

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



638

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. **Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).**

1. Name of Property

historic name Knippelmier Farmstead
other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 672 State Highway 152

| | |
|-----|---------------------|
| N/A | not for publication |
| XXX | vicinity |

city or town Minco
state Oklahoma code OK county Grady code 051 zip code 73059

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,
I hereby certify that this X nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.
In my opinion, the property X meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

___ national ___ statewide X local

[Signature] _____
Signature of certifying official/Title Date July 25, 2011

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government _____

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official Date

Title _____ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain): _____

[Signature] _____
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action 9-8-11

Knippelmier Farmstead
Name of Property

Grady County, OK
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- private
- public - Local
- public - State
- public - Federal

Category of Property
(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

| Contributing | Noncontributing | |
|--------------|-----------------|--------------|
| 7 | 2 | buildings |
| 2 | 0 | sites |
| 0 | 0 | structures |
| 1 | 0 | objects |
| 10 | 2 | Total |

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE:

Agricultural Outbuilding

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling

DOMESTIC: Secondary Structure

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Bungalow/Craftsman

OTHER: Livestock Feeder Barn

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: CONCRETE

walls: SYNTHETICS: VINYL

WOOD

roof: METAL

other: _____

Knippelmier Farmstead

Name of Property

Grady County, OK

County and State

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

Summary Paragraph

The Knippelmier Farmstead, located in the Minco vicinity of Union Township in north central Grady County, Oklahoma, is a notable representative example of an early 20th century farmstead developed by first generation German-Americans on land owned by a German immigrant. The development of the farmstead is attributed to the Knippelmier family, with wide acceptance that the family constructed both the character-defining farmhouse and barn, as well as the other buildings and improvements to the property. The historic farmstead consists of the one and one-half-story farmhouse; the red barn; a cellar; a cistern; a chicken house; a calf shed; a tree-lined, asphalt-paved lane; an L-shaped shelterbelt along the northwest and north sides of the property; a free-standing garage; a small wash room; a small storage building; and, a new guest house (see sketch map). Of these resources, the house, barn, cellar, chicken house, wash room, storage building and calf shed are contributing buildings. Among the buildings, only the farmhouse expresses an architectural style, that of the popular early twentieth century Bungalow/Craftsman style. In the 2009 "Thematic Survey of Historic Barns in Southwest Oklahoma" by Brad A. Bays, Ph.D., and sponsored in part by the Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office, the Knippelmier Barn was classified as a Livestock Feeder type. The individual historic integrity of the farmhouse has been diminished by modernization efforts, most notably the removal of the chimneys, the addition of vinyl siding, the laying of a new concrete porch floor and the installation of a standing seam metal roof; however, despite the changes the house remains readily understandable as an early 20th century farmhouse and retains the critical components of location, design, feeling and association. The distinctive Livestock Feeder type barn retains a good degree of individual historic integrity, although the roof material has been changed from wood to metal and some of the window infill has been modified. The cistern is a contributing object and the tree-lined boundary along the northwest and north sides of the property which contains various pieces of old farm equipment is a contributing site. Although the nonoriginal asphalt paving diminishes the integrity of material, the tree-lined lane connecting the farmstead to the adjacent highway is a contributing site as the trees are the distinctive historic features of the lane and they remain largely intact. The free-standing garage is a noncontributing building because its construction post-dates the property's period of significance and the garage was moved from its long-term location between the house and barn to a new location behind the chicken house in late 2010. The metal guest house which was constructed in late 2010 on the approximate former location of the garage is noncontributing due to insufficient age. With the exception of the pasture by the calf shed, the farm ground associated with the Knippelmier Farmstead is not included within the boundaries of this nomination as the fields contribute only to the general setting of the farmstead and do not contribute anything specifically to the property's historic significance. As the current occupants, the third generation of Knippelmiers to reside there, are not engaged in the farming business, none of the farm outbuildings, including the barn, are in use for their historic purpose.

