

BARRINGTON LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY

Please keep in mind that our animals help us recreate a typical Brazos Valley farm of the 1850s. The farm staff supplies the animals with balanced rations on a regular schedule, and for this reason, we ask that visitors do not attempt to feed the animals. Additionally, for the health of our livestock and for your safety, please refrain from touching, petting or grabbing the animals (especially the horns on the cattle). Thank you.

OSSABAW ISLAND HOGS

The hogs on Barrington Farm are descendants of Spanish pigs brought to the New World almost 500 years ago and left on islands to breed and become a food source. Although many of the hogs brought by the Spaniards escaped, became feral, and mixed with domestic pigs, the Ossabaw Hogs remained a distinct population because of their isolation on Ossabaw Island located off the coast of Georgia. The hogs of Barrington Farm descended from the original Spanish stock and look like the hogs of 19th-century Texas.

PINEYWOODS CATTLE AND TEXAS LONGHORNS

In addition to hogs, the Spaniards brought breeding stock of small, hardy cattle to use as food. The cattle survived, thrived and adapted, and soon herds of these Spanish cattle began to move across the Gulf Coast. The herds living in Florida, Georgia, Alabama and Mississippi had to survive in thick woods and brushy areas and became known as the Pineywoods, cousins of the Texas Longhorn. While similar in appearance to Longhorns, the Pineywoods are smaller and do not have the extreme horn length. The herds that came up from Mexico and into Texas mingled with cattle lost by eastern settlers, adapted to the wide-open plains, and developed the wide sets of long horns characteristic of the Texas Longhorn.

OXEN

Oxen are any breed of cattle that are four years old or older, have been trained to work while wearing a yoke, and provide the power and strength to move heavy loads and cultivate farmland. According to Dr. Jones' journals, on January 11, 1845, he "purchased one yoke of oxen of G.H. Harrison at \$40.00 and one of Dr. Robertson at \$30.00 and paid them in full." He eventually purchased several other teams of oxen. The oxen of Barrington Farm are used in the same way Dr. Jones used his oxen, seasonally, therefore, the teams might not always be in the fields.

POULTRY AND OTHER FOWL

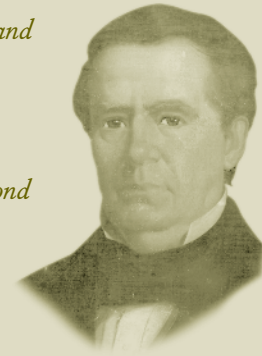
Like other farmers in Texas, Dr. Jones raised a variety of poultry and other birds for use as food and to provide eggs. Although he had few references to barnyard fowl in his journals, Dr. Jones' records indicated that the family kept a "mixed flock" which probably included chickens, ducks, geese, turkeys, pigeons and guineas. The flocks on Barrington Farm are a variety of birds one would have seen in Texas in the 19th century. Some of the more common breeds of the period included Dominique, Cochin, White-Crested Black Polish, and Araucana chickens and Black-Spanish turkeys.

LIFE ON THE FARM



*A self-guided tour of
Barrington Living
History Farm*

Welcome to Barrington Living History Farm and the home of the last president of the Republic of Texas, Dr. Anson Jones. As you explore the Farm, the numbered stops on this map correspond with the paragraphs in the brochure and will guide you during your journey.



You will also encounter costumed interpreters conducting themselves much like the people on the original Barrington Farm. Feel free to ask questions and take part in the same daily chores and the seasonal activities which allowed the Jones family and their slaves to survive during the latter years of the Republic of Texas and during early statehood. The changes of season bring on new activities, allowing the visitor to experience and understand what life was like on Barrington Farm over 150 years ago.

The Anson Jones home is the original structure built in 1844 and was moved to Washington-on-the-Brazos State Historic Site as part of the Texas Centennial Celebration in 1936. The outbuildings were recreated based on typical Texas architecture of the mid-19th century and information found in Dr. Jones' journals, diaries and account books. They represent the lifestyle of the Jones family and the slaves who lived and worked there.

