded Texas Historic Landmark, Lawrence sought input from the Texas Historical Commission regarding the proposed plans. Gerron Hite, an architect with the agency, gave specific comments regarding the repointing of the chimneys, reconstruction of the front porch, appropriate wood shingles for the roof, reconstruction of window shutters, and interior details with the caution that "the finished product reflect, as close as possible, a certain period of time in the life of the building."³⁹

Lohman Feist of Priddy, Texas was hired as the foreman and lead carpenter for the restoration of the Cunningham Homestead. Feist carefully matched missing pieces of siding, replicated deteriorated gable returns on the kitchen, and supervised the construction of twelve new doors that were based on the design of an historic door that had been removed

³⁶ Cunningham Family 100th Anniversary Reunion brochure; "Cunningham Family Reunion," Texas Historical Commission ([http://atlas.thc.state.tx.us/viewform.asp?atlas_num=5093001133& . . .](http://atlas.thc.state.tx.us/viewform.asp?atlas_num=5093001133&...)), accessed January 4, 2012; Randall Walton to Susan Allen Kline, (email correspondence), June 7, 2012.

³⁷ Wells, *Blazing the Way: Tales of Comanche County Pioneers*, 107.

³⁸ F. Lee Lawrence to Texas Historical Commission, August 30, 1985, James Cunningham Ranch House file, Texas Historical Commission, Austin, Texas, copy in possession of Amy and Randall Walton; Margaret Waring to Randall Walton, October 30, 2011 (email correspondence), copy in possession of Susan Allen Kline.

³⁹ Gerron S. Hite, R.A., Preservation Assistance Division, Texas Historical Commission, to F. Lee Lawrence, October 8, 1985, Stripling Collection, TAMU.

Cunningham Homestead, Comanche (vic.), Comanche County, Texas

from the house and found elsewhere on the property. For his painstaking work on the project, the Texas Historical Foundation awarded him its John Ben Shepperd, Jr. Craftsmanship Award in 1987.⁴⁰

Raiford Stripling (1910-1990)

The Lawrence family engaged the services of Raiford Stripling, an architect from San Augustine, Texas, to design the restoration of the Cunningham house. By the time he took on the project, he had established a name for himself as a pioneer in historic preservation in the state through the restoration/rehabilitation of numerous historic buildings across Texas.

Stripling demonstrated an artistic aptitude at an early age. A trip to the Chicago Livestock Exhibition at the age of 13 exposed the youngster to that city's great buildings and inspired him to pursue a career in architecture. Following his graduation as his high school class's salutatorian, he enrolled in the architecture program at the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas. Under faculty members such as Samuel Charles Phelps Vosper and Ernest Landsford, Stripling received solid schooling in the Beaux Arts tradition "with a strong basis in classical design, rigorous attention to fine detailing, and sound construction methods."⁴¹ Much as O'Neil Ford documented the historic vernacular architecture of Central Texas with his mentor, David Williams, Stripling spent time with his mentor, Vosper, studying and documenting the historic architecture and sites of South Texas.⁴²

Stripling graduated in the spring of 1931 and took a job with architect Shirley Simmons in Tyler, Texas at ten dollars a week. Six months later, Texas A&M's college architect, Frederick E. Giesecke, hired Stripling to return to A&M as the college embarked on a \$1.2 million campus capital improvement program. As the depression deepened, funds began to dry up at A&M and Stripling and Vosper found work with the Civil Works Administration (CWA) designing park facilities in San Antonio. Stripling also designed a golf course in Laredo. Both men were transferred to the CWA office in Austin where Stripling worked for a time alongside O'Neil Ford. In 1934, Stripling then found a job with Paul Cret, a Beaux Arts master from Philadelphia, who was working on the master plan for the University of Texas in Austin.⁴³

In 1935, Stripling teamed up with Vosper, his former teacher and friend, in Goliad, Texas for work fueled by preparations for the 1936 observance of the centennial of Texas's independence from Mexico. Projects, some done under the auspices of the National Park Service, included the design of a replica of Fort Parker, the restoration of Mission Espiritu Santo, the Goliad Memorial Auditorium, and the Fannin Battlefield Memorial.⁴⁴ Stripling's biographer noted that the work on Mission Espiritu Santo instilled in Stripling a deep appreciation for the need to study a building's archeological setting as well as historic documentation to institute a restoration plan based on fact and not conjecture.⁴⁵

During World War II, Stripling worked in the camouflage unit at the Washington (D.C.) Navy Yards with Commander Charles E. Peterson who he had known through his work with the National Park Service (and who would become a respected preservationist affiliated with Columbia University). After the war, Stripling returned to San Augustine to open his own architectural practice. He specialized in the restoration and reconstruction of historic buildings ranging from vernacular log structures (Milton Garrett House, San Augustine, 1826), to high style residences (Ashton Villa, Galveston,

⁴⁰ F. Lee Lawrence to Mark L. Trowbridge, Texas Historical Foundation, March 10, 1987, Stripling Collection, TAMU. Mr. Feist is now the foreman at Mountain Creek Ranch.

⁴¹ "Biographical Notes, The Raiford Stripling Collection, 1937-1989," Cushing Memorial Library, Texas A&M University ([http://archon.di.tamu.edu/index.php?p=collections/findingaid&id . . .](http://archon.di.tamu.edu/index.php?p=collections/findingaid&id...)) accessed January 12, 2012.

⁴² Michael McCullar, *Restoring Texas: Raiford Stripling's Life and Architecture* (College Station: Texas A&M University Press, 1985), 34-35.

⁴³ *Ibid.*, 37-40.

⁴⁴ *Ibid.*, 46-48,

⁴⁵ *Ibid.*, 53.

Cunningham Homestead, Comanche (vic.), Comanche County, Texas

1859). A specialty of Stripling's was the restoration of Greek Revival style buildings (Earle-Napier-Kinnard House, Waco, c. 1858; Fort House, Waco, c. 1868; and the Stephen W. Blount House, San Augustine, 1838-39). Stripling also had commissions in Austin, Washington-on-the Brazos, Jasper, Jefferson, Beaumont, Chireno, Corsicana, Caldwell, Crockett, Fort Concho, Center, Palestine, Coldspring, and Houston. Stripling also designed new buildings. One example, the Sabine County Hospital, completed in 1980, was a modern interpretation of the Greek Revival style.⁴⁶

The majority of Stripling's projects were in East, Southeast, South, and Central Texas. The work on the Cunningham Homestead in North Central Texas was one of the few projects outside of those regions. By the time Stripling took on the project, health issues were beginning to impact his career. Following his death in 1990, his papers were transferred to Cushing Memorial Library at Texas A&M University in College Station, Texas.

Historic Significance of the Cunningham Homestead under Criterion A: Exploration/Settlement

James and Susannah Cunningham and their eight children moved to a valley along Mountain Creek in North Central Texas in 1855 in what would soon be designated as Comanche County. They were part of an early wave of settlers in the westernmost reaches of Anglo-American settlement in Texas. Here, they built a modest home. James engaged in stock raising and Susannah tended her expanding brood and contributed to the family's survival in the frontier wilderness. The family grew to include twelve children, all of whom reached adulthood, and many of whom settled in the area to raise their own families.

But this area of North Central Texas was not a great void. For a century and a half, the Comanche Indians had hunted buffalo and traveled through the region engaging in trade and warfare with other tribes as well as non-Natives in more distant settlements. With the arrival of settlers in North Central Texas, there were many clashes, often violent, between the newcomers and natives. Like a story straight out of S.C. Gwynne's *Empire of the Summer Moon* (New York: Scribner, 2010), the Cunningham family had its share of run-ins with Indians as they steadfastly held to their presumed right to build a home and to defend it and their community against aggressors. With the depletion of the buffalo and a full-throttle assault by the U.S. Army in 1874, the Comanches were finally forced to move to a reservation in Indian Territory.⁴⁷ After their removal, the Anglo settlers no longer faced threats from the tribe.