Narrative Description

The Knippelmier Farmstead is a historic district composed of seven contributing buildings, two contributing sites, one contributing object and two noncontributing buildings (see photograph 1). Total, there are ten contributing resources and two noncontributing resources. The Knippelmier Farmstead is situated in the Union Township of Grady County. The legal description for the property is the southeast quarter of the southwest quarter of the southeast quarter of Section 13, Township 10 North, Range 8 West. The farmstead is just east of the 98th Meridian which bisects Section 13; the 98th Meridian was the west boundary of the Chickasaw Nation and was the original west boundary of Grady County, Oklahoma, when the county was

Knippelmier Farmstead

Grady County, OK

Name of Property

County and State

established at Oklahoma statehood in 1907. In 1911, the Washington Township on the west side of the 98th Meridian, as well as the townships of Dutton and Prairie Valley to the direct south of the Washington Township, was added to Grady County, moving the county line five plus miles farther to the west.

The Knippelmier Farmstead is situated on the north side of State Highway 152 (originally 41) which is a two-lane artery that served as an east-west link between Oklahoma City in central Oklahoma and Sayre in far west Oklahoma. The highway was a crucial farm-to-market road that continued to be improved over the course of the twentieth century as part of the effort to reduce slow moving farm traffic on other major routes, such as United States Highway 66. While the designation of the state highway occurred after construction of the Knippelmier Farmstead and, thus, did not dictate the location of the key buildings, the highway undoubtedly influenced the growth of the farmstead, ensuring that no development occurred between the highway and the preexisting buildings. Unlike a variety of other historic farmsteads in Grady County, the Knippelmier Farmstead enjoys a certain prominence due directly to its location on a state highway which links to a federal highway. The Knippelmier Farmstead is located about three miles west of the intersection of State Highway 152 and United States Highway 81. United States Highway 81 is part of the north-south Meridian Highway that linked Winnipeg, Canada, to Laredo, Texas, and eventually Mexico City, Mexico. The intersection of State Highway 152 and United States Highway 81 is about two miles from the four-way stop in downtown Minco. Minco is a small farming community established in 1890 when the Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific (Rock Island) Railway was forced to stop road construction because of difficulty in spanning the Washita River to the south. Minco is located between the major cities of Chickasha (Interstate 44) to the south and El Reno (Interstate 40) to the north. More closely located are the towns of Pocasset, about ten miles south in Grady County, and Union City, about eight miles north in Canadian County. The South Canadian River forms the county line between Grady and Canadian counties with the river approximately a mile and a half north of the Knippelmier Farmstead.

The farmstead was built and lived upon by Henry and Pauline Knippelmier from the mid-1910s until their respective deaths in 1980. The land was purchased by the Knippelmier family in 1915 under Herman Knippelmier's name. Herman, a German-born emigrant, was Henry's father. Herman continued to hold legal title to the land until 1933 when he deeded the land to Henry Knippelmier. Because the Knippelmier "homeplace," obtained in 1908, was located north and east of the subject farmstead in Section 18, Township 10 North, Range 7 West, it is likely that Herman and his wife Marie never resided in this location and that the property was purchased to expand the families' land holdings and perhaps secondarily to provide a farmstead for Henry and Pauline Knippelmier. The Knippelmiers' grandchildren, two of whom have recently taken up residence on the farmstead, shared two historic photographs of the property showing the house and barn, one taken in the late 1910s or early 1920s based on the cars and the other dating from the 1930s, also based on visible cars. According to family stories, the barn was constructed in 1916, the same year that Henry and Pauline's eldest son Oscar was born. In typical German fashion, the house followed shortly after, likely in 1917 according to the family. The construction of the barn is credited to the Knippelmier family who were known to be capable, jack-of-all trades types. Based on this information and according to the family, the Knippelmier family also constructed the house. It is believed that the cellar and cistern were also constructed at or near the same time as the house and barn. The cellar and cistern would have been functional elements of the farmstead that were required from the beginning. Because both of these features were typical resources of farmsteads from the 1910s and 1920s, they are assumed to have been built within the property's period of significance and are contributing resources. The chicken house, wash room, storage building and calf shed were built prior to 1940 as they are visible on the United States Agricultural Department aerial image of the area dated July 19, 1940. As such, they are believed to have been constructed during the farmstead's period of significance and are contributing resources. The single car garage does not appear on the 1940 aerial and was relocated in late 2010 from its position between the house and barn to a new location behind (north) of the chicken house. The garage, therefore, is deemed a noncontributing resource. The family was not certain when the shelterbelt and lane were developed, although they believe the shelterbelt may date to

Knippelmier Farmstead

Name of Property

Grady County, OK

County and State

the 1920s. In any case, both the lane and shelterbelt were in place and fairly well developed by the time of the 1940 aerial photograph; as such, both are believed to have been developed within the property's period of significance and are therefore contributing resources.