As you tour the farm, please remember the collections of buildings, furnishings, household items and tools include many antiques and replicas which are vital in telling the Jones story. Please do not handle anything without staff supervision and permission.

ABOUT BARRINGTON FARM

Dr. Anson Jones arrived in Texas in 1833, settling in Brazoria, where he set up a medical practice and soon became involved in Texas politics. Dr. Jones actively served the Republic of Texas as a congressman, minister to the United States, senator and secretary of state. In 1844, at the height of his political career, Dr. Jones became president of the Republic and served one year until Texas became the 28th state in the Union at the end of 1845.

He met Mary Smith McCrory in 1837, and the couple married in May of 1840. Soon after his inauguration, the Jones family moved to Barrington Farm, which Dr. Jones named "Barrington after my native town in Massachusetts." The farm community included Jones, his wife, Mary, their four children, Dr. Jones' sister, Mary's four half-sisters, and the slaves. Dr. Jones sold Barrington at the end of 1857, and shortly after his death on January 9, 1858, the family moved to Galveston.

The Jones family shortly after Dr. Jones' death in 1858. From left to right: Sarah, 13; Samuel, 16; Charles, 14; Mary, 39; and Cromwell (Buddy), 7.



1. FARM HOUSE

The main house is a frame structure, commonly called a “dog-trot” or “dog run.” In January 1844, Dr. Jones “entered into an agreement with Mr. John Campbell” to construct the house and two log cabins, probably the separate kitchen and smokehouse. The house, built of pine, oak and cedar, served as the home of the Jones family from February 1845 until Mrs. Jones and the children moved to Galveston.

A. PORCH AND DOGTROT

Can you feel a breeze as you step onto the porch and into the dogtrot? The home faces southeast, bringing the wind through the dogtrot and allowing the family to remain comfortable and engage in all types of activities, even on a hot summer day. When the seasons changed from summer to fall, and the cold north winds began to blow through the dogtrot, activities moved inside.

B. MASTER BEDROOM (first door on the left)

In 1850, Dr. and Mrs. Jones slept in this room, perhaps sleeping on a mattress of corn leaves in the summer and feathers in the winter. They shared the room with their two youngest children, five-year-old Sarah and baby Cromwell, with Sarah in the trundle bed and Cromwell close to his mother in the cradle. It was not unusual for children to sleep in the bedroom with their parents until around the age of eight.

C. BACK BEDROOM (second door on the left)

Miss Mary Jones, Dr. Jones’ older sister, possibly occupied this back bedroom from 1850 until she left Barrington in 1856. While living on the farm, Miss Jones taught school lessons to the children, perhaps in this room, in the parlor, or maybe on the dogtrot.

