

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	JUN 25 1975
DATE ENTERED	OCT 10 1975

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Blue Hawk Peak Ranch

AND/OR COMMON

Pawnee Bill Ranch

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

On west edge of
CITY, TOWN

NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Pawnee

VICINITY OF

No. 1

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Oklahoma

40

Pawnee

117

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
			<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
			<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

The State of Oklahoma

STREET & NUMBER

State Capitol

CITY, TOWN

Oklahoma City

VICINITY OF

STATE

Oklahoma

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Office of the County Clerk

STREET & NUMBER

Pawnee County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Pawnee

STATE

Oklahoma

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Oklahoma Historic Sites Survey

DATE

1958

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Oklahoma Historical Society

CITY, TOWN

Oklahoma City

STATE

Oklahoma

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

X EXCELLENT
__ GOOD
__ FAIR
__ DETERIORATED
__ RUINS
__ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

X UNALTERED (basically)
__ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

X ORIGINAL SITE
__ MOVED
DATE

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Architect James Hamilton of Chester, Pa., was a friend of Pawnee Bill who had once backed him financially in the Wild West Show business. When the Lillies' finances permitted, they turned to him for the house they'd dreamed of owning since their marriage in 1886. Some \$75,000 went into the large bungalow of rough, buff-colored stone quarried from Blue Hawk Peak itself. Red mortar and a red tile roof added color.

Rare hardwoods were used throughout the interior of the 14-room house. Unusual downstairs arrangement was the extensive use of archways, pillars, fretwork, and portieres to throw together already spacious rooms and thus make them more inviting and hospitable. A contemporary report describes the interior as "a spread of refined lavishness." It speaks of furniture "leathered in red and brown to harmonize with the dark and precious woods; a monster open fireplace with solid bronze andirons . . . drop chandeliers of diamond cut glass . . . walls . . . decorated with the most artistic and appropriate hangings and paintings."

In the dining room beyond closets glittered "with crystal and china of rarest design" and there were sideboards "laden with magnificent silver services made to order in different parts of Europe." The table seated 50 guests. To the left was "a cozy little den, tiled with red and white stone, furniture in weathered oak, another open fireplace, and walls hung with pictures and trophies of early pioneer days and the chase." A cheerful hall and broad staircase led to the upstairs bedrooms. In short, it was the gracious, comfortably cluttered home one would have expected a well-traveled, western-oriented showman to build - a place big enough to entertain his many friends and show off the mementos of his long career. As such it remains to this day.

Though erected in 1926, some years after the saddle shop/blacksmith building and the Lillies' original log cabin (built at least in part by Lillie himself), the basement-type barn is the most impressive old structure on the ranch, after the mansion. It is also one of the largest in this part of the country. Its basement level accommodated Pawnee Bill's horses (the original stanchions remain), while the second floor sheltered his purebred cattle. The third floor held tons of alfalfa hay and other feed crops grown on the ranch.

Elsewhere on the property today is a stone lookout tower, a restored Pawnee earthen lodge, rustic fences, a parking lot, some picnic facilities, and the handsome stone Pawnee Bill Museum building. The old buildings, however, have been preserved much as they were when Bill and May lived there and Blue Hawk Peak was a working buffalo and cattle ranch.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1910 - 1942 BUILDER/ARCHITECT James Hamilton

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Gordon W. Lillie was one of the last great "Wild West" showman. As "Pawnee Bill," his fame is surpassed by perhaps only one other ... the non parareil, William F. "Buffalo Bill" Cody, who was, ironically enough, his whilom partner at the sunset of both their careers.

Scout's Rest out of North Platte, Nebr., was Buffalo Bill's refuge in his last years. Similarly, Blue Hawk Peak was Pawnee Bill's final retreat. He bought nearly 2,000 acres of Pawnee Indian land here on the west edge of the town of Pawnee, in then Oklahoma Territory, in 1902. This nomination of some 280 acres - all that remains of the original ranch - includes the Peak, the rustic "mansion" he built in 1910 for himself and May, and several original ranch buildings.

In a recent evaluation of "the spectacular showman" for the Oklahoma state parks system -- to guide it in developing the property meaningfully for visitors -- historian Gage Skinner says:

The Pawnee Bill experience or world was a holistic one, a total one, an all-encompassing one. "Pawnee Bill" . . . was an innovative and enterprising cattleman, a conservationist of sorts, and a man with definite ideas as to the manner in which the western frontier should be settled. In the cross-cultural milieu of the Plains, he was a distinctive figure in the fortunes of white-Pawnee relationships. In an increasingly sedentary America, his unique yet at once typically American ideas and values ranged westward to eastward, and beyond to Europe and other parts of the world. For this, he became a legend.