Architectural Significance of the Cunningham Homestead under Criterion C

The Captain James and Susannah Cunningham Homestead is an excellent local example of a Double-pen Dogtrot. The style is defined by a center breezeway flanked by single pens with chimneys on the outer gable ends. Unlike the usual examples that were constructed of log, the Cunningham Homestead was built with oak framing sheathed with pine clapboard siding. Attached to the east elevation is a limestone kitchen constructed with Greek Revival details. The house was constructed in 1855 and the kitchen appended to it in 1873. It is believed to be the oldest surviving house in Comanche County.

The familiar Double-pen Dogtrot developed in the middle colonies and spread along the front range of the Appalachian Mountains before moving across the Appalachian frontier with the westward thrust of immigrants. It was likely an adaptation of other housing forms based upon available material and climate. These houses were typically built of log. The construction of two rooms connected by a covered central passage (or breezeway) allowed for the use of shorter logs of a uniform width. Each pen generally had a single entrance on the façade. The passageway between the two pens typically was left open, thereby facilitating cross ventilation (and creating a cool space that might be an inviting space where the family dog could lounge, hence the name "dogtrot"). Placing a floor in the breezeway could provide additional

⁴⁶ Ibid., 102-143, 145.

⁴⁷ Lipscomb, "Comanche Indians."

Cunningham Homestead, Comanche (vic.), Comanche County, Texas

living or work space. The addition of a shed-roofed porch allowed residents to go from one pen to another without being entirely exposed to the elements. As a family became more prosperous, it was common for the breezeway to be enclosed and the exterior of the whole house sheathed with milled siding.⁴⁸

Born in Tennessee in 1816 and living there until the late 1830s, James Cunningham, as well as his wife, Susannah, would have been familiar with this common vernacular housing form. The form was transplanted to Texas as part of a great migration of Tennesseans and others from the southeastern states who made their way to the state in the antebellum period. This was the form that the Cunninghams chose for their home on Mountain Creek. Raiford Stripling's investigation of the house during the 1986 restoration led him to believe that the east pen was constructed first followed by the second pen and the linking breezeway. It was also his opinion that the north end of the breezeway was closed off, likely as an accommodation to winter conditions in North Texas. It also is possible that the breezeway originally did not have a wood floor as family history relates that the Cunninghams's horses were sheltered there under threatening conditions.

Log versions of Double-pen Dogtrotts were mostly built in North, Central, and East Texas, all places where trees would be available as the primary building material before the arrival of railroads. Comanche County was located near the westernmost limits of this building type and examples have been documented in the county.⁴⁹ But the Cunninghams's Dogtrot was built with oak framing with diagonal bracing and mortise and tenon connections and sheathed with pine clapboard siding. This necessitated hauling the siding from Waco to Mountain Creek.

In the days of open fireplaces and wood burning stoves, it was common practice to have the kitchen located in a separate building as a preventive measure to curb the spread of damage if the kitchen should catch fire and also to keep the heat from the kitchen separate from the rest of the house. The Cunninghams originally constructed a separate log kitchen a few feet east of the house. In 1873, the log kitchen was replaced with a stone kitchen that abutted the house along its east elevation. The limestone that was used for the kitchen was of better quality than the limestone used for the fireplaces in the house. It is believed that the kitchen's stone came from a quarry located a few miles south in Mills County.

Family history suggests that the kitchen was built by a stonemason by the name of Rosser or Roesser who may have been from the nearby German community of Priddy in Mills County.⁵⁰ The hand-hewn stones are mostly of a uniform size on the exterior and the walls are 18" thick. Unlike the chimneys of the house that are located on the outer gable ends, the kitchen's chimney is located in the interior, creating a chimney breast that suggests a European origin. From the exterior, the kitchen reveals a Greek Revival influence. Like some smaller Greek Revival houses with side-gabled roofs, its entrance is located near the corner of the façade. The kitchen's boxed eaves with cornice and gable returns on the side elevations are also suggestive of that style. Pattern books and carpenter guides helped spread the style across the country but its popularity had begun to wane by the onset of the Civil War. That fact that it persisted in rural areas after that time is not unusual.⁵¹

For its historic association with the early Anglo-American settlement of Comanche County, the Captain James and Susannah Cunningham Homestead is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places at the local level of

⁴⁸ G. Loyd Collier, "The Cultural Geography of Folk Building Forms in Texas," *Built in Texas*, edited by Francis Edward Abernethy, (Publication of the Texas Folklore Society Number XLII. Waco, Texas: E-heart Press, 1979), 30-35.

⁴⁹ Terry G. Jordan, *Texas Log Buildings: A Folk Architecture* (Austin: University of Texas Press, 1978), 122.

⁵⁰ In a letter written in 1985, F. Lee Lawrence relates that his 85-year old mother had told him that the kitchen was built by Germans from Priddy. See F. Lee Lawrence to Raiford Stripling, April 23, 1985, Stripling Collection, TAMU. As related elsewhere, other sources said the stonemason's name was Rosser or Roesser.

⁵¹ Virginia and Lee McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Houses* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1995), 179-185, 194-195.

Cunningham Homestead, Comanche (vic.), Comanche County, Texas

significance under Criterion A in the area of Exploration/Settlement. It is also eligible at the local level of significance under Criterion C for Architecture as an excellent example of a Double-pen Dogtrot style house built with oak framing and pine clapboard siding instead of the more typical log construction. The kitchen, added in 1873, is a fine example of the Greek Revival style as adapted to a small appendage. The period of significance is from 1855, the year the Cunninghams arrived on Mountain Creek and first built their home, until 1873, the year the kitchen was added, giving the house the form it retains today.

Cunningham Homestead, Comanche (vic.), Comanche County, Texas

Selected Bibliography

Baker, T. Lindsay. Email Correspondence to Susan Allen Kline, June 2, 2012.

_____. *A Field Guide to American Windmills*. Norman, Oklahoma: University of Oklahoma Press, 1985.

Collier, G. Loyd. "The Cultural Geography of Building Forms in Texas." *Built in Texas*, edited by Francis Edward Abernethy, 20-43. Publication of the Texas Folklore Society Number XLII. Waco, Texas: E-heart Press, 1979.

Cox, Mrs. Howard B, contributor. "Mrs. James Cunningham: Born Susannah Tate," in *Pioneer Women of Texas*, edited by Annie Doom Pickrell 155-60. Austin, Texas: E. L. Steck, 1929.

Gibson, Arrell Morgan. *The American Indian: Prehistory to the Present*. Lexington, Massachusetts: D. C. Heath and Company, 1980.

Godbold, Mollie Moore, compiler. "Courageous Pioneers: Captain James Cunningham and Family," Typed manuscript, February 1960. Copy in possession of Amy and Randall Walton, Fort Worth, Texas.

Gwynne, S. C. *Empire of the Summer Moon: Quanah Parker and the Rise and Fall of the Comanches, the Most Powerful Tribe in American History*. New York: Scribner, 2010.

Haas, Patricia. "The Celebration and Preservation of the Cunningham Legacy," *Heritage*, Texas Historical Foundation, Volume 08, Number 04, Fall 1990 (<http://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph45429> accessed February 5, 2012). University of North Texas Libraries, The Portal to Texas History.

Hudson, Weldon I. and Shirley Brittain Cawyer, compilers. *Comanche County, Texas Census Records: 1860 and 1870 Federal Census; With Index to 1880 Heads of Households, and the Special 1890 Census of Union Veterans and Widows, also, the 1860 Slave List and the 1867 Voter's Registration*. N.p., 1981.

Johnson, E. H. "Grand Prairie and Lampasas Cut Plain." *Handbook of Texas Online* (<http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/rxg02>), accessed May 29, 2012. Published by the Texas State Historical Association.

Jones, Fredda Davis. *Comanche County History: Volume 1, Comanche County Family Histories*. Comanche County Historical Commission. Abilene, Texas: Ram Business Forms and Printing Services, 2008.

