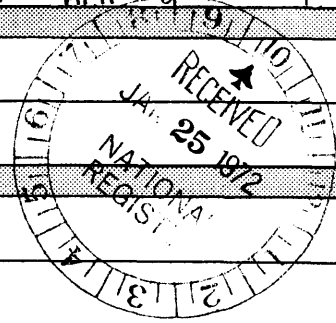


**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Oklahoma	
COUNTY: LeFlore	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
APR 25 1972	



1. NAME

COMMON:
Trahern's Station

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
c. 9 m. W of

CITY OR TOWN:
Shadypoint (NW/4 SW/4 Sec. 32, T 8 N, R 24 E)

STATE <u>Oklahoma</u>	CODE <u>40</u>	COUNTY: <u>LeFlore</u>	CODE <u>079</u>
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3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input 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 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) _____ _____ _____
Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No			

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Leon Watson

STREET AND NUMBER:
Rural Route

CITY OR TOWN: <u>Shadypoint</u>	STATE: <u>Oklahoma</u>	CODE <u>40</u>
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5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

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

STREET AND NUMBER:
LeFlore County Courthouse

CITY OR TOWN: <u>Poteau</u>	STATE: <u>Oklahoma</u>	CODE <u>40</u>
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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: <u>Oklahoma</u>	STATE: <u>Oklahoma</u>	CODE <u>40</u>
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Oklahoma
COUNTY: LeFlore
ENTRY NUMBER: APR 25 1972
DATE: _____
FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)

Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Ruins Unexposed

(Check One)

Altered Unaltered

(Check One)

Moved Original Site

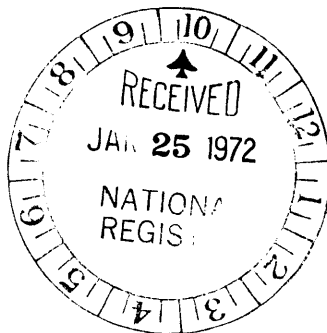
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

A large tree and several tombstones in the family burial plot almost alone today mark the location of the James N. Trahern home, in the community of Latham in western LaFlore County. The home served as official station for the Butterfield Overland Mail from 1858 to 1861. After the war the Traherns lived there and operated a store until the early 1860s. Little or nothing is known of the original house/station, although it can be assumed that it was a traditional log structure, probably a double cabin with protected dog-trot and sharply pitched roof sloping down over a full-width front porch and (likely as not) back gallery. It has long since disappeared and the area, but for that covered by tombstones, is now a cultivated field.

The Musholatubbee district Council House, which lent importance to the area, once stood a hundred yards or so north of the Trahern house, and across the Butterfield stage road. It is presumed to have been a large well-built log structure, but it too has disappeared now. All that remains is nearby Council House Spring, which still flows abundantly.

The Trahern family cemetery was immediately to the east of the home site, and within the one-acre station site for which National Register protection is urged with this nomination. Although a large mound is thought by some to represent the grave of Chief Musholatubbee (buried with his horse, thereby accounting for its size), no marker can be found as evidence. Best preserved stones are those of James N. Trahern, who died in 1883, and of his wife Sarah, who died in 1873.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

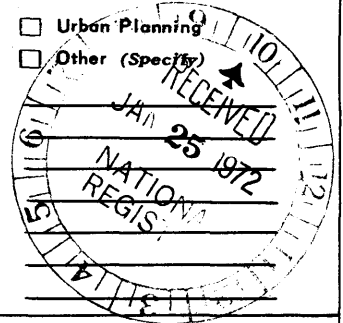
- Pre-Columbian | 16th Century | 18th Century | 20th Century
 15th Century | 17th Century | 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

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



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Trahern's Station -- sometimes referred to as Council House -- was the second of twelve established by the Butterfield Overland Mail along its 192-mile-long southwesterly course across Indian Territory from Fort Smith to Colbert's Ferry on Red River. As did most of these stage stands, set up as rest stops for changing horses, servicing the coaches and, perhaps coincidentally, refreshing the passengers themselves, Trahern's was soon able to boast a store or two. The settlement eventually became known as Latham, and is still so designated on some detailed maps. But the last store building collapsed into ruins within the past ten years and Trahern's -- again like most of the Butterfield stations across the southwest -- has become a site of only historic importance . . . a spring, a few tombstones to note the names of those once prominent in the area, and enough scattered stones and other rubble to indicate the location of now vanished houses and buildings.