In 1961 the State of Oklahoma, some 20 years after the death of Pawnee Bill, was considering purchase of Blue Hawk Peak ranch and home. Glenn Shirley -- Oklahoman, western authority, and Pawnee Bill biographer -- wrote a letter to the Oklahoma Planning and Resources Board that year in support of the proposal. His reasoning then is equally valid now in supporting elevation of the site to the National Register. "By 1900," he wrote, "the only buffalo of the millions that had once roamed our West that were left in the United States were the few herds in captivity. The second largest of these was owned by Pawnee Bill. His purpose was to perpetuate and develop the finest specimens of the animal in remembrance of his early days on the Plains."

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Shirley, Glenn, Pawnee Bill, A Biography of Major Gordon W. Lillie,
 University of New Mexico Press, 1958
 Skinner, Gage, A Review of Monuments, Memorials & Museums, Oklahoma
 Tourism & Recreation Department, 1973

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY c. 278 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	B	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	D	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Kent Ruth, Deputy

ORGANIZATION

Oklahoma Historical Society

STREET & NUMBER

Historical Building

CITY OR TOWN

Oklahoma City

DATE

May 1975

TELEPHONE

405/884-4456

STATE

Oklahoma

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

[Signature]

TITLE

SPD

DATE

19 June 75

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

10/10/75

ATTEST

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

10/9/75

[Signatures: R. M. Hartman, Ronald D. Bruesberg]

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER No. 8 PAGE 1

Significance

Blue Hawk Peak Ranch

This was Pawnee Indian reservation until opening of the Cherokee Outlet in 1893. Soon the only areas not cut up into farms were tracts of inherited and non-competent Indian land. When a 27 May 1902 Act of Congress made some of these eligible for sale, Pawnee Bill bought nearly 2,000 acres of hills and valleys here on which to establish his buffalo ranch.

His homesite he purchased from Blue Hawk, a Pawnee chief and medicine man who had selected for his allotment prior to Outlet opening a tract of land on high ground overlooking the Black Bear River. On this commanding point Pawnee Bill built a rambling log cabin he named Blue Hawk Peak for his Indian friend. Here the Lillies lived until 1910 when their new stone bungalow was built. (The original cabin still stands, as does the ranch's saddle and blacksmith shop and a large stone barn.)

The comfortably rustic "mansion" remained their home until they died, May in 1936, Pawnee Bill in 1942. Gradually its 14 rooms filled with paintings and tapestries, books and Indian artifacts, frontier relics and fine art objects. To Blue Hawk Peak came old-time friends and notables from around the world. His hospitality was far famed and the ranch became headquarters for many artists and writers.

When his Wild West Show finally went under in 1913 Pawnee Bill retired to Blue Hawk Peak and concentrated on building up and promoting his herds of bison and cattle. For a time many fine restaurants around the country served buffalo meat from Pawnee Bill's ranch. He also had extensive business interests in oil, banking, and other areas. To help his Indian friends he developed near by an "Old Town and Indian Trading Post," a kind of fore-runner of today's elaborate, family-oriented "theme" amusement parks. (It was later destroyed by fire.)

When the state purchased the ranch in 1961, it stood much as it had when Pawnee Bill died twenty years before. The house, outbuildings, garden, original log cabin, and three-story stone-and-steel barn were essentially unchanged. Today the state has reconstructed a Pawnee earthen lodge, added a handsome new museum building. Otherwise the property has been preserved virtually intact. Much of the land is still an unspoiled natural area and the state hopes eventually to establish limited nature trails, enhanced by wildlife and botanical interpretation to make the total "Pawnee Bill experience" more meaningful to visitors.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER No. 10 PAGE 1

Geographical Data

Blue Hawk Peak Ranch

To the Review Board:

Granted, this is not according to protocol. But, then, neither is the legal description of the Pawnee Bill Ranch!

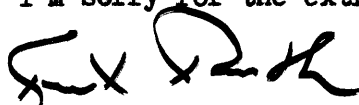
I hope the enclosed information is all you need and that you can take from it what you need in order to complete the nomination.

Ordinarily you do not accept zeroes. In this case, however, perhaps you can in the light of the length of the legal description and the shortness of the space provided under No. 10 Geographical Data on which to type it.