Jordan, Terry G. *Texas Log Buildings: A Folk Architecture*. Austin, Texas: University of Texas Press, 1975.

Lawrence, F. Lee. "Cunningham, James." *Handbook of Texas Online* (<http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/fcu64>), accessed January 4, 2012. Published by the Texas State Historical Association.

_____. *The Cunningham Legacy: To Grandma and Grandpa with Love*. Tyler, Texas: Privately Printed, 1989.

Lawrence, F. Lee Papers. Courtesy Amy and Randall Walton, Fort Worth, Texas.

Lipscomb, Carol A. "Comanche Indians," *Handbook of Texas Online* (<http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/bmc72>), accessed June 5, 2012. Published by the Texas State Historical Association.

Cunningham Homestead, Comanche (vic.), Comanche County, Texas

McAlester, Virginia and Lee. *A Field Guide to American Houses*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1995.

McCullar, Michael. *Restoring Texas: Raiford Stripling's Life and Architecture*. College Station: Texas A&M University Press, 1985.

Stripling, Raiford L. Collection. Series 13, Box 17, Folder 10a and 10b, Mountain Creek Ranch, Tyler, Texas [sic].
Cushing Memorial Library, Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas.

Walton, Randall. "Cunningham Homestead," National Register of Historic Places Nomination (Draft), 2011. Copy in the possession of Susan Allen Kline.

Wells, Eulalia Nabers, compiler. *Blazing the Way: Tales of Comanche County Pioneers*. Blanket, Texas: Published by author, 1942.

Cunningham Homestead, Comanche (vic.), Comanche County, Texas

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: less than one acre

Coordinates (either UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates)

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: NA

1. Latitude: 31.742952° Longitude: -98.522258°

Verbal Boundary Description: (see continuation sheet 10-25)

Boundary Justification: (see continuation sheet 10-25)

11. Form Prepared By

Name/title: Susan Allen Kline, Historic Preservation Consultant
Organization:
Street & number: 2421 Shirley Avenue
City or Town: Fort Worth State: Texas Zip Code: 76109
Email: sskline@sbcglobal.net
Telephone: 817-921-0127
Date: June 2012

Additional Documentation

Maps (see continuation sheets Map-26 through Map-28)

Additional items (see continuation sheets Plans-29 through Plans-31; Figure-32 through Figure-36)

Photographs (see continuation sheets Photo-5 through Photo-6)

Cunningham Homestead, Comanche (vic.), Comanche County, Texas

Verbal Boundary Description: Beginning at the north end of the stone wall located west of the house; proceed south to the intersection of the stone wall and the barbed wire fence; proceed east along the barbed wire fence to a point approximately nine feet east of the east wall of the kitchen; proceed north to the wood picket fence; proceed west along the wood picket fence to the point of beginning (see Map 3). These boundaries are within the James Cunningham Survey in Comanche County, Texas.

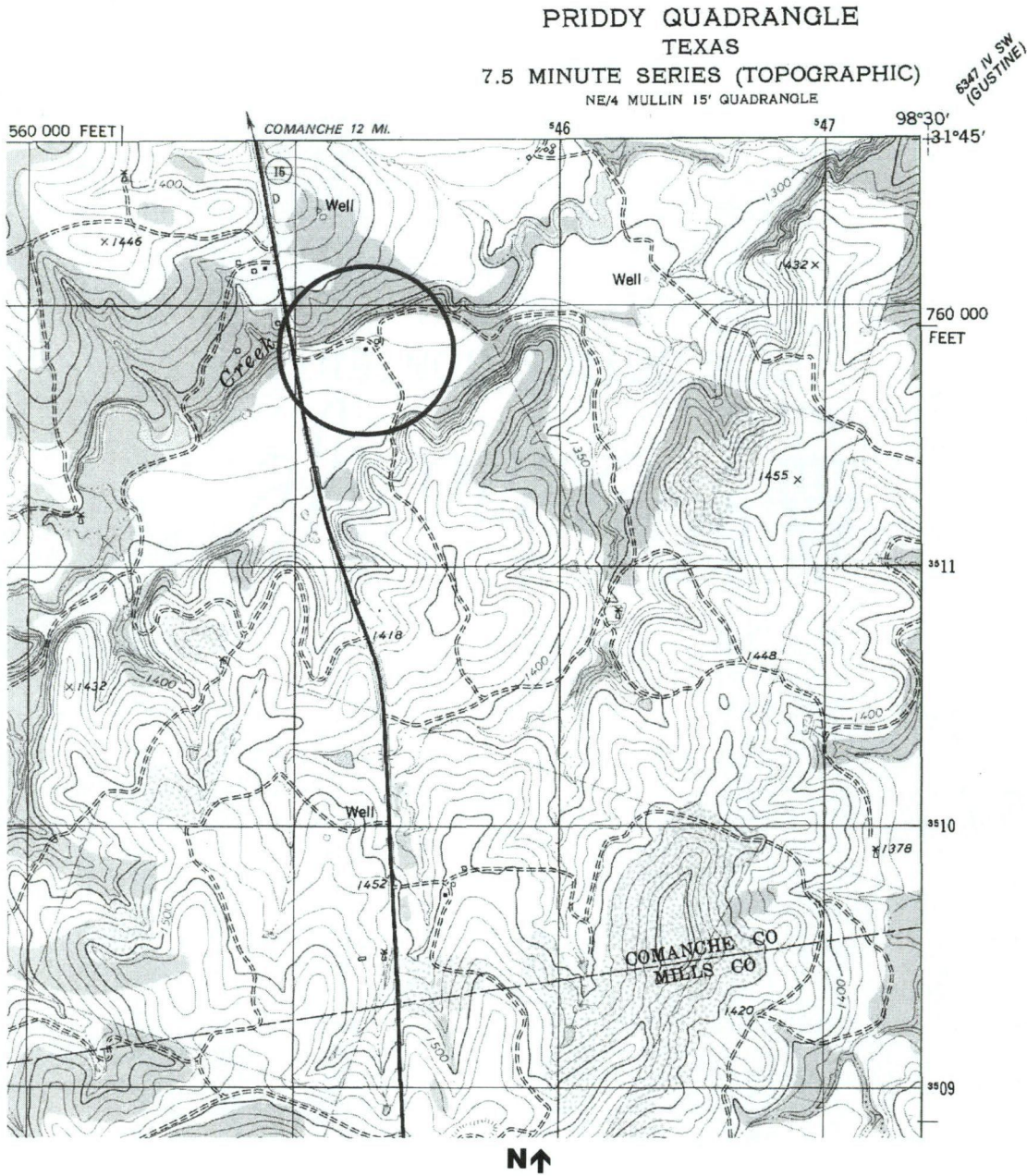
Boundary Justification: Although the surrounding setting retains a high degree of integrity, there are several buildings immediately adjacent to the Cunningham Homestead that have been substantially altered or were not present during the period of significance. After consultation with staff at the Texas Historical Commission, it was determined that only the house and a few adjacent structures should be included in the boundaries of the nominated property.

