

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Oklahoma	
COUNTY: Latimer	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	4-13-72

1. NAME

COMMON:
Edwards Store

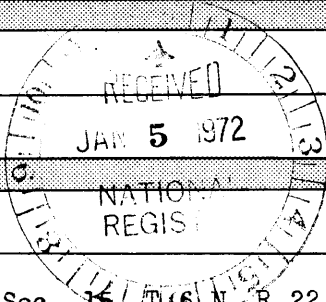
AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
c. 8 m. NE of

CITY OR TOWN:
Red Oak (NE/4 NW/4 Sec. 15, T.6 N., R 22 E)

STATE: Oklahoma CODE: 40 COUNTY: Latimer CODE: 077



3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input 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 type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" 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:
Mrs. Edgar Hardaway

STREET AND NUMBER:
Star Route

CITY OR TOWN: Red Oak STATE: Oklahoma CODE: 40

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

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

STREET AND NUMBER:
Latimer County Courthouse

CITY OR TOWN: Wilburton STATE: Oklahoma CODE: 40

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Report on the Butterfield Overland Mail

DATE OF SURVEY: 1958 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

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)

Excellent
 Good
 Fair
 Deteriorated
 Ruins
 Unexposed

(Check One)

Altered
 Unaltered

(Check One)

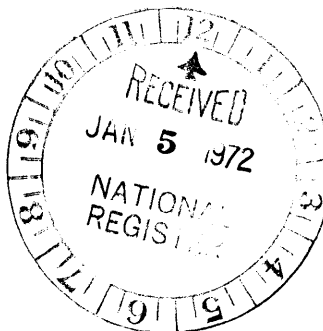
Moved
 Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Edwards Store was built sometime before 1858, a traditional double log house with open breezeway or "dog trot." Although it has been added to a bit, it remains today much as it was then, well preserved and lived in, an excellent example of comfortable living on the frontier in the last half of the last century.

That it was well constructed can be determined by careful examination of its hand-hewn logs, precisely notched and fitted, and its tall stone chimneys, the oldest of which has stones so perfectly cut and fitted they are laid without mortar. The house, roughly 45 x 40 feet now, has five rooms. The left of the two front sections of the original house has been divided into two rooms. An addition behind this section, in the traditional design, contains another two rooms. A sloping roof -- now covered with sheet iron -- projects over the front gallery and protects the L-shaped porch at the back of the house. Despite the iron roof, television antenna, window air conditioner, and electric meter at the corner of the gallery, the house reflects a picturesque, almost ageless charm ... a hospitable graciousness that is underscored by the sloping green lawn in front, the crude log porch posts and rails, the wooden chairs and rockers clustered invitingly in the cool, protected dog trot, and the sheltering San Bois Mountains beyond.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

1858-1861

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | _____ |

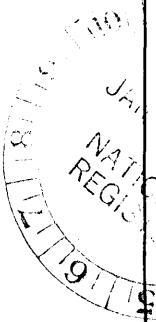
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Edwards Store makes it a "baker's dozen," so far as significant points of interest pertaining to the Butterfield Overland Mail in Indian Territory are concerned. It was not one of the even dozen stage stations the company established along its 192-mile-long southwesterly route from Fort Smith to Colbert's Ferry on Red River. But it was a stop nevertheless. A non-company commercial venture in the log home of Thomas Edwards, the store was a place where Butterfield passengers could get a good meal - no small recommendation in itself on the frontier. In addition, Edwards' property beside the trail provided a welcome rest stop for Butterfield teams - especially those headed west, for the stage road from Trahern's Station to the east through "The Narrows" on the west climbed 250 feet in elevation. Edwards Store was thus "the pause that refreshes" for man and beast. More significantly, however, the log home/store/eating place remains intact today, the only original building located along the Butterfield route in present Oklahoma to survive. As such, National Register status for "Stop No. 13" would seem eminently justified.

Thomas Edwards is said to have been of English descent. His career was closely linked with the Choctaws. In March 1864 he was made provisional governor of the nation. Edwards Store was the original site of the town of Red Oak (now 8 miles to the southwest) and Edwards was appointed postmaster in March 1868. It is not known with certainty when the community first began to form - perhaps it was in 1858 when the Butterfield mail service was inaugurated - but it is known that it was flourishing from 1864 to 1878. And it is the old manuscript day books kept by Edwards Store that provide us today with tremendously important information on (1) Choctaw citizens who were protected as refugees in Fort Smith during the latter part of the Civil War and (2) the cost of goods and services in this region in the early 1860s.