The penciled corrections are those of the civil engineer who figured the UTM References. The Gillock land (9.875 acres) was purchased after the Hughs Jonas description was prepared. This brought the total acreage included in this nomination to some 278 acres.

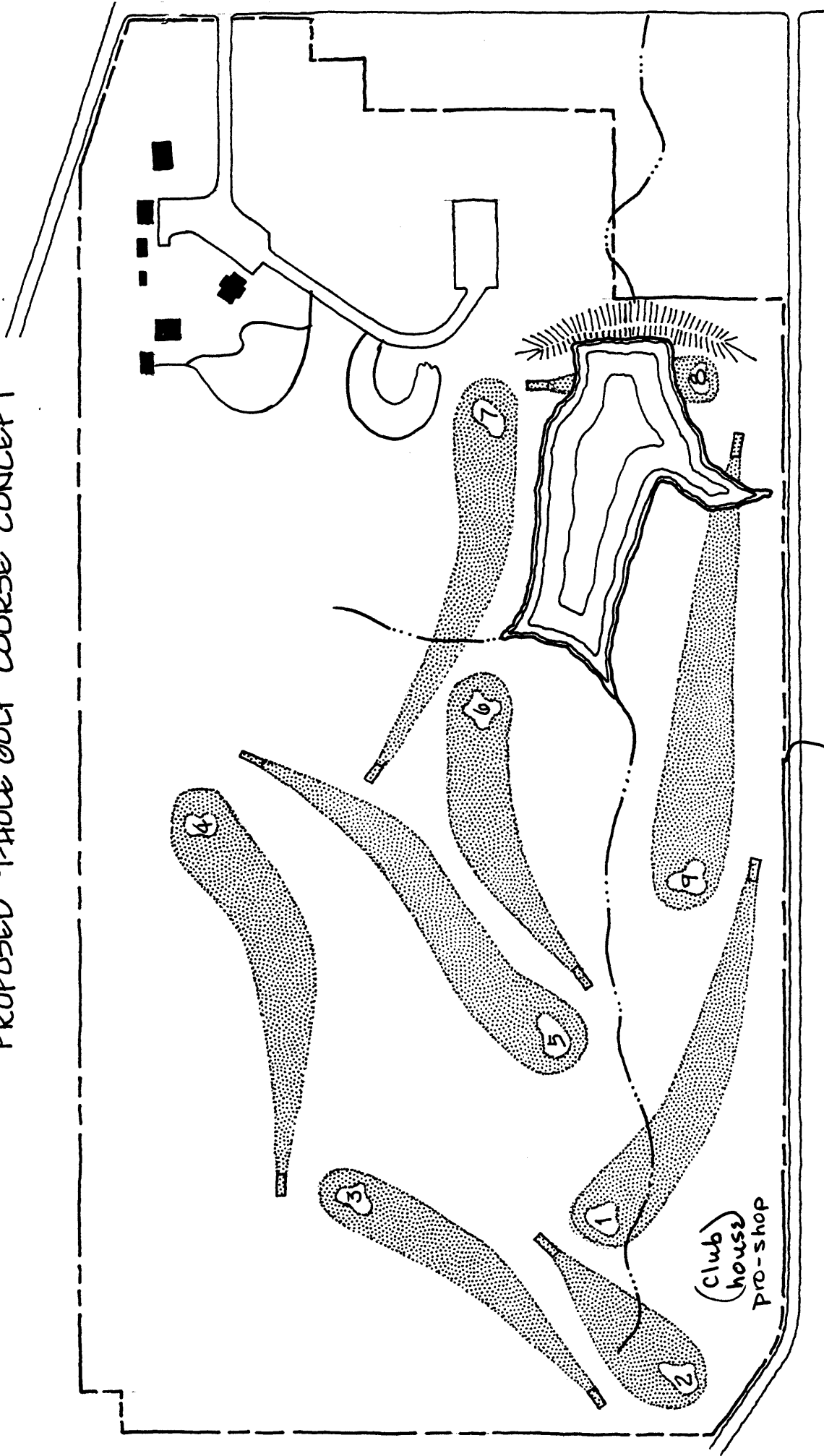
Since the figuring of UTM References is new to both of us I am simply sending you a copy of his findings without typing them onto the formal nomination. If you find everything in order (and everything you need) - perhaps you can have one of your secretaries complete the Nomination Form with just the precise information you want.