Cunningham Homestead, Comanche (vic.), Comanche County, Texas



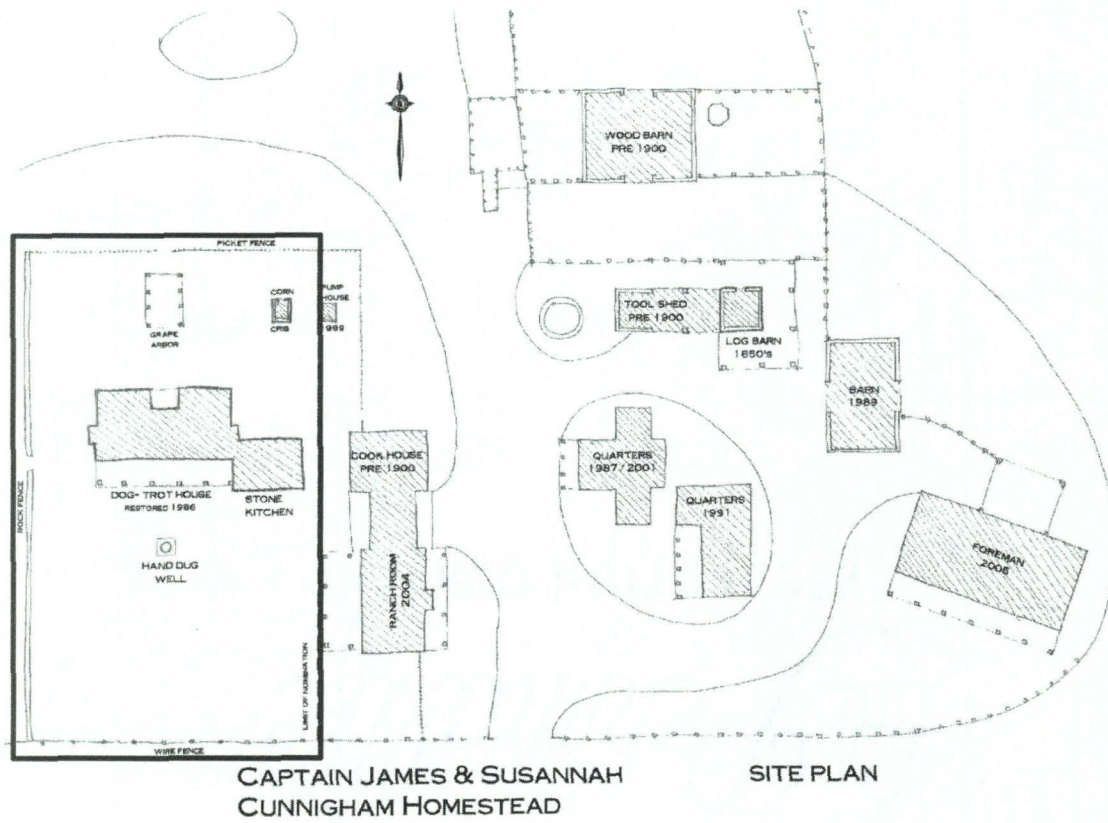
Map 1: 1856 Map of Comanche County showing the location of the 160-acre James Cunningham Survey. Texas General Land Office.

Cunningham Homestead, Comanche (vic.), Comanche County, Texas



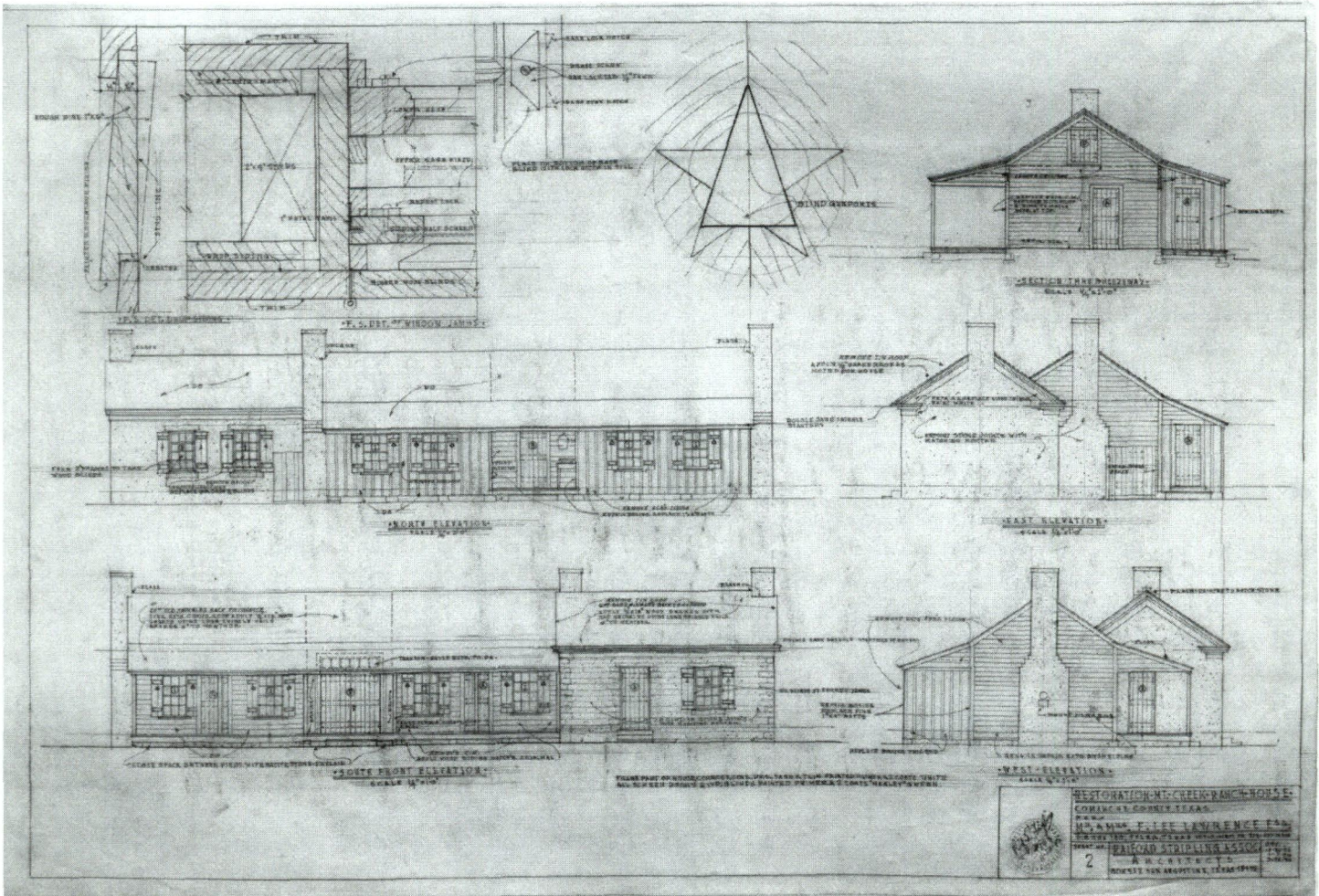
Map 2: Priddy Quadrangle showing location of the Captain James and Susannah Cunningham Homestead, 12.2 miles south of Comanche, Texas and approximately 1.5 miles north of the Comanche County-Mills County line.