The southernmost building of the Knippelmier Farmstead is set approximately 286 feet north of the two-lane, black-topped State Highway 152 with the **Farmhouse** (Contributing Resource #1) being the closest building to the road (see photograph 1). The buildings of the farmstead are accessed from the highway by a prominent **Lane** (Contributing Resource #2) that is lined with tall trees on both sides (see photographs 1, 11 and 12). The paved lane is approximately three hundred feet in length, north to south with a westward hook on the south end towards the house and former location of the one-car garage (see photograph 3). The lane was gravel until the last few years when it was paved with asphalt. Despite the paving, the lane is a contributing site to the property because of the retention of the historic trees along both sides. The trees are more visible than the asphalt lane itself and, thus, are the significant character defining element of the site. To the east of the lane is a fenced pasture that is included within the boundaries of the nomination because of its association to the **Calf Shed** (Contributing Resource #9) (see photograph 12).

The **Farmhouse** (Contributing Resource #1) is the southernmost situated building and is located towards the west side of the farmstead (see photographs 1, 2, 3 and 4). To the west of the house, towards the back side, is an older, round propane tank. The Bungalow/Craftsman style, one and one-half-story house has a concrete foundation and is clad with vinyl siding which has been in place reportedly since the 1970s. Historic images of the house provided by the family indicate the house had a weatherboard siding originally painted a light color. In about 2009, the clipped, side-gabled roof was covered with a standing seam metal roof that is red in color. The installation of the new roof caused the removal of the two brick chimneys that historically ornamented the ridge of the roof. Prior to 2009, the roof was clad with a light brown colored shingle. The historic shed dormer, containing two sets of square double windows, remains intact. The house has a full-width front porch with an integral porch roof supported by simple, unfluted, round, Doric columns. The porch floor is now concrete with a rounded front step and a new concrete walk that goes east past the porch before taking a northward turn to link with the new concrete sidewalk that extends eastward from the rear side door to the blacktopped lane. The porch floor work was done in 2008. As was common for houses built in the 1910s, the façade has two centrally located entries situated on the main wall under the front porch. Both doors are wood, glazed, paneled with metal storm doors. Flanking the doors are single, wide, wood, one-over-one, hung windows with metal storms. As on the east elevation, the west side of the house contains two sets of double, one-over-one, hung, wood windows on the first floor and a centrally located set of double windows on the second floor. A noticeable difference between the two side elevations is that the east elevation's northernmost set of first floor windows are shorter as they light the kitchen. Originally, the rear elevation of the building contained a full-width porch similar to the front elevation. At an unknown time, probably after the 1940s, the porch was enclosed to create a laundry and mud room, as well as other finished interior space. Both of the available historic images indicate that the porch was not yet enclosed. On the east wall of the enclosed porch, there is a single, metal, glazed, paneled door that allows entry into the rear part of the house. On either side of the rear side door, there are single, one-over-one, hung, metal windows. On the north wall of the enclosed porch, there are four different window openings. On the east side is a double set of short, two-over-two, hung, metal windows. To the west of the easternmost set of windows is a regular sized, one-over-one, metal, hung window. Continuing to the west of the second set of windows on the north elevation is a shorter, single, one-over-one, hung window. Towards the far west side of the north elevation is a small, one-by-one, metal window. While the changes to the house are considerable, the house overall retains its ability to convey its historic significance. The overall form and fenestration pattern of the house remains intact. Critically, the house is a key element in the design of the farmstead as it is one of the two primary resources that compose this type of property. Additionally, while the exterior materials and workmanship have been diminished by the modifications, the interior still retains many original finishes and materials. Overall, the farmhouse retains its integrity of location, design, feeling and association and ably conveys its historic purpose and significance.

