

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Oklahoma	
COUNTY: Love	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 71.7.40.0011	DATE 7/27/71

1. NAME

COMMON:
Bill Washington's Ranch House

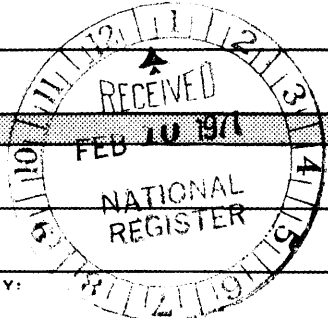
AND/OR HISTORIC:
William E. Washington Home

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
c. 4 m. SW of

CITY OR TOWN:
Marietta (Center S/2 Sec. 25, T 7 S, R 1 E)

STATE: Oklahoma CODE: 40 COUNTY: Love CODE: 085



3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <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"/> Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" 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) _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Morrell Fleming

STREET AND NUMBER:
Little Building

CITY OR TOWN:
Ardmore

STATE: Oklahoma CODE: 40

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

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

STREET AND NUMBER:
Love County Courthouse

CITY OR TOWN:
Marietta

STATE: Oklahoma CODE: 40

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Oklahoma Historic Sites Survey

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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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

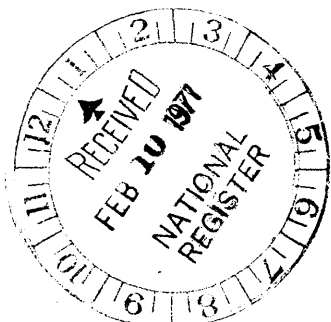
Behind its traditional ~~Victorian gingerbread~~ the William E. Washington ranch house, built 1888-1890, contains features not always found in the ordinary, two-story, white-frame home of its day.

For one thing, its basement is equipped with gun slits and outside walls on the first floor, to well above the height of a man who might have neighbors with unneighborly inclinations, are filled with six inches of fine bullet-resistant gravel. Elsewhere the two-story house boasts still other features that emphasize comfort, convenience, and gracious living -- rather than self-preservation -- and help to justify its \$50,000 price tag.

A year was required to hand ~~peg~~ the beautifully inlaid hardwood floors. Especially noteworthy is the precision-block inlay work in the formal entryway. Throughout the house are excellent examples of paneled walls and wainscoting, inlaid stair banisters, delicately carved hardwood portieres over doorways and bay windows, and intricately designed and crafted fireplace mantels. Rooms -- there are nine to thirteen of them, depending on definition -- have 12-foot ceilings, 8-foot doorways. Walls were covered with Italian wall-paper, some of which is still attractive after more than 80 years. Speaking tubes once connected all parts of the house and parts of the system are still in place. A dumb waiter links kitchen and dining room.

The Washington house has been lucky in that it has had a limited number of owners over the years, owners who have appreciated the house and, while modernizing it, have kept structural changes to a minimum. It remains a comfortable, lived-in home . . . on the outside a white gingerbreaded monument to Victorian America . . . on the inside a still handsome memorial to a ruggedly individualistic frontier rancher who appreciated beauty as well as comfort, safety as well as convenience. Few ranchers of his era lived as well as Colonel William E. ("Uncle Billy") Washington. But few, too, were as rich, or as powerful, or had as many potential enemies.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



SIGNIFICANCE

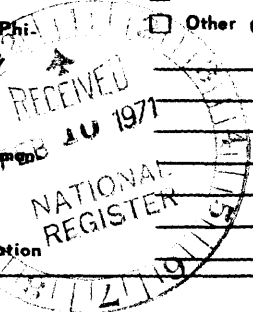
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) c. 1890 to 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input checked="" 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

William E. ("Uncle Billy") Washington was the stuff of which legends are fabricated. A shrewd, resourceful, at times ruthless man (he killed his brother in an argument over a piece of land) on a raw frontier that put a premium on such character traits, he was almost assured of success. Marriage to a Chickasaw woman gave him access to Indian land, but this (in the post-Civil War years, when he moved across the Red River from Texas into this extreme south-central part of present-day Oklahoma) was only a springboard for his ambitions. At the height of his career he ran thousands of cattle over much of what is today Love County, raised enough cotton to maintain his own scale house, hired enough hands (100 and more much of the time) to maintain a commissary and store on the home ranch and two additional stores, issue his own coins (of tin, in denominations from twenty cents to a dollar) and script money.

The ruler of such a broad empire obviously needed a suitable castle. The William E. (the "Uncle Billy" tag came later, with the mellowing of age) Washington Ranch Home met this need. Built painstakingly by skilled artisans from around 1888 to 1890, it cost \$50,000 and represents a definite high mark for architectural virtuosity in what was then still pretty largely undeveloped Indian country.

Washington saw his empire begin to crumble, however, when the Choctaw Nation, after 1889, began to pressure ranchers occupying territorial lands to fence them. The coming of statehood in 1907 crimped his free-swinging operation even more seriously. His fortunes continued to ebb and about 1920 he sold out and moved to southeastern New Mexico. Here he made at least two only partially successful attempts to rebuild his empire, but age -- and the times -- were against him. He died in the 1930s.

The Oklahoma Cowman summed up the career of "Colonel" Washington (another of his ceremonial titles) in a recent article:

The Colonel was one of those men who was larger than life. The type of character who became a legend in his

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

McGalliard, Mac, "Old Washington House Is Visited" - Daily Ardmoreite, Nov. 4, 1968.
 Stewart, Roy P., "Cattleman's Castle" - The Daily Oklahoman, July 31, 1949.
 ----- "Colonel Billy Washington, Feudal Prince of the Chickasaw Nation" - The Oklahoma Cowman, January 1969.

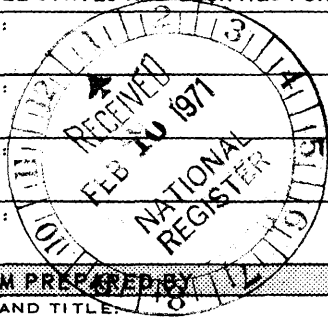
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

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	° ' "	° ' "		33° 55' 10"	97° 09' 13"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **one acre**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: **Kent Ruth**

ORGANIZATION: **Oklahoma Historical Society** DATE: **February, 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 *Liaison officer for year*

Date _____

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

[Signature]
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST: *[Signature]*
 Keeper of The National Register

Date *7-7-71*

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Oklahoma	
COUNTY	
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71.7.40.0011	7/27/91

(Number all entries)

No. 8. Significance

Bill Washington's Ranch House

own time. He didn't live life in the ordinary sense, but seized it around the neck and shook from it all that it had to offer. He took what he wanted from those around him, and ordinarily they let him have it without too much of a struggle. If they got resentful and attempted to oppose him, they generally got scarred up, sometimes to the point that they died of it. Though the ethics of this kind of attitude is to say the least, questionable, it is the kind of attitude that builds empires, conquers wildernesses, and makes fortunes.

His was the attitude of his time and like so many others, he ended his life a rather tragic figure who had outlived his era.