Cunningham Homestead, Comanche (vic.), Comanche County, Texas



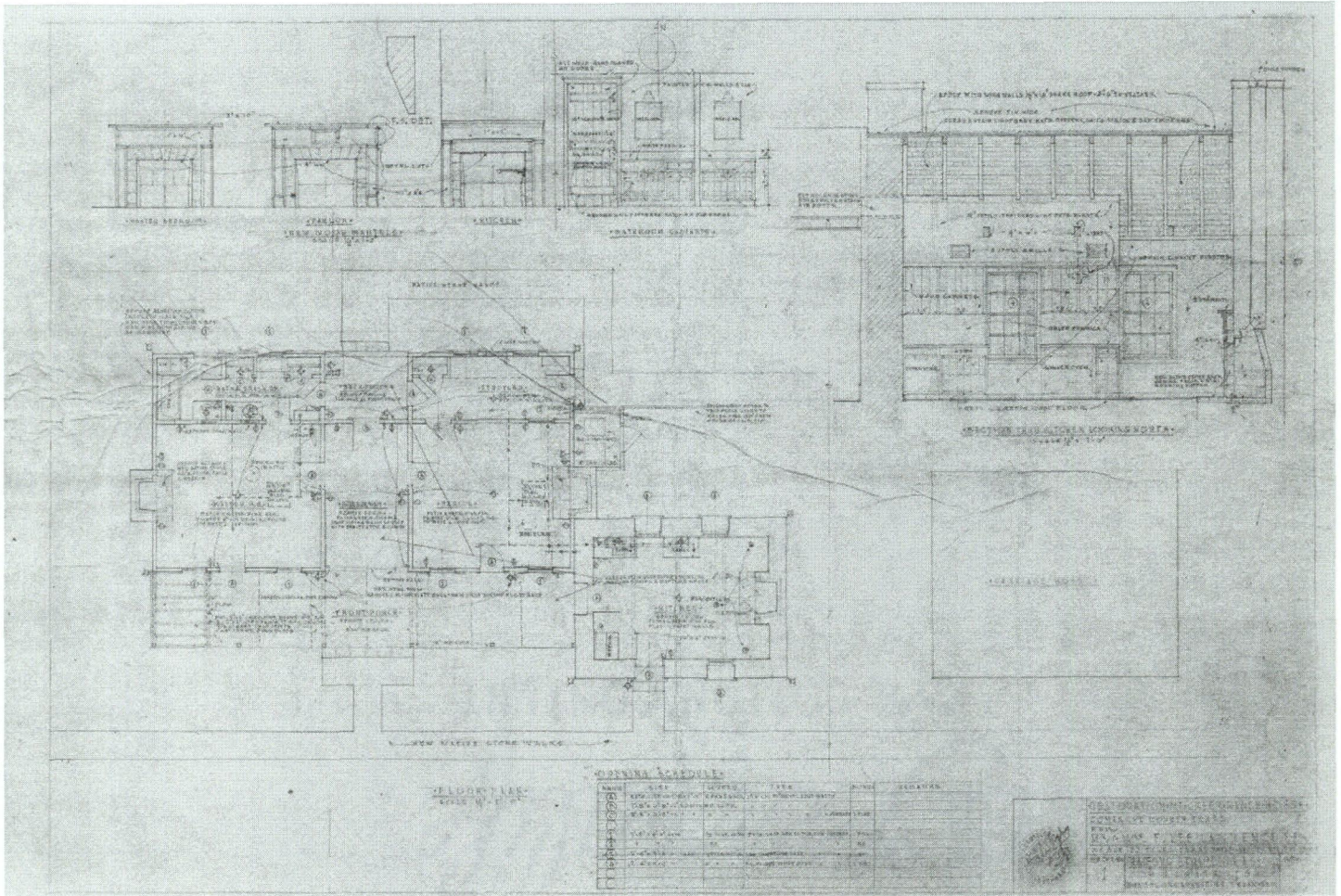
Map 3: Site plan for the Cunningham Homestead. Only the resources within the rectangle in the lower left corner are within the boundaries of the nominated property. *Courtesy Randall Walton, AIA (no scale).*

Cunningham Homestead, Comanche (vic.), Comanche County, Texas



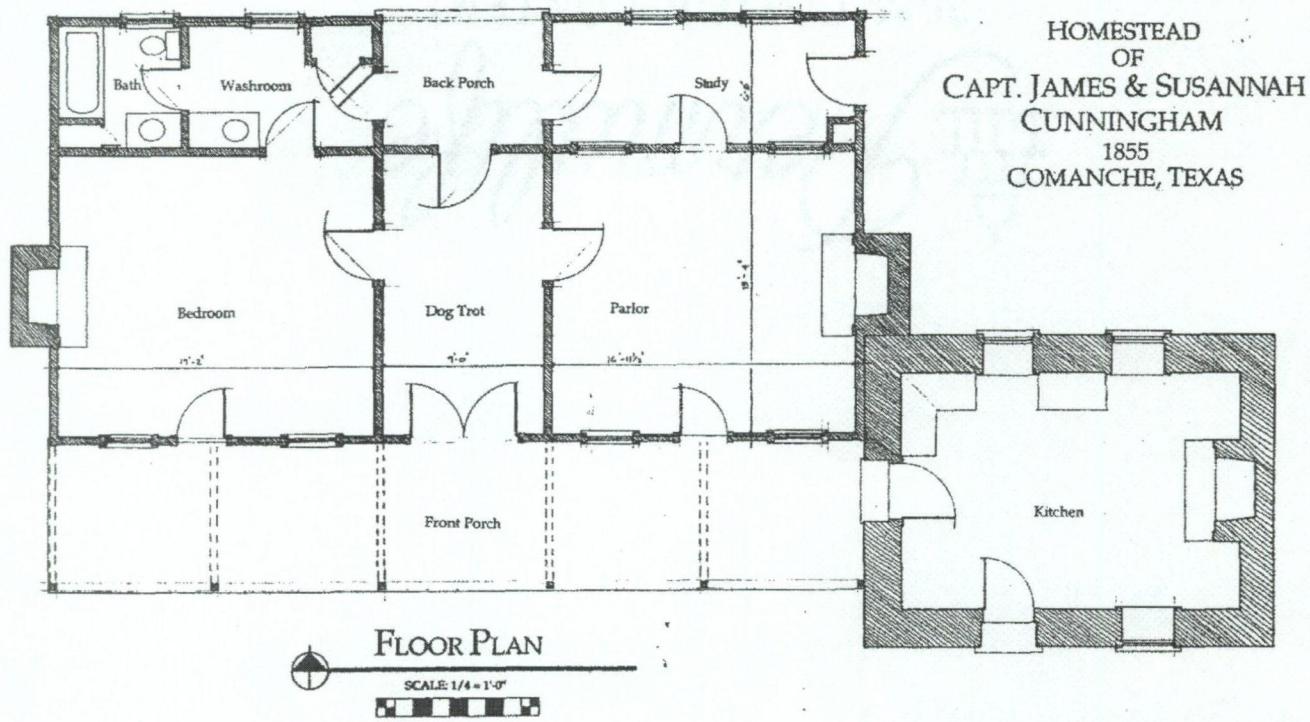
Plan 1. Early restoration plan showing star-shaped gun ports for use in shutters. The star design was modified to a triangle. *Courtesy* Raiford L. Stripling Collection. Mountain Creek Ranch, Tyler, Texas [sic]. Cushing Memorial Library, Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas.

Cunningham Homestead, Comanche (vic.), Comanche County, Texas



Plan 2: Interior plans by Raiford Stripling. *Courtesy Randall Walton, AIA.*

Cunningham Homestead, Comanche (vic.), Comanche County, Texas



Plan 3: Interior plan, Cunningham Homestead (scaled reduced). *Courtesy Randall Walton, AIA.*

Cunningham Homestead, Comanche (vic.), Comanche County, Texas



Figure 1: Cunningham Family on the porch of the family home. This photograph was taken at the first family reunion in 1889. Front row, left to right: David H., Aaron, Capt. James (1817-1894), Susannah (1817-1899), Elizabeth (Betty) Holmsley, and R. T. "Dick." Back row, left to right: John, W. H. "Bill," J. W. "Jim," J. J. "Joe," T.A. "Tom," George W., Mary "Jane," and Unity. *Courtesy Amy and Randall Walton.*



Figure 2: Looking southeast at north elevation, showing a portion of the rear porch enclosed, c. 1910. *Courtesy Amy and Randy Walton.*

Cunningham Homestead, Comanche (vic.), Comanche County, Texas



Figure 3: South elevation of kitchen, c. 1910. *Courtesy Amy and Randall Walton.*



Figure 4: South elevation of house and kitchen prior to 1986 restoration. *Courtesy Amy and Randall Walton.*