Knippelmier Farmstead

Name of Property

Grady County, OK

County and State

To the immediate north of the house about seven feet towards the east side is the concrete **Cellar** (Contributing Resource #3) (see photograph 4). Cellars were constructed not only to provide storage space for canned and other goods but also for their protective value. Tornados were a known danger in this part of Oklahoma even as the Knippelmiers constructed their farmstead with a tornado setting down about ten miles south of Minco near the town of Pocasset on August 5, 1917. The walls, floor and roof of the Knippelmier cellar are concrete as is typical of cellars in this area. The door is metal slab of indeterminate age with a homemade pulley system to hold the door open. The top of the cellar is relatively flat and covered in grass. Towards the east side of the cellar, there is a brick and concrete ventilation shaft with an arched brick cap. In order to support the new guest house, a water purification system has been added on the interior and the cellar has been cleaned with all glassware and canning shelves removed.

To the direct north of the cellar approximately sixteen feet, there is a **Cistern** on a concrete base (Contributing Resource #4) (see photograph 4). For safety purposes, the concrete cap to the cistern has been cemented in place. The metal pump remains atop the rectangular concrete base, although a few pieces are missing. About seventeen feet north of the cistern is an old wooden T-pole clothesline.

To the direct east of the cistern is the new, metal, one-story, side-gabled **Guest House** (Noncontributing Resource #2) (see photographs 3, 4, 7 and 9). The walls of the guest are white with the standing seam metal roof being red. This color schemes matches the house, as well as accents the red walls of the barn. Atop the roof is a small square cupola topped by a metal weather vane. There is a full-width, integral porch with four, square, metal porch supports on the façade. The front door is slightly off-center towards the east and consists of a metal, glazed, paneled door with multiple lights. To the east of the door is a single, metal, one-over-one, hung window. To the west of the door are two small, one-over-one, metal windows located towards the upper side of the wall. The west elevation of the guest house features a single door located towards the south side that is flanked on each side by a one-by-one metal window. The side door is metal, glazed, paneled with a multi-paned rectangular light in the upper half. On the north side of the west elevation are two single, one-over-one, hung, metal windows. The back elevation of the guest house contains two single, one-over-one, metal hung windows towards the west half and a narrow, rectangular, fixed window centrally located on the east half. The east elevation contains two single, one-over-one, metal, hung windows on the south half and a single, narrow, rectangular, one-over-one, hung window towards the north half of the elevation. Constructed in late 2010, the guest house is noncontributing due to insufficient age.

The small **Storage Building** (Contributing Resource #5) and **Wash Room** (Contributing Resource #6) are located about eighty feet straight north of the northwest corner of the house and diagonally thirty-feet north of the clothesline (see photographs 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6). The storage building is clad with vertical wood boards painted red with a silver-colored, metal, side-gabled roof. The wood plank door is held shut by a simple wood latch. The storage building has a concrete block foundation. About five feet to the west is the wash room. The wash room has a concrete foundation and is now clad with vertical panels of sheet metal, also painted red. The building's shed roof is metal with exposed rafter tails. The plank door is located on the east side and also is held shut by a wood latch.

About twenty-two feet north of the storage buildings is the **Chicken House** (Contributing Resource #7) (see photographs 2, 5 and 7). Painted red to match the barn, the walls of the chicken house are a combination of vertical wood, plywood and horizontal weatherboard. The shed roof of the building is clad with corrugated metal panels. The front entry, located on the east edge of the south elevation consists of a wood plank door that is held in place by strap hinges and a padlock. To the west of the door is a central bank of windows consisting of eight, four-over-four, hung, wood windows. On the east elevation of the chicken house there is a double set of swinging wood doors with strap hinges. To the immediate north of the door is a four-pane, fixed,

Knippelmier Farmstead

Name of Property

Grady County, OK

County and State

wood window. There are no other doors or windows on the north or west elevations of the rectangular building.

