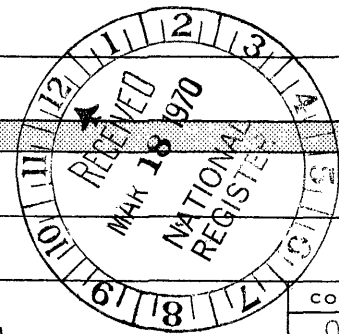


**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Oklahoma	
COUNTY: Canadian	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 70.6.35.0006	DATE 6/22/70



1. NAME

COMMON:
Fort Reno

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Sec. 34, T 13 N, R 8 W -- 3 m. W, 2 m. N of

CITY OR TOWN:
El Reno

STATE: Oklahoma CODE: 35 COUNTY: Canadian CODE: 017

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) As an agricultural experiment station

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
The Federal Government

STREET AND NUMBER:
Bureau of Land Management

CITY OR TOWN: Washington STATE: D. C. CODE: 08

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

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

STREET AND NUMBER:
Canadian County Courthouse

CITY OR TOWN: El Reno STATE: Oklahoma CODE: 35

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
General Land Office Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Office of the County Clerk

STREET AND NUMBER:
Canadian County Courthouse

CITY OR TOWN: El Reno STATE: Oklahoma CODE: 35

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Oklahoma

COUNTY: Canadian

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

7 DESCRIPTION

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

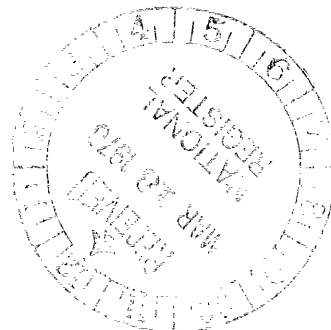
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Fort Reno, to borrow from Gilbert and Sullivan, comes close to being the model of a frontier military post. To be true, the last army personnel departed in 1949. But the complex of facilities still clusters around a trim parade. There are mellowed brick buildings that date from the 1880s, along with more modern structures of varying size, style and construction. There are pleasant, tree-shaded roads and walkways, comfortably aging, living quarters, sundry barns and sheds used by U. S. D. A. in its experiment station operation, and an old rock-walled military cemetery.

The immediate complex of buildings covers some 40 acres and is well maintained; the grounds are carefully tended. A landscaped road leads in to the retired post a mile and a half from U. S. 66 and I. S. 40. Most impressive of the old buildings, and perhaps the one most deserving of preservation, is the two-story brick commissary, built in 1884. At the west end of the parade, it has been altered somewhat over the years, but its massive, almost castle-like exterior lines remain. Several smaller red brick structures of approximately the same vintage also remain. As emphasis to date has, happily, been more on preservation than on renovation or modernization, the first impression of the casual visitor is likely to be one of having stumbled onto a frontier outpost that has grown up graciously with the times and only recently been retired from active military duty.

Note: Though no longer at the fort itself, one of Fort Reno's oldest surviving buildings deserves mention. Among the original 1875 structures -- probably erected to house work details clearing and developing the site -- it was constructed of post oak pickets with clapboard or crude "shake" roof. These little huts were used as kitchens after the plank buildings were occupied. Some years back the last of them was "restored"--its adobe chinking replaced by concrete, its roof covered with good shingles. In 1957, it was moved to Adams Park in nearby El Reno. There is no historic justification for labeling it GENERAL SHERIDAN'S HEADQUARTERS 1874, but the cabin has at least been preserved as a physical tie with the fort's earliest days.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



8. 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)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Fort Reno was established -- on the south bank of the North Canadian River in what is almost the center of present-day Oklahoma -- on July 17, 1874. Construction of facilities began in 1875. It remained a military post until 1949 (though after 1908 it served as one of the army's two principal remount depots). Since 1949, the U. S. Department of Agriculture has operated the facility as an experiment station.

