

The Wofford House is open  
**Monday—Friday**  
from  
**8 am till 5 pm.**

**Arboretum Daily Admission:**

Adults \$4.00

Children Ages (3+) \$1.00 Ages 3 and  
under are **FREE**

Students & Senior Adults \$3.00

**FREE** to Arboretum Members

**Hours:**

Open Daylight until Dusk

Open 7 days a week – 365 Days a year

(Closed for Special Events)

The East Texas Arboretum gratefully  
acknowledges

The Effie and Wofford Cain Foundation  
and  
The Hillcrest Foundation

As major donors for the relocation and  
restoration of the Bushrod W.J.  
Wofford Home.



Historical Marker received in 2002

**Mission Statement**

The mission of the East Texas Arboretum and Botanical Society, Inc. is to display, research and interpret the natural environment of the plant communities of East Texas, to introduce species, to provide educational activities for children and adults, to represent the past, present, and future of East Texas, and to exhibit formal gardens while maintaining the natural attributes of the site.

**Mailing Address:**

ETABS. PO BOX 2231

**Physical Address:**

1601 Patterson Road  
Athens, Texas 75751

**Phone:** 903.675.5630

**Web Site:**

[www.easttexasarboretum.org](http://www.easttexasarboretum.org)



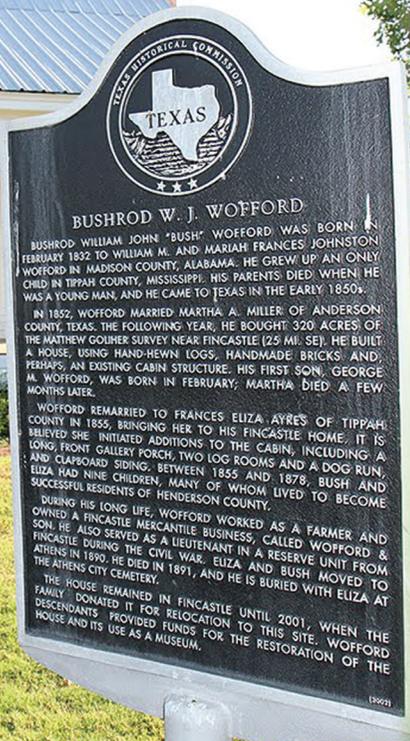
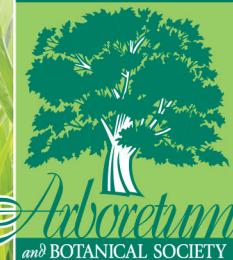
# Bushrod W.J. Wofford House



Originally built in 1851, the  
home is a good example of early  
Texas architecture. The Wofford  
House is now a museum located  
at the East Texas Arboretum in  
Athens, Texas.



EAST TEXAS



## Fincastle, Texas

In the 1850's Fincastle was a prosperous little community located 19 miles southeast of Athens. Fincastle had a school, mercantile stores, a blacksmith shop, and many homes. One of the successful mercantile stores was owned by Bushrod W.J. Wofford, whose farm was about three miles east of town.

For about 15 years, Fincastle was quite a business center; then the railroad was constructed through Poynor and most businesses and the population migrated to the new railroad site.



**The Fincastle Cemetery is the only reminder of a once bustling community.**

## Wofford House Heritage Gardens

Perennial plants that would have been around in the mid-1800s grace the yard of the Wofford House. Climbing Pinkie roses are inside the front fence, and hedge-type Old Blush are outside. Plants include sage, rosemary, heritage petunia, daisy, black-eyed susan, nandina, bridal wreath, canna, hydrangea and Gardenia. Trees include Red Oak, Crape Myrtle and Live Oak.

Plants from the gardens of Viola Hester Boyd are crinum lilies, many kinds of irises, daylilies, four o'clocks, lycoris bulbs and althea. These gardens are dedicated to her memory.

The Kitchen Garden includes various annual vegetables such as squash, okra, tomatoes and various greens. Herbs in an adjacent garden are used for cooking as well as medicinal purposes. These were often the only medicines available in the 1800's.



## History of the Wofford Home

Bushrod W.J. Wofford (1832-1891), born in Alabama and raised in Mississippi, came to Texas in 1851 and bought land near Fincastle. He built a log house of two rooms on either side of a breezeway called a dogtrot, with a fireplace at each outer side. The house was made with pine logs, later covered with clapboard and oak lumber from trees found on the farm.

Floor joists were made of split pine logs. Bricks for the fireplaces were handmade and fired on the property. The hearths of the front fireplaces today are of the original brick. The two main ridge beams, each 55 feet long, were hewn from single pine trees without a splice. These beams can be seen from the attic.

Additions were made to the house as the family grew. Rooms were added behind each of the original ones but were built of clapboard without the hewn logs. The room on the west side had a fireplace. Later, two more rooms were added at the back of the dogtrot, making a cross breezeway. A fireplace was placed in between the two rooms.

The original kitchen was built separately from the main house, as was the custom. It eventually fell into disrepair and was torn down. The back room became a kitchen with a wood stove.

A hand-dug well was located near the back of the house, and a storm cellar near the side stored preserved vegetables and provided safety for the family during severe storms.

The land with the house was leased to tenant farmers for many years. After the house was no longer being lived in, vandals and nature took their toll. The Wofford descendants, who had owned the property, graciously donated the house to the Arboretum in 2001, where it was restored and stands today as a museum and reminder of the early pioneer spirit and way of life.

**A corn crib barn and farm equipment dated from the 1800's located behind the house are recent additions to the museum.**



**Christmas at the Wofford House**