To the back of the chicken house is the single car **Garage** (Noncontributing Resource #1) (see photographs 5, 6 and 7). The rectangular building was moved from its original location between the house and barn to its current position behind the chicken house on the backside of the farmstead in late 2010 to accommodate the construction of the guest house. The garage's concrete foundation was relocated along with the weatherboard-clad building. The front and side walls of the garage are clad with a horizontal weatherboard siding and the back elevation has vertical wood siding. Towards the lower edge of the current east and north elevations is a section of metal paneling that has been in place for some time. A new concrete ramp was poured in front of the garage door to facilitate access in the new location. The garage's front-gabled roof is clad with fairly new corrugated metal. The double, swinging, wood garage doors are located towards the north side of the east elevation. On the south elevation, there is a single, vertical wood, pedestrian door with a board along the lower section of the door. There are no windows on any elevations and no entries on the west or north elevations of the building. Decorative details on the garage included exposed rafters. Because the garage was constructed after the property's period of significance and has been relocated from its original location, it is a noncontributing resource.

Framing the northwest and most of the north boundary of the farmstead is a row of trees which forms an L-shaped **Shelterbelt** (Contributing Resource #8) (see photographs 1, 5, and 11). The c. 1910s historic image of the farm indicates there were no trees in the immediate proximity of the house and none on the south or west sides of the barn. There were several large trees in the background of the photograph which would be to the east side of the farmstead, likely along the small creek that winds in a southeasterly direction along the east side of Section 13. The family indicated they believe the shelterbelt may have been planted in the 1920s when the children of Henry and Pauline Knippelmier were still in residence. Amongst the trees on the north side of the shelterbelt are various pieces of old farm equipment. On the east end of the north line of the shelterbelt there is a wide opening that provides access to the field to the north of the farmstead. The opening is wide enough to accommodate a tractor pulling a piece of equipment.

To the southeast of the opening on the east end of the shelterbelt, there is a wooden **Calf Shed** (Contributing Resource #9) which opens onto a fenced pasture (see photographs 8, 11 and 12). The calf shed has wood plank walls and a side-gabled roof. The roof was clad with corrugated metal panels, many of which are now missing. It is known that the Knippelmiers raised cattle, along with primary crops of wheat and hay.

Approximately 156 feet southwest of the calf shed is the crown of the Knippelmier Farmstead, the **Livestock Feeder Barn** (Contributing Resource #10) (see photographs 1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11 and 12). The barn measures about 40 feet north-to-south by 52 feet east-to-west. The barn has a concrete stem wall; the floor of the barn is dirt. The wood plank walls have been painted red. Over the years, some of the wood planks have been replaced with the new wood boards being identifiable by their smoother appearance. The front-gabled roof has a hay hood on the north side and is covered with corrugated metal panels. Based on the historic images, the roof of the barn was probably originally wood. The addition of the metal roof cladding is typical of barns as the metal was generally deemed by innumerable farmers as a more durable, less maintenance alternative to the wood roofs. The circa 1910s image of the farmstead indicates that the walls of the barn were even then painted red. The circa 1930s image reflects the more trying times of the Great Depression with the walls of the barn unpainted and weathered. The south elevation of the barn features two wood sliding doors on the east side of the first floor. In the upper gable wall, there are two windows with a third window in the gable peak. The lower two windows have wood vents in the openings while the third window in the peak of the gable is currently boarded. All three windows feature white surrounds. This is the same pattern of openings as on the historic images of the property; however, the image of the barn in the May-June 1956 issue of *Oklahoma Today* indicates that the upper window was a four-over-four, wood, hung

Knippelmier Farmstead

Name of Property

Grady County, OK

County and State

window with the lower two openings possibly boarded at that time. The east elevation of the barn features two pedestrian split doors held closed by wood latches. Both doors swing open towards the center of the elevation; thus, the north door's hinges are on the south side and the south door's hinges are on the north side. Equally spaced on either side of the doors are three, single, fixed, four-pane windows with white surrounds. Centrally located on the upper wall above the center window is a half door with a wood latch. The north elevation features no openings, although there were possibly two oversize openings on the first story that have been boarded in. The east elevation of the barn, as originally designed, is extended to form a shed section to the barn. Still in place on the east elevation is the metal conveyor system to transport feed such as corn to fill the granaries running along the center section of the barn. This same equipment is pictured in the 1956 image of the barn in *Oklahoma Today*. The interior configuration of the barn remains much as it was originally with wood partitions along the sides of open walkways and dirt floors. The barn is currently used for storage, although the current generation of Knippelmiers living on the farm is considering modifying the building to create additional lodging as needed for family reunions and other events.