Thanks for indulging us to this extent. I'm sorry for the extra bother it may have caused you.

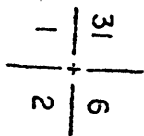
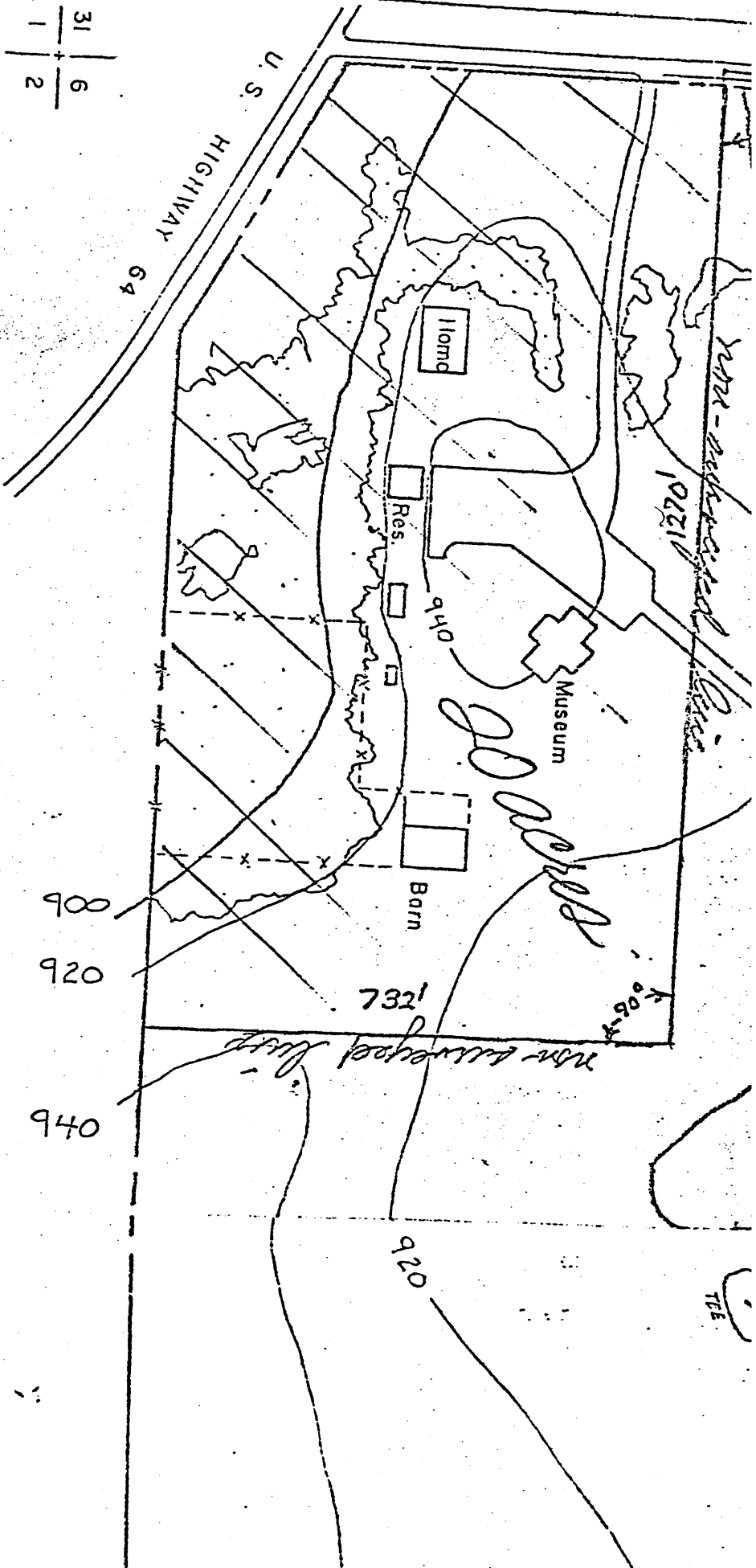

Kent Ruth, Deputy

PAWNEE BILL - BLUE HAWK PEAK RANCH & MUSEUM FACILITY

PROPOSED 9-HOLE GOLF COURSE CONCEPT



OK Tourism & Recreation Dept



NOTE:

From the NE corner of section 6
 1800' WEST THENCE 1220' S at a
 90° angle to a point thence West
 732' at a 90° angle to our stationing
 Plan in the...

See: Proposed National

*Reynolds area recommended
 by Anthony State Parks*