Although unrest among the Indians in this area, principally the Cheyennes, prompted its creation, the fort itself never experienced any serious "Indian trouble." Instead, with Darlington, the Cheyenne and Arapaho Agency across the river to the north, it served primarily as a stabilizing influence on the troubled frontier. Together the two institutions played an important role both in preserving the peace and in directing the orderly transition of this part of Indian Territory from reservation to individual farms and ranches. Fort Reno provided the troops that supervised the first great Run of 1889 opening Old Oklahoma to settlement.

Most dramatic single event in which the post played a role was the heroic dash to freedom of nearly 300 Northern Cheyennes in 1878. They were among over 900 Cheyennes rounded up the previous year, following the Custer Massacre in Montana, and forcibly resettled here among their southern tribesmen. Bitter in defeat, unhappy with the climate and the shortage of food, they broke for "home" in September, 1878. Brilliantly led by Bull Knife and Little Wolf, they managed to elude much of the U. S. Army on their 1,200-mile trek. (Though eventually recaptured, they were allowed to remain in the north.)

As an interesting side bar, Fort Reno claims the distinction of having western Oklahoma's first telephone line ... a crude communication link with nearby Darlington Agency. Unimportant? Who knows? Perhaps this frontier "hot line" -- keeping the fort's commanding officer and the Indian agent at Darlington in touch with one another -- played its role in maintaining peace and tranquility along with the rifle and the beef ration.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Gibson, Arrell M., Oklahoma: A History of the Sooner State, (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1964), pp. 250-266.
 Lackey, Vinson, The Ports of Oklahoma, (Tulsa, 1963), 38-40
 Morrison, William Brown, Military Posts and Camps in Oklahoma, (Oklahoma City, Harlow, 1936), pp. 146-156
 Peery, Dan W., "The Indians Friend John H. Seger," Chronicles of Oklahoma, Volume X, pp. 569-591
 Ruth, Kent, Great Day in the West, (Norman: University of Oklahoma, 1963), pp. 204-205

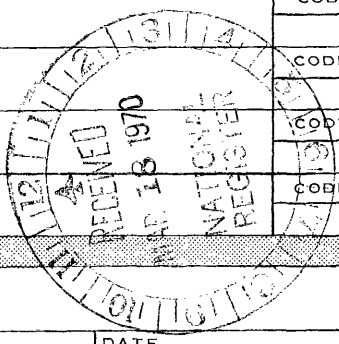
10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

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
NW	° ' "	° ' "		35°	33'	42"
NE	° ' "	° ' "		98°	2'	6"
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 10 acres

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



NO 070
144

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Kent Ruth

ORGANIZATION: Oklahoma Historical Society DATE: January, 1970

STREET AND NUMBER: Historical Building

CITY OR TOWN: Oklahoma City STATE: Oklahoma CODE: 33

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: Liaison officer for Oklahoma Date: 30 January 1970