ALTERATIONS:

The Knippelmier Farmstead has evolved over the nearly century of habitation. Most recently, the evolution of the farmstead has consisted of the construction of a new guest house between the barn and the original farmhouse. The guest house was constructed by the third generation of Knippelmiers residing on the place to expand the housing facilities at the farmstead. To support the construction of the guest house, the garage was relocated from its position between the house and barn to the rear of the chicken house.

All of the historic buildings of the farmstead have been modified, including the barn which originally had a wood roof but now has a metal roof. The house has undergone probably the most change with modifications that include the enclosure of the back porch, the addition of vinyl siding, the laying of a new concrete porch floor, the removal of the two brick ridge chimneys and the installation of a standing seam metal roof. While these changes diminish the individual resources' integrity of setting, materials and workmanship, overall the Knippelmier Farmstead maintains its integrity of location, design, feeling and association. The Knippelmier Farmstead is noteworthy for its collection of historic farm buildings, including the early twentieth century farmhouse and barn. The property's prominent location on State Highway 152 also contributes to the property's distinction.

Knippelmier Farmstead
Name of Property

Grady County, OK
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

ETHNIC HERITAGE: EUROPEAN

SOCIAL HISTORY

Period of Significance

1916-1933

Significant Dates

1933

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Knippelmier Family

Period of Significance (justification)

The period of significance begins in 1916 to coincide with the construction of the Knippelmier barn. The period of significance terminates in 1933 to coincide with the change in ownership of the land from Herman Knippelmier to Henry and Pauline Knippelmier. This period incorporates the development of the farmstead into its recognizable form and the shift of land ownership from German-born to first generation German-American.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary) N/A

Knippelmier Farmstead

Grady County, OK

Name of Property

County and State

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria.)

The Knippelmier Farmstead is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A in the areas of European ethnic heritage and social history. The farmstead is noteworthy as an example of a property developed by a first generation German-American family on land owned by a German-born immigrant. Significantly, the Knippelmier family was not the only ethnic German family to relocate to this part of Grady County just after statehood. The Knippelmier, Doebeli, Frey, Eden, Balke, Koerner and Kuhlman families all resided in the vicinity of the Knippelmier Farmstead, all shared German ethnic ties and frequently intermarried. Additionally, the majority of these families, including the Knippelmier family, all relocated from the same area in southeast Nebraska around the same time. These families then formed a small German enclave in this section of Grady County. As a representative example of the farmsteads constructed by these German families after statehood and because the buildings of the farmstead are directly attributed to the family, the Knippelmier Farmstead merits recognition for its contribution to Grady County's European ethnic heritage and social history.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

In 1908, Diedrich Herman Knippelmier (also known as Herman Diedrich and legally as just Herman) took a train to Oklahoma from his farm in Johnson, Nebraska. Herman's destination was apparently Grady County, Oklahoma, with the desire to find better or possibly more farmland being the motivation for the trip. Notably, there continued to be family movement between Oklahoma and Nebraska for several generations, indicating that the Knippelmier family did not relinquish all ties to Nebraska when they moved to Oklahoma.

