

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

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Item number

Page

✓ NAME: Big V Ranch House

✓ LOCATION: vicinity of Ponca City, Oklahoma 040, Kay County 071

off OK 156

OWNER: Charles L. Jenkins (trustee), 1700 Wilshire Boulevard, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73116

DESCRIPTION: Condition-good, original site

The Big V. Ranch house is a large two-story white frame house built by W. H. Vanselous ca. 1903. It has two spacious porches, on the southeast and southwest corners. A bay window surmounted by a small balcony extends from the far south wall. The house, which is in excellent condition, is located four miles west and four and a quarter miles south of Ponca City, Oklahoma.

SIGNIFICANCE: 1894--Builder/Architecture - W. H. Vanselous

The Big V. Ranch house is significant because it was the headquarters of the large and famous Vanselous family ranch, an important ranch in early twentieth century Oklahoma. William H. Vanselous founded the ranch in 1894. He leased or bought land from the Ponca Indians about seven miles southwest of Ponca City, Oklahoma. Vanselous later purchased the leased land. At its greatest extent the Big V contained about 10,000 acres. In addition to running large herds of cattle, Vanselous became one of the most famous mule dealers in America. He also developed a drought-resistant variety of white corn which revolutionized the meal industry. Vanselous' sons, Kay and Oklahoma, continued to operate the ranch after their father's death in 1930. Under their direction the ranch prospered for years. It lay along both banks of the Salt Fork River and included some of the most fertile agricultural land in Oklahoma. Even in drought years the ranch produced more than 100,000 bushels of corn each year. In 1951 the Vanselous family decided to sell the ranch at public auction and distribute the proceeds among all Vanselous heirs. Though an effort was made to keep the ranch intact, it finally sold in seventeen tracts, varying in size from 40 to 1,150 acres.

ACREAGE: less than one acre

QUADRANGLE: Marland, Oklahoma.  
N3630-W9707.5/7.5-1968

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: From the intersection of U.S. highway 177 and State highway 156, go 4 miles south on 156, then go west on section line road for 2 miles, turning south on the next section line road. Then continue south past the intersections with the next section line road for 1/4 mile; turn west on private road that runs 20 yards south of the Big V ranch house. From this point go 75 feet north, turn 90 degree and go 75 feet west, turn 90 degree and go 75 feet south, turn 90 degree and go 75 feet east to point of beginning.

UTM: 14 663180 4053990

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