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Form 10-300  
(Rev. 6-72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Oklahoma
COUNTY: Kay
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE

<b>1. NAME</b>
COMMON: 101 Ranch Historic District, Bill Pickett's Grave, and White Eagle Monument
AND/OR HISTORIC:

<b>2. LOCATION</b>
STREET AND NUMBER: 13 miles southwest of Ponca City on Oklahoma State Highway 156
CITY OR TOWN: Marland
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: 6th
STATE Oklahoma
CODE 40
COUNTY: Kay
CODE 071

<b>3. CLASSIFICATION</b>			
CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <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	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
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 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) _____ _____

<b>4. OWNER OF PROPERTY</b>
OWNER'S NAME: Multiple Private Ownership/Contact Melburn L. Leche
STREET AND NUMBER: P. O. Box 788, Route 2
CITY OR TOWN: Ponca City
STATE: Oklahoma
CODE 40

<b>5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION</b>
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Kay County Court House
STREET AND NUMBER:
CITY OR TOWN: Newkirk
STATE: Oklahoma
CODE 40

<b>6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS</b>
TITLE OF SURVEY: National Register of Historic Places - Supplement
DATE OF SURVEY: 1974 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: U. S. Department of the Interior, National Register Control Unit
STREET AND NUMBER: National Park Service
CITY OR TOWN: Washington, D. C. 20204
STATE:
CODE 11

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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138.

7. DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The historic buildings and sites of the 101 Ranch are as follows:

The White House - Built about 1910 of reinforced concrete, this building was once used as the residence of the owners of the ranch. Presently in a state of ruins, all that remains of the once quite impressive structure are the first floor, foundations, some of the porch walls, and the basement.

Blacksmith Shop - Built about 1905, this stuccoed wood frame structure was used as a blacksmith shop for the 101 Ranch. It has a wood shingle roof and double-hung wood windows along the sides. Its ornamental front parapet has a stylized anvil and hammer worked into the stucco.

Grainery, Milk Storage Building, and Two Silos - Built about 1912, both the grainery and the milk storage building are one-story concrete block structures with pitched roofs. The Grainery's roof is of wood shingles and that of the milk storage building is metal. The silos are of reinforced concrete.

Hotel - Built about 1912, all that remains of this three-story building are a concrete floor and the foundations.

General Store and Office - Built in 1918, this two-story structure of white stucco on masonry is presently used as a part-time residence and storage place. Across the front of the structure is a porch with square columns and arches on the first story and ornamentation in the stucco on the second story. The roof deck over the porch forms a balcony for second floor use. The structure has double-hung wood windows throughout.

Cafe - Built about 1918, this stuccoed wood frame structure was used as a cafe for the 101 Ranch. It is one story with a metal hipped roof that resembles Spanish tile. The roof had ventilation cupolas on its top that are now destroyed. The double door at the entrance is wood, as are the double-hung windows.

Jail - Built about 1918, this jailhouse also once housed a gorilla. It is a one-story structure of white stucco masonry. The windows, doors, roof, and canopy are gone. Little remains of the original structure.

Foreman's House - Built about 1918, this one-story frame structure is presently a private residence. It is stucco with a hipped roof and wood double-hung windows.

Chicken House - Built about 1918, this wood frame single-story structure has a wood shingle pitched roof. The building is presently unused.

Dairy Barn - Built about 1918, this L-shaped structure of stucco over a wood frame was once used for the milking and the feeding of the dairy cattle. Although it is presently not in use it has a mansard wood shingled roof with a large metal ventilator.

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) **1892-Present**

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic               | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Science             | <u>Afro-Am. History</u>                             |
| <input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Theater  | _____   |
| <input 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

The 101 Ranch, named for its cattle brand "101," was established by Colonel George Washington Miller in 1879. Miller, traveling from Missouri, through Texas, to Cherokee territory in northern Oklahoma, and accompanied by his crew of six men, including the black cowboy, Perry Britton, secured 60,000 acres along the Salt Fork of the Arkansas River on the Cherokee Strip. In 1892 when the federal government took the Strip away from the Cherokees, Miller, too, was forced to relocate. He moved to the eastern edge of the Strip, where the Poncas had been able to retain their land, and leased 100,000 acres. With the help of his sons, George, Joe, and Zack, and his crew, Miller built the largest diversified farm and cattle ranch in the United States. It became famous for its farm crops, oil wells, livestock, manufactured products, and its wild west show. In time, the 101 Ranch employed 200 men as farmhands, blacksmiths, mechanics, and cowhands. The cowhands soon established a reputation for excellence and whenever they competed in local round-up contests they usually won all the prizes. Of special interest to Afro-American history, is the number of black cowboys, especially the great Bill Pickett, who worked for the 101 Ranch. Towards the turn of the century, Zack Miller met Bill Pickett in Fort Worth, Texas. Pickett's great skill as a rider and his exploits as a showman were to become synonymous with the fame of the Miller Brothers' Ranch.