Herman Knippelmier was born in Nordholz, Germany and his wife Marie (also known as Mary) was born in Bucken, German.¹ According to the 1900 United States Census, Herman was born in October 1855 and immigrated to the United States in 1873. His wife was born in August 1854 and she immigrated to the United States in 1878. Apparently, the couple married the same year that Marie arrived in the United States with their oldest son John being born that year as well. In 1900, the couple had seven living children with the census recording that Marie was the mother of a total of nine children. In addition to John (born 1878), the Knippelmiers' offspring included Dora (born 1884); Mary (born 1887); Henry (born 1889); Emma (born 1892); Herman (also spelled Harman; born 1894); and, William (born 1897). The place of birth for all seven children was recorded as Nebraska; as such, it is likely that Nebraska was Marie's original destination when she immigrated. According to the census, the entire family could read, write and speak English. While John at age 21 was recorded as being a farm laborer, the rest of the children had an occupation of "at school." Herman's profession was listed as farmer and, as typical of the time, Marie had no recorded occupation. The family owned their farm, although it was mortgaged. In 1900, the family resided in the Benton Precinct of Nemaha County, Nebraska. Nemaha County is located in the southeast corner of Nebraska. To the immediate west of Nemaha County is Johnson County. Pawnee County, Nebraska, is located to the direct south of Johnson County and southwest of Nemaha County.²

Also on the train to Oklahoma in 1908 were two of Herman's Nebraska neighbors, John Doebeli and Otto Frey.³ In 1900, John Doebeli resided in Clear Creek, Pawnee County, Nebraska. According to the 1900 United States Census, John Doebeli was born in October 1865 in Switzerland. John's wife Minnie was born in January 1868 in Germany. John immigrated to the United States in 1885 and Minnie came in 1892. At the time of the census, the couple had been married seven years and had two children, William and Pauline.

¹ Minco, Oklahoma: 1890-1990, (Rich Hill, Missouri: Bell Books, 1990), 117.

² United States Federal Census, 1900, (available www.ancestry.com, retrieved 24 March 2011).

³ Minco, Oklahoma, 117.

Knippelmier Farmstead

Grady County, OK

Name of Property

County and State

While the 1900 census correctly recorded William's birth month and day as April 1894, the census incorrectly identified Pauline as being born in April 1899. According to the headstone in Minco's Evergreen Cemetery, Pauline was born in 1897. As with the Knippelmier children, both of the Doebeli children were born in Nebraska. Both John and Minnie could read, write and speak English. John's occupation was that of farmer with no occupation listed for Minnie. In 1900, the Doebelis leased their Nebraska farm.⁴

Both Otto Frey and his wife Minnie were born in Nebraska, Otto in July 1871 and Minnie in September 1870 according to the 1900 United States Census. However, both of Otto's parents were born in Switzerland and both of Minnie's parents were born in Germany. Married for five years in 1900, the Freys' had three children, Nellie (born 1895), Edward (born 1897) and Otto (born 1900). In 1900, the Freys resided in the Miles Precinct of Pawnee County, Nebraska.⁵

William Balke was born in February 1851 in Missouri to German parents. William grew up in Johnson, Nebraska. William's wife Caroline was born in April 1864 in Hanover, Germany. Caroline immigrated to the United States with her parents in 1870. The couple's six living children were all born in Nebraska. According to family history, Caroline was married previously and the elder two of the couple's six children were from the first marriage. The 1900 United States Census also indicates that Caroline was William's second wife. In 1900, the Balke family lived in the Benton Precinct of Nemaha County, Nebraska.⁶

Ede Eden was born in July 1867 in Germany. The 1900 United States Census does not provide any information on when Ede Eden immigrated to the United States. Ede's wife Anna was born in November 1874 in Illinois. Anna's father was born in Germany, while her mother was born in Illinois. In 1900, the couple had three children, Willie (born 1896), Henry (born 1897) and Frieda (born 1899). In 1900, the family farmed in the Washington Precinct of Nemaha County, Nebraska.⁷

According to family history, William Gottlieb Kuhlman immigrated to Nebraska from Deckenberg, Germany, at the age of 25. According to the 1900 United States Census, William was born in November 1840 and immigrated to the United States in 1865. William's wife Mary was born in Illinois in July 1834 to German parents. In Germany, William's reported occupation was glass blower. Following his immigration, William became a farmer and carpenter, building many barns in Nebraska which stood for decades. William's son Gottlieb was born on August 10, 1880. In 1900, the Kuhlman family owned a farm in the Maple Grove Precinct of Johnson County, Nebraska.⁸