Cunningham Homestead, Comanche (vic.), Comanche County, Texas

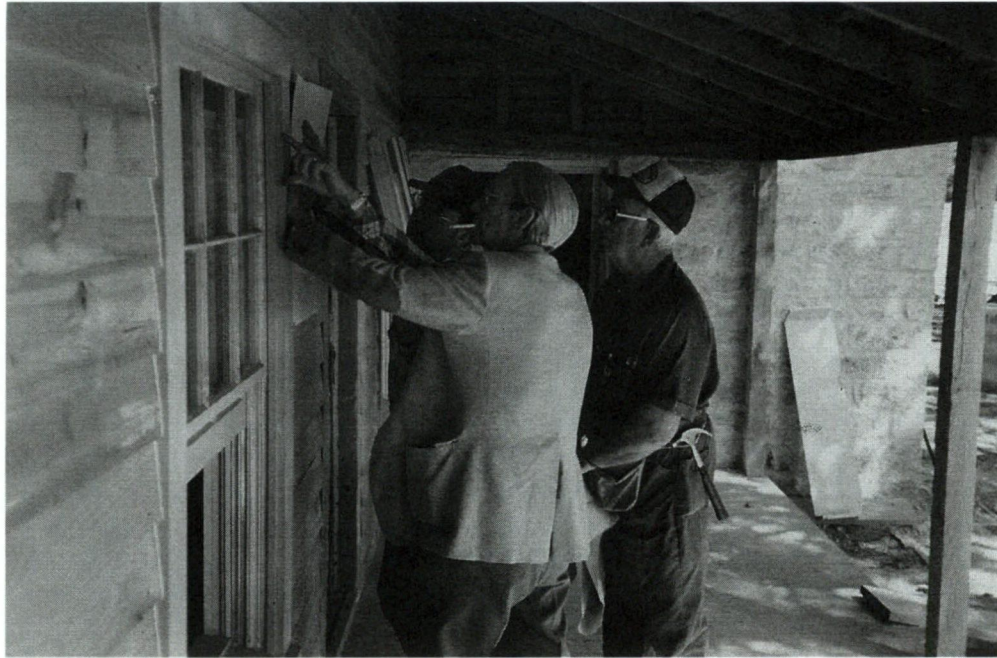


Figure 5: Restoration of the house in progress, 1986. Raiford Stripling's back is to the camera. *Courtesy Amy and Randy Walton.*



Figure 6: Photo taken during 1986 restoration showing original oak porch beam and new porch rafters. Raiford Stripling facing camera. *Courtesy Amy and Randall Walton.*

Cunningham Homestead, Comanche (vic.), Comanche County, Texas



Figure 7: Photograph taken during 1986 restoration showing historic oak framing at breezeway with mortise and tenon construction. *Courtesy Amy and Randy Walton.*

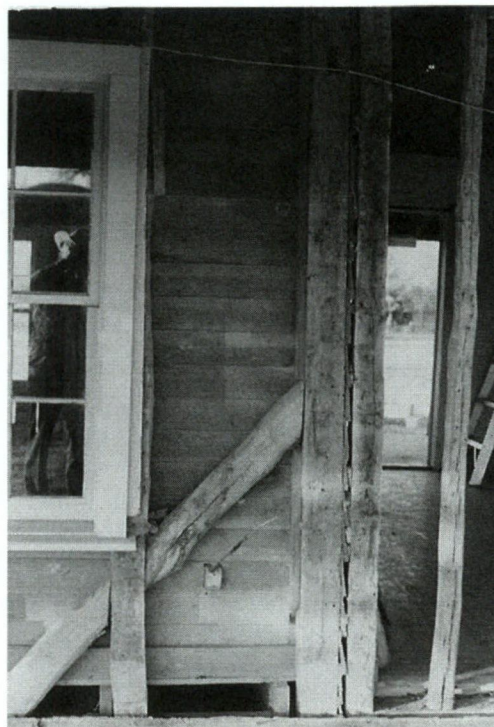


Figure 8: Historic diagonal oak framing revealed during 1986 restoration. *Courtesy Amy and Randall Walton.*

Cunningham Homestead, Comanche (vic.), Comanche County, Texas

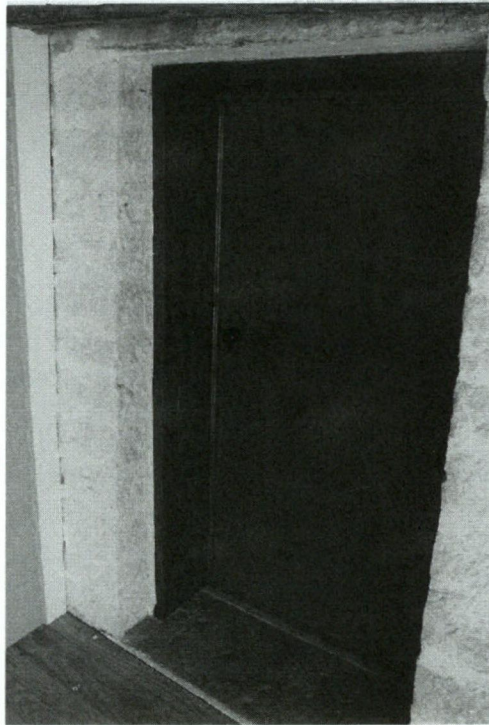


Figure 9: Black walnut door frame, west entrance to kitchen. *Courtesy Amy and Randall Walton.*

fin

Cunningham Homestead, Comanche (vic.), Comanche County, Texas

Photographs

All photos share the following information except as noted.

Photos printed on HP Premium Plus Photo Paper with HP 02 ink.

Name of Property: Captain James and Susannah Cunningham Homestead
City or Vicinity: Comanche (vicinity)
County, State: Comanche County, Texas
Photographer: Susan Allen Kline
Date Photographed: February 3, 2012

South elevations of house and kitchen; camera facing northwest
Photograph Number: 1

South elevations of house and kitchen (includes windmill); camera facing northeast
Photograph Number: 2

West wall (noncontributing) and south elevations of house and kitchen; camera facing northeast
Photograph Number: 3

West and north elevations of house; camera facing east/southeast
Photograph Number: 4

North (rear) elevation of house; camera facing southeast
Photograph Number: 5

North elevation of kitchen and east elevation of house; camera facing west
Photograph Number: 6

East elevation of kitchen; camera facing southwest
Photograph Number: 7

Interior: west wall of breezeway; camera facing west
Photograph Number: 8

Interior: east wall of parlor; camera facing east
Photograph Number: 9

Interior: small bedroom; camera facing east
Photograph Number: 10

Interior: west wall of master bedroom; camera facing west
Photograph Number: 11

Interior: east wall of master bedroom looking toward breezeway and parlor; camera facing east
Photograph Number: 12

Cunningham Homestead, Comanche (vic.), Comanche County, Texas

Interior: Bathroom; camera facing west
Photograph Number: 13

Interior: East wall of kitchen; camera facing east
Photograph Number: 14

Interior: Northwest corner of kitchen; camera facing northwest
Photograph Number: 15

Photographer: Steven C. Kline
Hand-dug stone-lined well; camera facing south
Photograph Number: 16

Grape arbor and picket fence (both noncontributing); camera facing north
Photograph Number: 17

Corncrib (noncontributing); camera facing northeast
Photograph Number: 18

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Cunningham, Captain James & Susannah, Homestead

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: TEXAS, Comanche

DATE RECEIVED: 10/19/12 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 11/19/12
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 12/04/12 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 12/05/12
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 12000999

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

 ACCEPT RETURN REJECT DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

The Captain James & Susannah Cunningham Homestead is locally significant under National Register Criteria A and C in the areas of Exploration/Settlement and Architecture. The modest-scaled, 1855 main house is an excellent local example of Double-pen Dogtrot construction, a common vernacular building form in the region during the early settlement period. Although most examples are typically of log construction, the Cunningham home displays oak framing and pine clapboard sheathing, as well as a handsome Greek Revival-inspired, stone kitchen addition. The homestead is associated with the earliest wave of settlement in the far western reaches of Anglo-European settlement in Texas during the mid-nineteenth century, and the efforts of stock-raising farmer, Civil War captain, and Indian fighter James Cunningham to tame the Texas frontier.