Bill Pickett was born in Williamson, Texas, around 1860. He had picked cotton on a Texas ranch before he started breaking recalcitrant steers. Pickett was close to forty years old by the time he met Zack Miller, and he was known from Texas to Wyoming for his unique method of busting bulls and steers. Pickett invented the art of "bull-dogging." It was said that his bull-dogging skill grew out of an incident with a wild steer. After chasing the animal on his horse, Pickett grew angry with his inability to catch it. Determined to subdue the steer, he dove furiously from his saddle to the head and horns of the beast. Then digging his heels into the ground, he twisted the steer's nose and clamped its lip in his teeth, bulldog fashion, while falling backwards in order to bring the steer to a complete stop.

Zack Miller influenced Bill Pickett to join his outfit in Oklahoma and participate in various round-ups with his 101 crew. The crew had many other blacks including Henry Clay who taught Will Rogers roping tricks, George Hooker, a trick rider, and Lon Sealey, another expert bull-dogger. When Pickett joined the ranch the Miller

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Collings, Ellsworth and Alma Miller England. The 101 Ranch. Norman, Oklahoma: The University of Oklahoma Press, 1938.

Durham, Philip and Everett Jones. Black Cowboys. New York: Dodd, Mead and Company, 1965.

Gipson, Frederick Benjamin. Fabulous Empire. Boston: Houghton-Mifflin, 1946.

Harmon, John H. "Black Cowboys are Real." Crisis, Volume 47, September, 1940.

Hendrix, John M. "Tribute Paid to Negro Cowmen." Cattleman, February, 1936.

Mundis, Jerrold J. "He Took the Bull by the Horns." American Heritage, Volume XIX, December, 1967. (PARTIAL LISTING)

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY		O R	UTM: 14.666050.4048500
CORNER:	NE: 14.666540.4053630		
	NW: 14.666630.4053160		
NW	SE: 14.666550.4052620		
NE	SW: 14.665100.4053840		
SE	101 Ranch Historic District		
SW		Deq	inds "

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **82.65 acres (approximately)**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
**Marcia M. Greenlee, Historical Projects Director**

ORGANIZATION: **Afro-American Bicentennial Corporation**      DATE: **27 September 1974**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**1420 N Street, N. W., Suite 101**

CITY OR TOWN: **Washington, D. C. 20005**      STATE: \_\_\_\_\_      CODE: **11**

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

<p>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:</p> <p>National <input type="checkbox"/>      State <input type="checkbox"/>      Local <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Name _____</p> <p>Title _____</p> <p>Date _____</p>	<p>I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.</p> <p>_____ <i>Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation</i></p> <p>Date _____</p> <p>ATTEST:</p> <p>_____ <i>Keeper of The National Register</i></p> <p>Date _____</p>
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INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

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STATE Oklahoma	
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(Number all entries) Description #7

Horse Barn - Built about 1918, this structure of stucco on a wood frame was originally a horse barn but is now a storage place. Its wood shingled mansard roof has a large galvanized metal ventilator, and the windows are wood framed.

Machine Shop - Built about 1918, this building is presently used for storage. Stucco on a wood frame, it has a pitched steel roof with galvanized metal ventilators. Windows are along both sides of the structure.

Cowboy Hill Cemetery - Constructed about 1952, this cemetery has three graves. Those of Zack Miller and Jack Webb are inside the cyclone wire fence. That of a ranch foreman is just outside the fence.

Site of Bill Pickett's Grave and the White Eagle Monument - Located southeast of Cowboy Hill Cemetery, Pickett's grave has a plain stone tablet dated 1932 with the inscription "Bill Pickett, CSCPA." The fifteen foot tall monument is a cylindrical native stone tower surmounted by a stone replica of a white eagle. It was built by the Miller brothers to honor the Ponca Indian Chief, White Eagle.

The proposed boundaries for the 82.65 101 Ranch Historic District are as follows:

- Northern Boundary - The original property line
- Eastern Boundary - 160 feet east of Oklahoma State Highway 156
- Southern Boundary - 300 feet south of the middle point of the Salt Fork of the Arkansas River
- Western Boundary - Eastern bank of the Salt Fork of the Arkansas River

Bill Pickett's grave and the White Eagle Monument though not within the boundaries of the proposed district, because of their distance from it, should nonetheless be designated landmarks because of their significance and relationship to the 101 Ranch's history. The property is less than one acre.

The historic district of the 101 Ranch is located on approximately eighty acres of open land, bounded on the south and west by the Salt Fork of the Arkansas River. It is thirteen miles southwest of Ponca City on Oklahoma State Highway 156.