After the second Union invasion of Indian Territory and the seizure of Fort Gibson by Union forces in 1863, copies of President Lincoln's Amnesty Proclamation and other friendly messages were sent to various Indian chiefs and tribal leaders, resulting in some defection among Confederate forces in Indian Territory. Early in the spring of 1864, as a result, Choctaws in the Skullyville area (northeast of Edwards Store) unhappy with the Nation's alliance with the Confederate cause, met in convention at nearby New Hope and attempted to repudiate

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Conkling, Roscoe P. and Margaret B., The Butterfield Overland Mail 1857-1869, The Arthur H. Clark Co. 1947, pp. 241-247
 Wright, Muriel H., "Historic Places on the Old Stage Line from Fort Smith to Red River," The Chronicles of Oklahoma, Vol. XI (1933), p. 818
 --- Report on the Butterfield Overland Mail, A Special Committee Report, The Chronicles of Oklahoma, Vol. XXXVI (1958), pp. 451-453

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

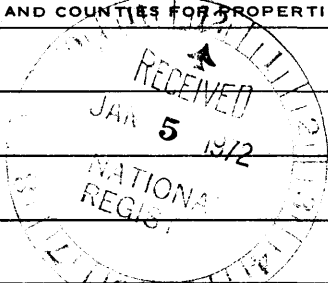
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		34° 59' 50"	94° 58' 17"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

TC
 No. 21

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: One Acre

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: Kent Ruth, Deputy

ORGANIZATION: Oklahoma Historical Society DATE: December 1971

STREET AND NUMBER: 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: [Signature]

Title: State Liaison Officer for Oklahoma

Date: Dec 28 1971

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

[Signature: Robert M. Utley]
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 4/13/72

ATTEST:

[Signature: William J. Hurst]
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: 3/29/72

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	Oklahoma
COUNTY	Latimer
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(Number all entries)

No. 8 Significance

Edwards Store

that stand. A provisional government was set up representing this faction and Thomas Edwards was nominated as governor. The action, however, represented so few Indians, actually, that it was never recognized by the federal government. Reprisals, real and feared, by those loyal to the South, subsequently led many of these Union-leaning Indians to seek refuge at Fort Smith until the war was over.

The refugee list is valuable because it establishes the residence of nearly four score Choctaw families, some of them with names prominently identified with the history of the Choctaw Nation since its founding. These would include Folsom, Ainsworth, Riddle, Jones, Pitchlyn, Colbert, and others. After "Heads of Families" the list contained columns for "Men," "Women," "Children," and "Total." Some of the names have been perpetuated in Post Office Department records of mail contracts or on station schedules connected with Indian Territory mail routes.

Considering that it was 45 miles by freight wagon from Fort Smith, the nearest distribution point, prices at Edwards Store were not as high as one might suppose. Among the more interesting: salt (five cents a pound), coffee (30 cents a pound), and beef (three cents a pound); soap (10 cents a bar) and women's shoes (\$2.50); smoking tobacco (75 cents a pound) and plug tobacco (50 cents a pound); plows (\$5) and a horse that "carried his tail crooked" (\$100). Construction costs were surprisingly low. A corn crib cost five dollars, hand-hewn oak clapboards 75 cents a hundred. A hand-dug well cost \$1.50 a foot. In the proprietary medicine field (always a popular one on the frontier where doctors were virtually non-existent), Edwards Store dispensed a goodly quantity of "lung balm" at 75 cents a bottle and a specific for fever at 60 cents a bottle. (In neither case, alas, is the alcoholic content of the medicines noted in the accounts.)

The day of the store -- and 45-cent meals for stage passengers -- is far in the past. The Edwards place is now a private home again exclusively, owned and lived in by Mrs. Edgar Hardaway, whose late husband was a nephew of Thomas Edwards. On a grassy saddle overlooking the rugged San Bois Mountains to the north and west -- and the old Butterfield route immediately to the south, the gracious log house stands today as the state's last remaining man-made physical structure pertaining to that history-making enterprise.