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept Criteria A+C

REVIEWER Paul Lusignan DISCIPLINE HISTORIAN

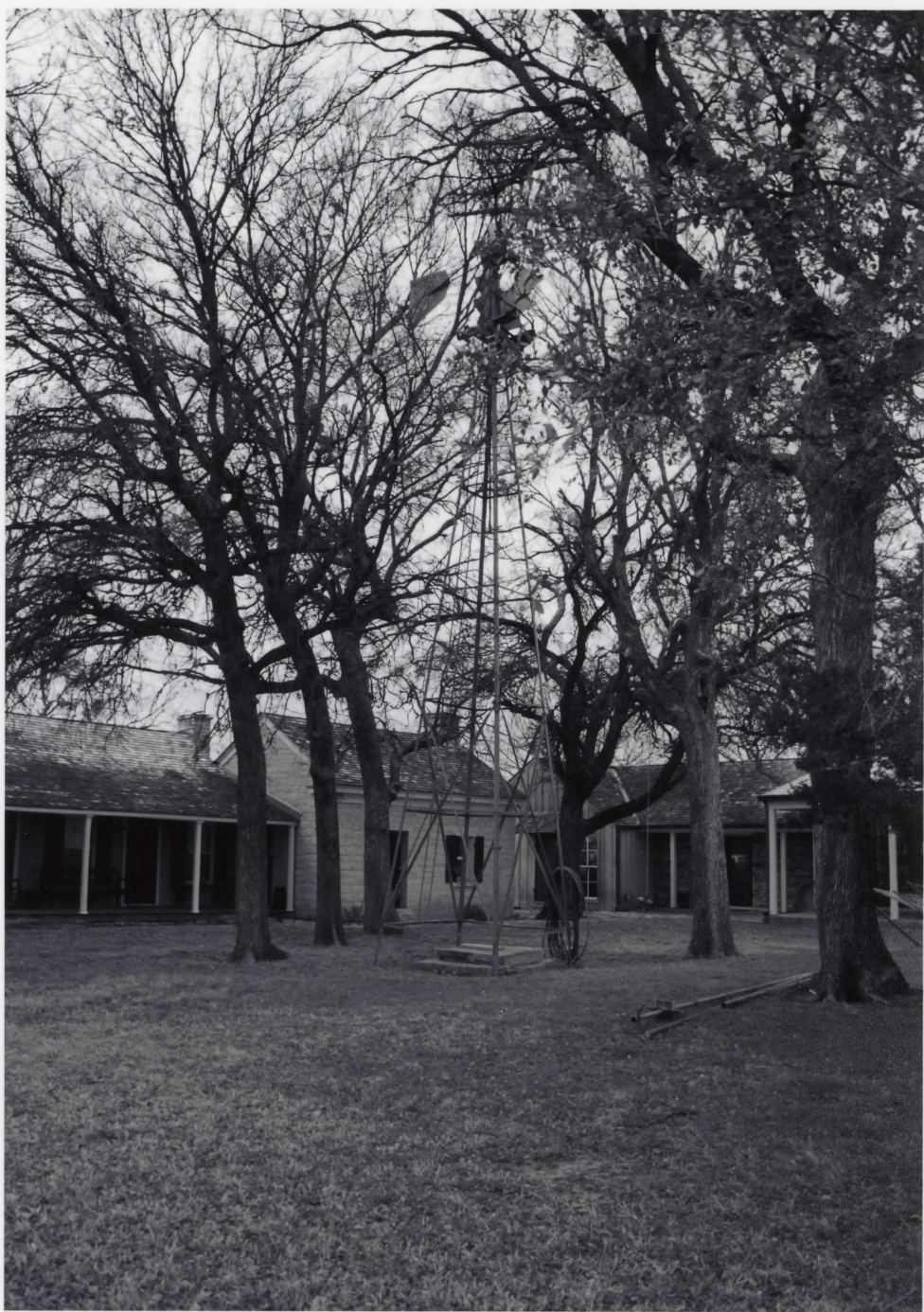
TELEPHONE _____ DATE 12/5/12

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR (Y/N)

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



TX_Comanche County - Captain James and Susannah
Cunningham Homestead - 0001



TX - Comanche County - Captain James and Susannah
Cunningham Homestead - 0002



TX - Comanche County - Captain James and Susannah
Cunningham Homestead - 0003.