D. STAIRS LEADING TO THE UPSTAIRS DORMITORIES

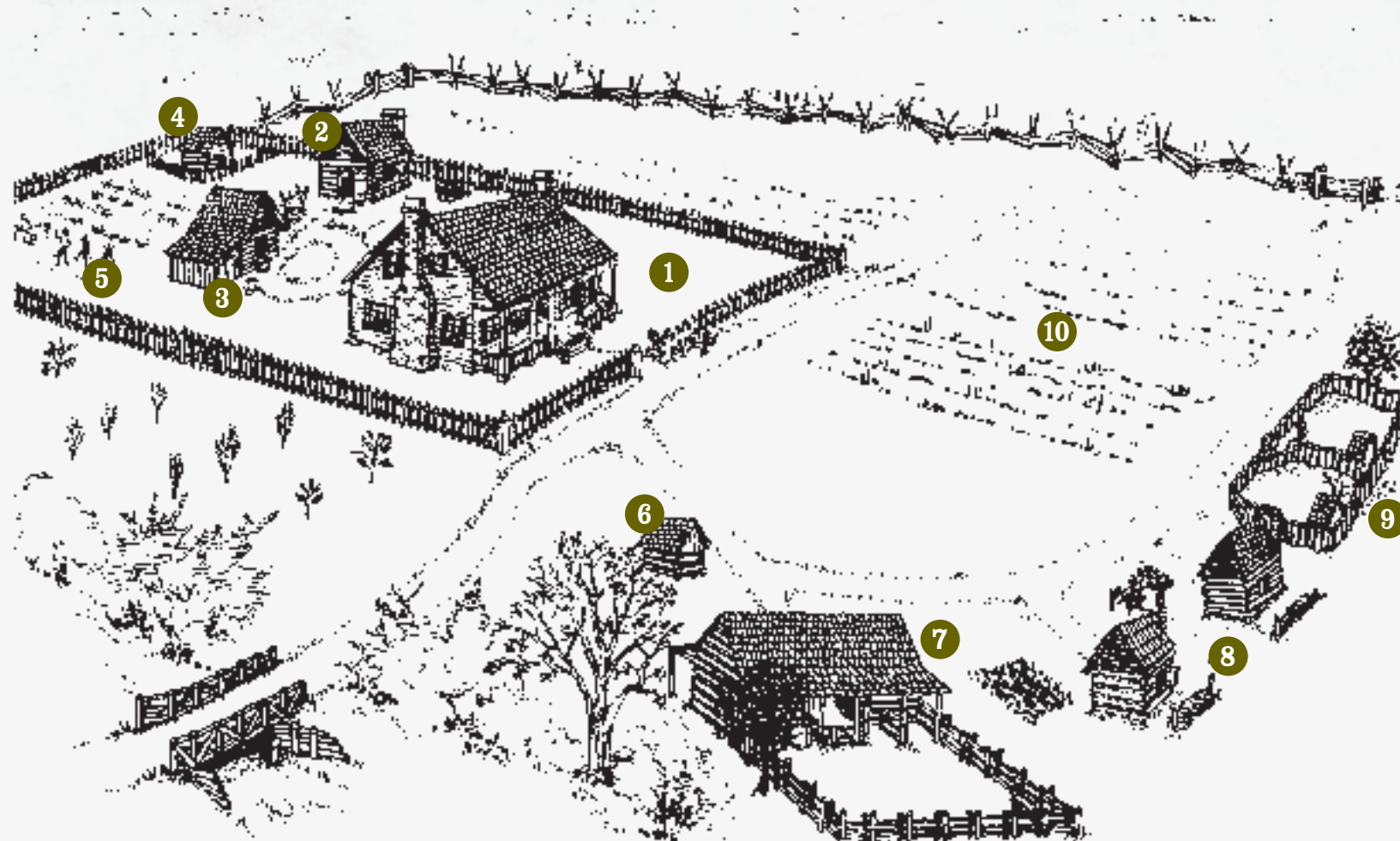
(on right, but closed to the public due to the steepness of the stairs) Each night the older children made their way up the stairs to go to bed in the large rooms which Dr. Jones referred to as the “east and west dormitories.” Two windows in each room helped with air circulation, but there is no indication either room ever had a fireplace for warmth. Today neither room is furnished.

E. PARLOR (first room on the right)

The most formal room in the house served as a setting for Dr. Jones to entertain guests, to house his personal library, and as an office in which to write letters. It also served as a place where the Jones family gathered to spend time together. What kinds of games and activities might the Jones children have played in this room?

F. DINING ROOM (second room on the right)

The family probably used the dining room during the cooler months while eating on the dogtrot during the warmer months. Charity, the slave cook, served mostly pork, corn, an assortment of vegetables and fruits, and breads. Occasionally, Charity served up wild game and poultry, but seldom served beef since it was reserved for special occasions.



2. KITCHEN

The most common outbuilding on Texas farms was the kitchen. Built separately from the house due to heat and fire concerns, this hub of domestic activity stayed hot year-round with all of the meals cooking over the open fire. Can you smell the wood smoke from the fires used to prepare the meals? Can you imagine how uncomfortable this kitchen would get in the middle of the summer as Charity kept a continual fire burning for food preparation?