The station was named for Judge James N. Trahern, at whose house it was located. Trahern was born in 1818; he died March 29, 1883. He served for many years on the bench of the Supreme Court of the Choctaw Nation. His wife Sarah was born in 1828; she died Dec. 28, 1872. The Trahern family, of mixed blood, was long prominent in Choctaw Nation affairs and its descendants still live in this region.

Butterfield service, initiated in late 1858, was terminated by the Civil War. But the community held its identity through the war years and the Trahern family returned after 1865, occupied it until the 1880s. From June 23, 1881, to Feb. 20, 1882, the post office here was officially Opossum, for nearby Opossum Creek, a tributary of the better known Brazil Creek. (It is doubtful that embarrassment over misspelling the word had anything whatsoever to do with termination of the office after less than eight months of life.) Latham, for U. S. Commissioner Thomas B. Latham, became the name of the post office on May 10, 1901; it lasted until Feb. 15, 1918.

Lending significance to the Trahern station area was presence of the old "Council House" of the Musholatubbee district. Tradition has it that the first national council of the Choctaws, after their arrival in Indian Territory (1830-1834), was held here, hence the name. Though

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Conkling, Roscoe P. and Margaret B., The Butterfield Overland Mail 1857-1869, The Arthur H. Clark Co., 1947
 Shirk, George H., Oklahoma Place Names, The University of Oklahoma Press, 1965, pp. 122, 157
 Wright, Muriel H., "Historic Places on the Old Stage Line from Fort Smith to Red River," The Chronicles of Oklahoma, Vol. XI (1933), p. 819
 --- Report on the Butterfield Overland Mail, A Special Committee Report, The Chronicles of Oklahoma, Vol. XXXVI (1958), pp. 449-452

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

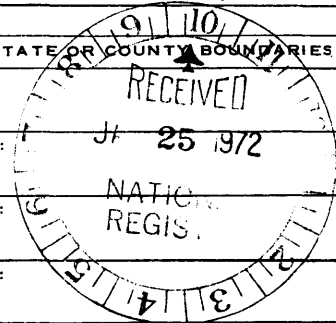
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		35° 07' 10"	94° 48' 13"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

TL
No UT

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

<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Name: <u>[Signature]</u></p> <p>Title: <u>Liaison Officer Oklahoma</u></p> <p>Date: <u>JAN 25 1972</u></p>	<p>I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.</p> <p><u>[Signature]</u> Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation</p> <p>Date: <u>4/25/72</u></p> <p>ATTEST:</p> <p><u>[Signature]</u> Keeper of The National Register</p> <p>Date: <u>APR 25 1972</u></p>
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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Oklahoma	
COUNTY	
LeFlore	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	APR 25 1972

(Number all entries)

No. 8 Significance

Trahern's Station

the building has long since disappeared, it is believed from description to have been a rather large, well-built log structure similar to the other chiefs' houses erected throughout the Choctaw Nation under terms of the removal treaty of 1830. The presumed site of the "Council House" is a hundred yards or so north of the Trahern's Station site. A bit farther to the north is the walled Council House Spring, which still flows. The Butterfield route ran between the stage station and the Musholatubbee house and later mail routes sometimes gave "Council House" as name for the station. Chief Musholatubbee is believed to be buried in the Trahern burying ground, immediately to the east of the station site, although the grave is unmarked.