TX - Comanche County - Captain James and Susannah
Cunningham Homestead - 0004



TX - Comanche County - Captain James and Susannah
Cunningham Homestead - 0005

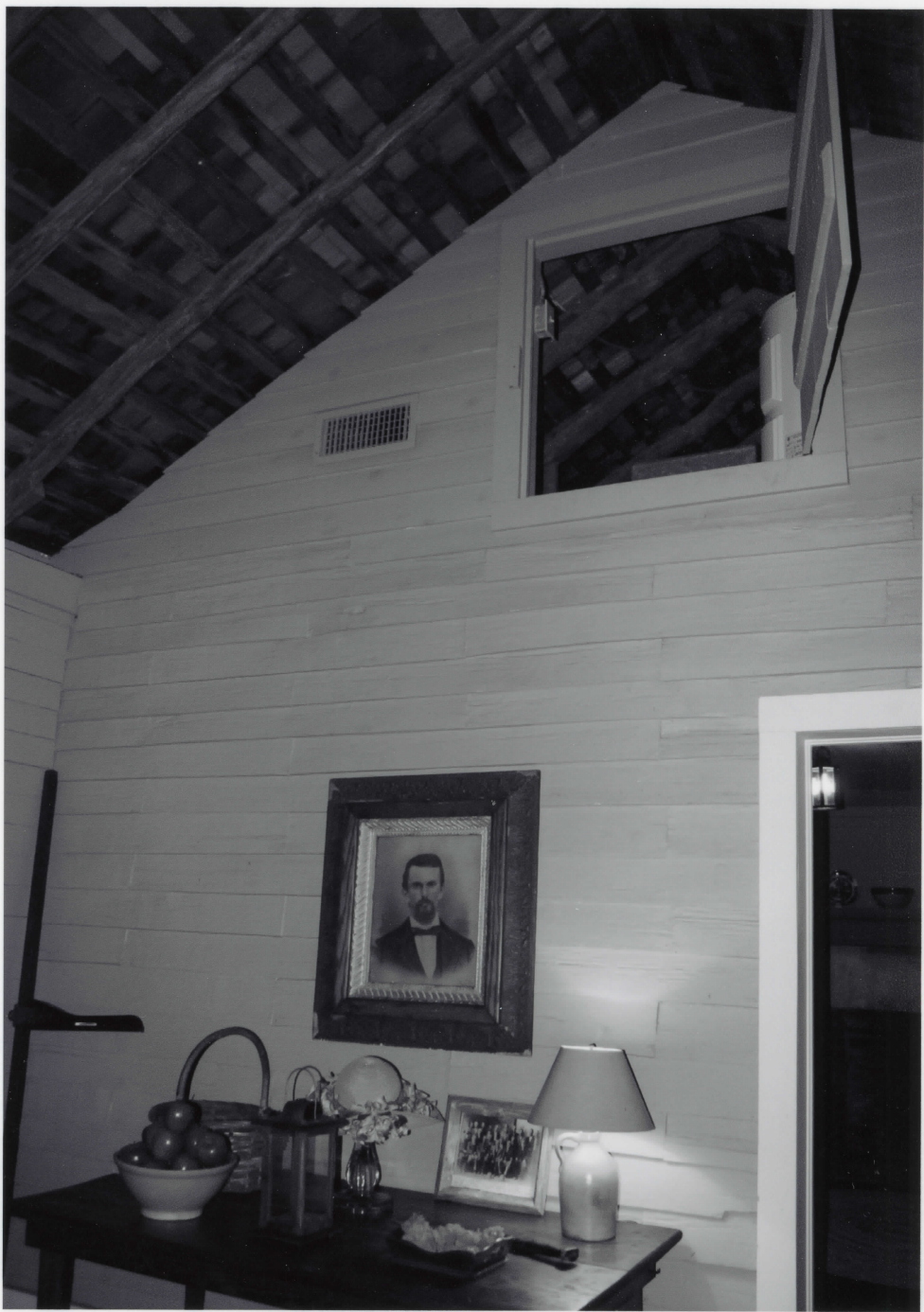


TX - Comanche County - Captain James and Susannah
Cunningham Homestead - 0006



TX - Comanche County - Captain James and Susannah
Cunningham Homestead - 0007

TX Comanche County - Captain James and Susannah
Cunningham Homestead - 0007



TX - Comanche County - Captain James and Susannah
Cunningham Homestead - 0008



TX - Comanche County - Captain James and Susannah
Cunningham Homestead - 0009



TX - Comanche County - Captain James and Susannah
Cunningham Homestead - 0010



TX - Comanche County - Captain James and Susannah
Cunningham Homestead - 2011



TX - Comanche County - Captain James and Susannah
Cunningham Homestead - 0012



TX - Comanche County - Captain James and Susannah
Cunningham Homestead - 0013



TX - Comanche County - Captain James and Susannah
Cunningham Homestead - 0014



TX - Comanche County - Captain James and Susannah
Cunningham Homestead - 0015



TX - Comanche County - Captain James and Susannah
Cunningham Homestead - 0016



TX - Comanche County - Captain James and Susannah
Cunningham Homestead - 0017

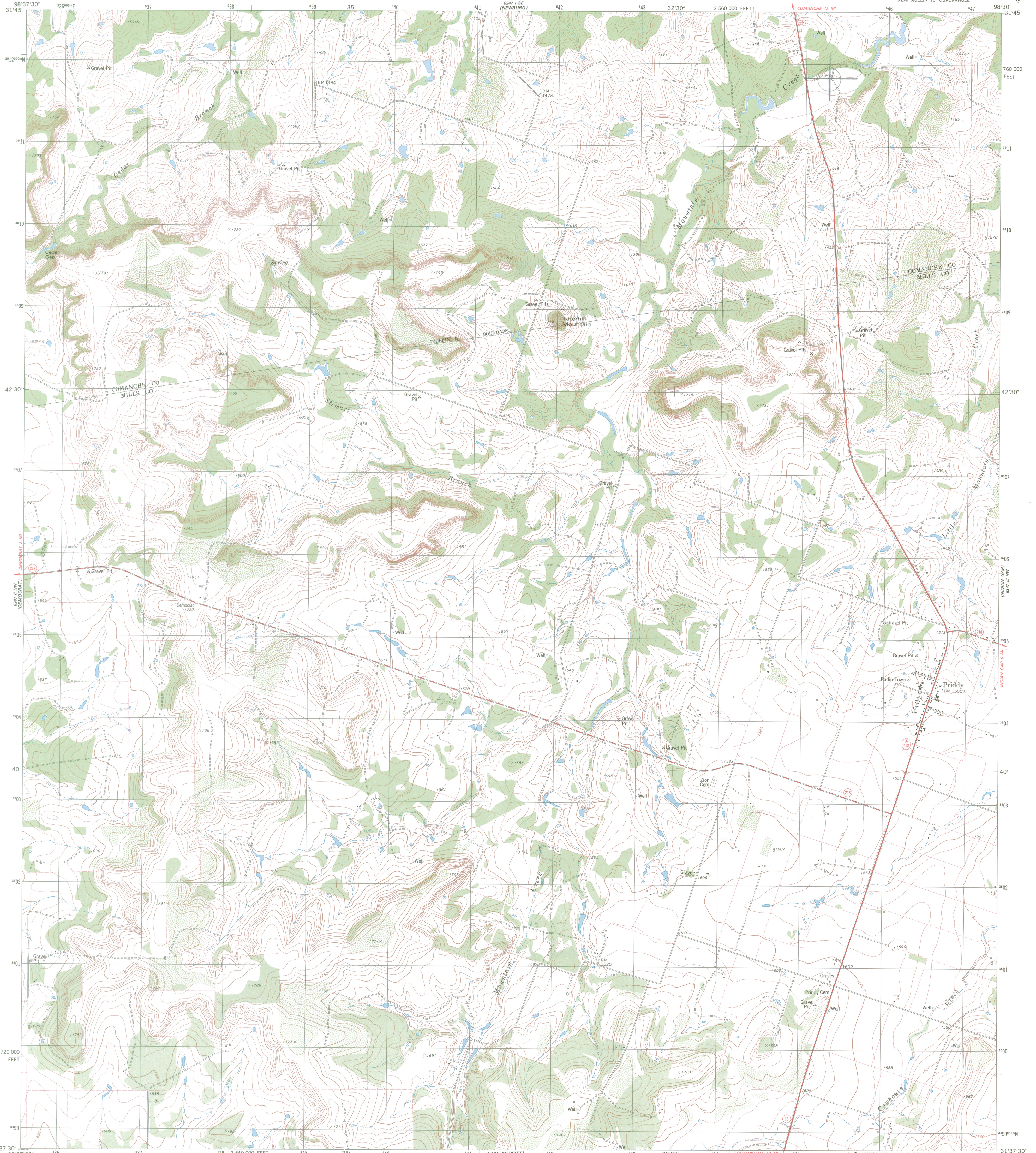


TX - Comanche County - Captain James and Susannah
Cunningham Homestead - 0018



Lat 31.742952°
Lon -98.522258°

James and Susannah Carvingham Homestead
Comanche vic PRIDDY QUADRANGLE
Comanche County TEXAS
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)
NE 4 MULLIN 15' QUADRANGLE

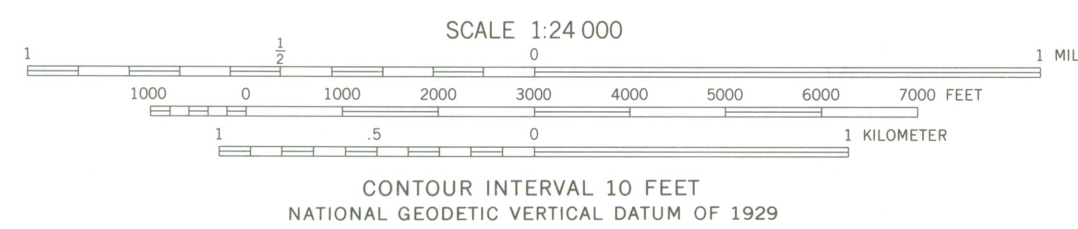
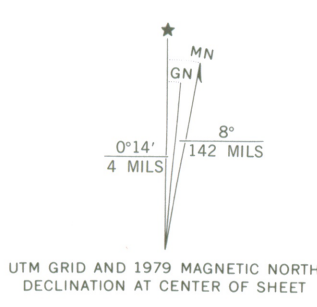


Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey

Control by USGS and NOS/NOAA
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs
taken 1975. Field checked 1976. Map edited 1979

Projection and 10,000-foot grid ticks: Texas
coordinate system, central zone (Lambert conformal conic)
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid, zone 14
1927 North American datum
To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983
move the projection lines 13 meters south and
31 meters east as shown by dashed corner ticks

Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence lines



QUADRANGLE LOCATION

ROAD CLASSIFICATION	
Primary highway, hard surface	Light-duty road, hard or improved surface
Secondary highway, hard surface	Unimproved road
Interstate Route	U. S. Route
	State Route

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

3198-314

MAPSCO, INC.
6353 CAMP BOWIE #101B
FORT WORTH, TEXAS 76116 817/731-1666

PRIDDY, TEX.
NE 4 MULLIN 15' QUADRANGLE
N3137.5-W9830/7.5

1979

DMA 6247 II NE-SERIES W882

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
real places telling real stories



TO: Paul Lusignan
National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places
1201 Eye Street, NW (2280)
Washington , DC 20005

FROM: Gregory Smith
Texas Historical Commission

RE: Cunningham Homestead, Comanche vicinity, Comanche County, Texas

DATE: October 16, 2012

- The following materials are submitted:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Original National Register of Historic Places form
	Resubmitted nomination
	Multiple Property Documentation form
	_ Resubmitted form
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Photographs printed from digital files
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Gold CD with TIFF photograph files
	Photographs printed from negatives
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	USGS map
	The nomination is on a revised form, per recent NRHP guidelines. A copy of a Google Earth map with UTM coordinates is provided in lieu of a hard copy USGS map.
	Correspondence – Notification of federal property owner (USPS)

