

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Oklahoma	
COUNTY: Mayes	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 71.7.40.0012	DATE 7/27/71

1. NAME

COMMON:  
Cabin Creek Battlefield

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Near Cabin Creek, about 3 m. north of

CITY OR TOWN:  
Pensacola (Center of Sec. 12, T 23 N, R 20 E)

STATE Oklahoma	CODE 40	COUNTY: Mayes	CODE 097
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3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:  
Oklahoma Historical Society (and private owners)

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Historical Building

CITY OR TOWN:  
Oklahoma City

STATE:  
Oklahoma

CODE:  
40

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Office of the County Clerk

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Mayes County Courthouse

CITY OR TOWN:  
Pryor

STATE:  
Oklahoma

CODE:  
40

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
Cabin Creek Battlefield

DATE OF SURVEY: 1966  
 Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
Oklahoma Historical Society

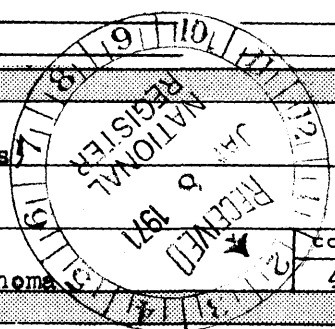
STREET AND NUMBER:  
Historical Building

CITY OR TOWN:  
Oklahoma City

STATE:  
Oklahoma

CODE:  
40

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



STATE: Oklahoma

COUNTY: Mayes

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

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JAN 9 1971

**7. DESCRIPTION**

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

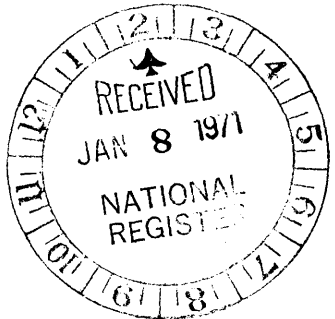
At present, the 125 acres of land on which the two Civil War Cabin Creek engagements were fought consists of a section of Cabin Creek, a densely wooded hilly area above both banks of the creek, and a portion of rolling prairie under cultivation. An Oklahoma Historical Society marker, emphasizing the Second Cabin Creek Engagement, is located on U. S. 69, about one mile north of Patton and eight miles west of the combat location. The site is readily accessible to all highway traffic by all-weather county road.

A ten-acre fenced area of Cabin Creek Battlefield is owned and maintained as a memorial plot by the Oklahoma Historical Society. A large stone monument erected in 1961 on this location by the Vinita Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy commemorates the Second Cabin Creek Engagement. Both engagements at Cabin Creek were fought in the same approximate location. In 1966 the Vinita Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy deeded the ten-acre plot to the Oklahoma Historical Society. A small marker erected by the Oklahoma Historical Society at the site acknowledges this gift.

Aside from the Oklahoma Historical Society memorial plot, the Cabin Creek engagement area is located on private property. The unmarked, mass graves of the Confederates who fell at Cabin Creek in 1864 may be seen immediately outside the fence surrounding the memorial plot. Nearby, at the edge of the bluff on the south and west side of the creek, is where Confederate cannons were placed in defense of the crossing. Tradition has it that one of the cannons fell from the bluff during the 1864 engagement and still lies in a deep pool in the creek below.

The original appearance of Cabin Creek Battlefield was quite similar to today. Much of the area was heavily wooded as at present; agriculture has made few encroachments. The old U. S. Military Road is no longer open across Cabin Creek, and a small log stockade present during the Civil War years no longer stands. The bed of Cabin Creek has shifted but little since the Civil War. Virtually no erosion has occurred to the bluffs above Cabin Creek since the war.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



**SIGNIFICANCE**

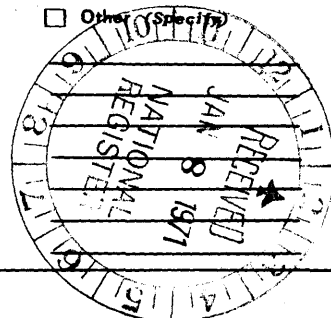
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian |  16th Century |  18th Century |  20th Century  
 15th Century |  17th Century |  19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) July 1 and 2, 1863; September 18 and 19, 1864

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |   |   |  |  |
|---|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal     | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input type="checkbox"/> Political                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric    | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy       | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic       | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Science                   |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture    | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture                 |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture   | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian       |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art            | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater                   |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation   |   |  |  |



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

First Cabin Creek Engagement. On July 1 and 2, 1863, Colonel Stand Watie of the Confederate Army attempted to intercept, on the U. S. Military Road at Cabin Creek, a Union supply train enroute from Fort Scott, Kansas, to Fort Gibson, Indian Territory. Watie was expecting 1,500 reinforcements from Brigadier General William L. Cabell in Arkansas as he stationed his men on Cabin Creek preparatory to the attack.