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

[Signature]
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

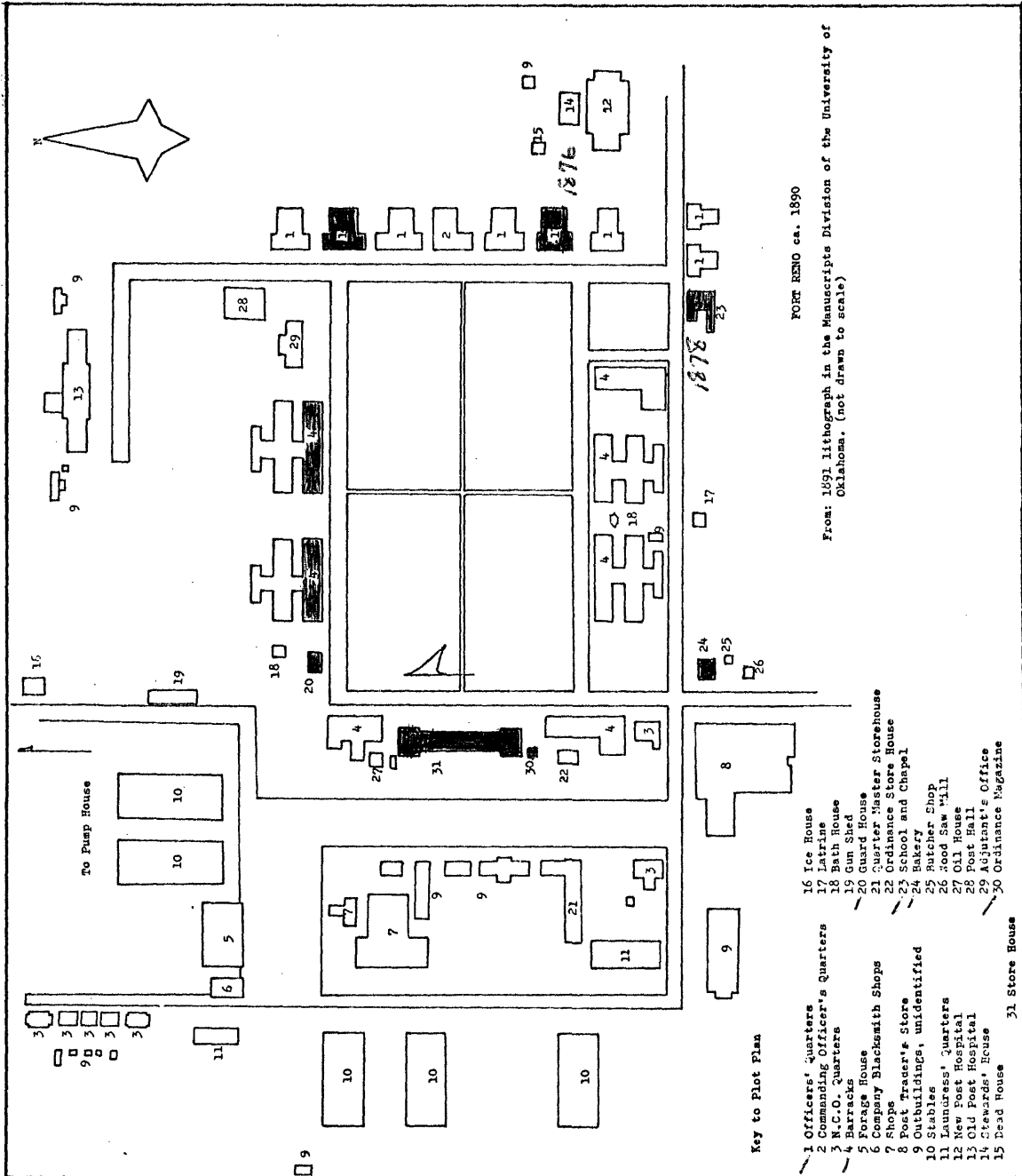
Date: JUN 22 1970

ATTEST: [Signature]
Keeper of The National Register

Date: JUN 3 1970

Fort Reno c. 1890

Buildings now standing in red.
(Some in altered condition.)



FORT RENO ca. 1890

From: 1891 Lithograph in the Manuscripts Division of the University of Oklahoma. (not drawn to scale)

Key to Plot Plan

- 1 Officers' Quarters
- 2 Commanding Officer's Quarters
- 3 N.C.O. Quarters
- 4 Barracks
- 5 Forage House
- 6 Company Blacksmith Shops
- 7 Shops
- 8 Post Tracer's Store
- 9 Outbuildings, unidentified
- 10 Stables
- 11 Laundress' Quarters
- 12 New Post Hospital
- 13 Old Post Hospital
- 14 Stewards' House
- 15 Peaco House
- 16 Ice House
- 17 Latrine
- 18 Bath House
- 19 Gun Shed
- 20 Guard House
- 21 Quarter Master Storehouse
- 22 Ordinance Store House
- 23 School and Chapel
- 24 Bakery
- 25 Butcher Shop
- 26 Wood Saw Mill
- 27 Oil House
- 28 Oil House
- 29 Gun Shop
- 30 Ordnance Magazine
- 31 Store House