3. SMOKEHOUSE

During the coldest winter months, the family and the slaves butchered several dozen hogs in order to have enough meat to eat throughout the year. How did they keep the hams, bacon and sausage fresh for a year without refrigeration? After butchering, the pork was packed in salt for about a month. To finish the preservation process, the meat was wrapped in cloth and smoked over a low fire 24 hours a day for about a week. Not cooked, but preserved, the meat then cured in the cool, dark smokehouse for the rest of the year until use. The smokehouse also provided a place to store other foodstuffs such as potatoes.

4. CHICKEN/DUCK COOP

According to Dr. Jones’ journals, when the family moved to Barrington in 1845, they brought with them turkeys, ducks and 12 chickens. Even though the birds usually wandered around in the yard and gardens, by 1848, the journals indicate Dr. Jones had built a chicken house and a pigeon house which provided a place for the hens to lay their eggs. Although Dr. Jones’ birds roamed freely, why do you think the birds you see here are behind a fence?



5. KITCHEN GARDEN

Dr. Jones gained his knowledge of planting from his friendship with Thomas Affleck, a leading authority on agriculture in Texas at that time. The kitchen garden was essential to survival, and entries in Jones’ journals indicate that his gardens produced a wide variety of vegetables and fruits. Dr. Jones also raised oats, rye and wheat, and his journals indicate that on September 9, 1846, his family “had wheat bread from wheat raised at Barrington.”

6. CORN AND COTTON CRIB

On the 1,107 acres of Barrington Farm, Dr. Jones farmed 50 acres of cotton and 20 to 80 acres of corn. He also constructed several log buildings, or “cribs,” used to store these crops. Corn cribs were used to house the grain needed to feed people and animals on the farm, while cotton cribs were used to store cotton crops until Dr. Jones could bring his cotton to Washington for ginning and baling at Mr. Lott’s or Mr. Cooper’s cotton gins.

7. BARN

In September 1845, Dr. Jones writes in his journal that a carpenter named John Campbell “raised and completed barn and stables ...” The double-crib barn of Barrington Farm provided storage for the tools and for animal feed and fodder. The stalls located behind the barn provide shelter to animals, while the enclosed portion of the stall serves as a coop for the other poultry.

8. SLAVE QUARTERS

According to Dr. Jones’ journals, a slave house was built July 1845. It was “raised” on July 22 and roofed on July 28 with “boards and laths” (a thin narrow strip of wood nailed to rafters) hauled from the Brazos River bottom. The two reproduction quarters resemble typical cabins provided for the slaves in mid-19th-century Texas: single pen, log structures with dirt or wood floors, and a mud-and-stick chimney. However, in 1847, Dr. Jones obtained “rock for chimney to Negro cabin,” possibly for a chimney and fireplace in a new cabin.

Jerry, Willis, Jake, Mary, Lucy and Amy were just a few of the occupants of the quarters, and they served as everything from field hands to house servants. Throughout his time at Barrington Farm, Dr. Jones allowed his slaves Sundays off to “do their own work,” with an occasional Saturday afternoon off as well as an annual Christmas holiday.

9. HOGPEN

In November 1846, Barrington Farm saw the addition of a cedar rail pigpen. During part of the year, Dr. Jones, like most farmers, allowed his hogs to range freely and take care of themselves. In the fall, as butchering time drew near, farmers rounded up the hogs, penning them up and feeding them until butchering time in the colder part of the year.

10. FIELD CROPS

Throughout his time at Barrington Farm, corn and cotton remained Dr. Jones’ most important crops, as they were for most farmers in Texas. Dr. Jones grew corn as food for his family, slaves and animals, as well as for sale to his neighbors, while cotton was his main money crop. Records of turnips, black-eyed peas, pumpkins, watermelons, muskmelons and peanuts also appear in Jones’ journals.