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(Number all entries)

8. SIGNIFICANCE - page 2

cowhands were already barred from the annual rodeos in such places as Wichita, Kansas, and Enid, Oklahoma, because they could out-ride and out-rope the other cowboys. However, despite their exclusion from these rodeos, they continued to perform on their own ranch, and wherever else they could. By 1904, the year after George Miller's death, the cowboys of the 101 Ranch were considered professionals across the country and barred from amateur competition. Zack Miller then decided to take his own rodeo, the 101 Wild West Show, on tour.

The 101 Wild West Show had Indians, roping, riding acts, coach hold-ups, Mexican raids, and it featured Bill Pickett's bull-dogging act. In April of 1905, Zack Miller took his 101 Show to Madison Square Garden in New York. The show, with Bill Pickett, Tom Mix, Will Rogers, and Henry Clay performing, opened with only a small crowd present and on that first night one of the wild steers made a dash for the stands. Before the excited crowd could panic, Pickett, astride his horse Spradley, rode after the steer and performed his classic act of bull-dogging right in the stands. The resultant publicity made the show a sell-out for the rest of the week.

Pickett was a regular star attraction with the 101 Wild West Show which by the fall of 1905 was known throughout the northeastern section of the country as a fantastic extravaganza. When Zack Miller invited the National Editor's Association Convention to a full day's entertainment on the vast 101 Ranch, 64,000 people showed up to see the main feature of the show, Bill Pickett's bull-dogging act.

During the decade from 1905 to 1910, the Miller Brothers' 101 Ranch and their Wild West Show became known from Oklahoma to Canada. In 1907 the 101 Show featuring Pickett's bull-dogging act went to the Jamestown Exposition in Norfolk, Virginia, at the invitation of President Theodore Roosevelt. In 1908 they visited Mexico where advance publicity about Pickett's act had created hostility among the Mexicans because of the reports that his act was a greater show than any Mexican bull-fight. Zack Miller made a bet that Pickett could hold onto one of the Mexican bulls for five minutes. Pickett agreed to the wager only if Miller would bury him deep in the Ponca country if he was killed by the bull. To the dismay of the Mexicans, the pride of the 101 crew, Pickett, held his own in the arena with the wild bull and succeeded in subduing it. He was in the arena for longer than six minutes and the Mexican crowd became incensed when Pickett held the bull with his bare hands. Mexican troops were called as the crowds grew unruly and hurled fruit, bottles, and derogatory epithets at Pickett. He and his horse Spradley survived however, and Miller won his bet.

The 101 cowhands took part in the Anglo-American Exposition in London in the spring of 1914. The rodeo show, performed for King George V and Queen Mary, included Bill Pickett and his bull-dogging act, and George Hooker with his trick riding act.

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Pickett's act fascinated the British public and won him a dinner engagement with an English earl. The advent of World War I brought an abrupt end to the 101 Wild West Show when the British declared a national emergency and confiscated the horses and vehicles belonging to the 101 Show for public service. After the troupe's return to Oklahoma they attempted a tour of the United States, but America, too, was getting prepared for war and in 1916 the show closed down.

Miller tried to revive the 101 Show in 1925 but financial reverses and a changing taste in public entertainment, combined with competition from such groups as the Ringling Brothers, prevented the 101 Wild West Show from regaining its former popularity. Finally in 1931 in Washington, D. C., the show went broke. The American Legion gave a "Troopers Benefit" to raise money to send the 101 performers back home.

Financially broken, Zack Miller lost his health, too. In the spring of 1932, Pickett began to act as nurse for his former employer and old friend. Pickett, then about seventy-two years old, went to the ranch to cull out Miller's personal cattle from the rest of the ranch's stock after a court order liquidated the ranch's assets. A skittish horse threw him shortly after his arrival and kicked him in the head. The accident cost him his life and on April 2, 1932, Bill Pickett died. Zack Miller buried him high on a soapstone hill near a monument to White Eagle, a Ponca Chief. Without Bill Pickett, the 101 would have been just another western ranch. Pickett's place of high esteem with the Miller's 101 Ranch was attested to in 1973 when the second of the 101 Ranch Medallion Series (a five coin set) honored him for introducing steer wrestling to rodeo. Pickett was also inducted into the Cowboy Hall of Fame.

Bill Pickett and the 101 Ranch are of national historical significance because of their unique place in western history and popular American entertainment. Bill Pickett's invention of bull-dogging steers made him a legend on two continents. The 101 Ranch was known as the heart of hospitality. During its hey day, prominent guests, General John Pershing, John D. Rockefeller, President Warren Harding, Admiral Byrd, John Philip Sousa, John Ringling, William F. Cody, Gene Tunney, and Jack Johnson, the black heavyweight champion, visited the Miller's palatial home, the "White House," and watched its rodeo. The 101 set the standard for rodeo entertainment across the nation. It was also one of the best known ranches to hire a number of black cowboys, and to use them in its Wild West Shows.