Colonel James M. Williams, acting as wagon train guard, had news of Watie's plans, and when the flooding waters of the creek receded, drove the Confederates from their positions across the creek with brisk artillery fire and two cavalry charges. Watie had hoped to hold out for a day or two awaiting help from Cabell, who could not cross the Grand River because of high water. Thus the advantage rested with the Federals, and the wagon train then proceeded unmolested to Fort Gibson.

This engagement is significant because Federal victory meant Fort Gibson received reinforcements and supplies, making it possible for the United States not only to hold this position in Indian Territory, but to take the offensive that removed a large Confederate Army from the Honey Springs Depot, rewon for the United States a large portion of Indian Territory, and ended in the capitulation of Fort Smith Arkansas.

Second Cabin Creek Engagement. The outstanding Confederate military achievement of 1864 in Indian Territory was the brilliant capture by Brigadier General Stand Watie and Brigadier General Richard M. Gano of a Federal supply train at Cabin Creek on September 18 and 19. Watie and Gano, with a combined force of 2,300 men, were making a demonstration up the Grand River valley above Fort Gibson, simultaneous to the raid of Major General Sterling Price of the Confederate Army through Missouri toward Kansas.

Watie and Gano had recently burned 3,000 tons of hay and had killed a party of about forty Federal Negro troops engaged in the harvest. They continued by the Texas Road to Cabin Creek, where they encountered a large Federal supply train, enroute from Fort Scott, Kansas, to Fort Gibson. The train contained food, clothing,

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Britton, Wiley, The Civil War on the Border (2 Vols., New York, 1890-1904), Vol. II, pp. 87-100.  
 Cubage, Annie Rosser, "Engagement at Cabin Creek, Indian Territory, July 1 and 2, 1863," The Chronicles of Oklahoma, Vol. X (March 1932), pp. 44-51.  
 Epple, Jess C., Battle of Cabin Creek, September 18-19, 1864, (Muskogee, Oklahoma, 1964), 91 pp.  
 Hancock, Marvin J., "The Second Battle of Cabin Creek, 1864," The Chronicles of Oklahoma, Vol. XXXIX (Winter 1961-1962), pp. 414-426.  
 United States War Department, War of the Rebellion (4 Series, 128 Vols., Washington, 1880-1901), Ser.1, Vol. XXII, Pt.1, pp. 378-382, Ser.1,

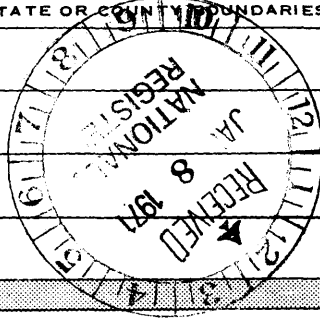
**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA Vol. XLI, Pt. 1, pp. 764-794.**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES				
CORNER	LATITUDE				LONGITUDE				
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	36°	29'	18"	95°	7'	23"			
NE	36°	29'	18"	95°	7'	8"			
SE	36°	28'	50"	95°	7'	8"			
SW	36°	28'	50"	95°	7'	23"			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 0.10 acres 200

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE: LeRoy Fischer and Kent Ruth

ORGANIZATION: Oklahoma Historical Society DATE: January 1971

STREET AND NUMBER: Oklahoma Historical Building

CITY OR TOWN: Oklahoma City STATE: Oklahoma CODE: 40

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name: Suzanne N. Shum

Title: Liaison officer for Oklahoma

Date: JAN 7 1971

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Ernest A. Combs  
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 7/27/71

ATTEST:

William M. ...  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: 7-7-71

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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
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(Number all entries)

No. 8. Significance

Cabin Creek Battlefield

and other provisions valued at \$1,500,000 intended for the 16,000  
refugee Indians loyal to the United States in and around Fort Gibson.

The Confederates partially encircled the Federal force of 610 men  
guarding the train and subjected it to an effective fire. Meantime,  
the mule teams became unmanageable and stampeded, causing teamsters and  
wagon-masters, along with the train guard, to hastily retreat in the  
direction of Fort Scott. The Confederates burned the disabled wagons,  
killed the crippled mules, and took over the remaining 130 wagons and  
740 mules.

Success came too late. While Confederates in the Territory were  
greatly encouraged by this victory, the Federals soon replaced their  
loss, supplied Fort Gibson, and no longer considered Watie and Gano a  
serious menace. This was the last major engagement of the Civil War in  
Indian Territory.