While the local history book indicates Herman Knippelmier, John Doebeli and Otto Frye rode the train together to Oklahoma in 1908 to look for land, it is unknown if William Balke, Ede Eden and William Kuhlman took the same train ride. It is also unknown if and why Grady County, Oklahoma, was their destination. However, based on the 1900 census, all six families lived in the southeast corner of Nebraska in 1900. By the time of the 1910 United States census, the Doebeli, Frey, Balke, Eden and Kuhlman families all resided in the Washington Township of Caddo County, Oklahoma. The 1910 census records John Knippelmier, eldest son of Herman and Marie, as residing in the Washington Township of Caddo County, Oklahoma. Herman and Marie, however, are still recorded in the 1910 United States Census as living in Benton Precinct, Nemaha County, Nebraska. However, the Grady County land records substantiate that Herman and Marie had purchased what would become known as the "homeplace" in Section 18 of Township 10 North, Range 7 West,

⁴ United States Federal Census, 1900, (available www.ancestry.com, retrieved 28 January 2011).

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Minco, Oklahoma, 61-62. See also United States Federal Census, 1900, (available www.ancestry.com, retrieved 24 March 2011).

⁷ United States Federal Census, 1900 (available www.ancestry.com, retrieved 11 February 2011).

⁸ Minco, Oklahoma, 119. See also United States Federal Census, 1900, (available www.ancestry.com, retrieved 24 March 2011).

Knippelmier Farmstead

Name of Property

Grady County, OK

County and State

in March 1908. At the same time, Herman also acquired the Northeast Quarter of Section 13 and Lots One and Two of Section 13 in Township 10 North, Range 8 West. This provided a land base for the family of 248.34 acres at a total cost of \$12,500. In 1913, Herman expanded the homeplace at a cost of \$600 through the purchase of the south 19.60 acres of Lot Six of Section 18, Township 10 North, Range 7 West.⁹

The ethnic German families quickly established a church and cemetery in the area. Located on the northwest corner of the Frey land, the location of church and cemetery was about three miles west of the Knippelmier Farmstead. The church was known as the Zion Lutheran Evangelical Church, as well as the Centerview Church and as the Old German Church. The last name is attributed "...to the fact that it was built by the German people living in this area." The church reportedly disbanded in 1955 and the one-story, weatherboard building was torn down after this. Near the church was located the Centerview Cemetery, also known as the German Cemetery. Names represented in the small cemetery include Kulhman, Eden, Koerner, Henderson and Mengers. The Centerview Cemetery also includes three unmarked graves which reportedly are the graves of the children of migrant cotton pickers.¹⁰ Rather than utilizing the Centerview Cemetery, members of the Knippelmier and Doebeli families were buried in Minco's Evergreen Cemetery. Due to their location in Union Township, the Knippelmier family also attended school in Minco with the majority of the other families attending the Burr Oak School in Washington Township.

As to be expected, the ethnic German families intermarried, as well as married within the larger community, creating a web of ties. Most notably, Henry Knippelmier, second son of Herman and Marie Knippelmier, married Pauline Doebeli, only daughter of John and Minnie Doebeli. Herman Knippelmier, third son of Herman and Marie Knippelmier, married Nellie Frey, daughter of Otto and Minnie Frey, in 1913. Frieda Eden, daughter of Ede and Anna Eden, married Ernest Koerner, son of Ernest and Ernestene Koerner, who had moved to the area from Salem, North Dakota. Marrying in 1923, Frieda and Ernest initially lived east of Minco but after their eldest son Harvey was born, the Koerners moved west of Minco to a farm just a mile north of the Knippelmier Farmstead.¹¹

In 1915, Herman Knippelmier purchased 189.58 acres from George and S.J. Dennett and Stephen Dennett, including all "...improvements situated thereon." The new land consisted of all of Lot 3 and 4 and the Southeast quarter of Section 13, Township 10 North, Range 8 West. It was on this land that Henry and Pauline Knippelmier established their farmstead. According to family legend, the hallmark, red, Livestock Feeder barn was the first major construction on the farmstead, being built in 1916, the same year that Pauline and Henry's eldest son Oscar was born. The barn reportedly cost \$800 to build. Lifelong Grady County resident Marvin Koerner, son of Ernest and Frieda (Eden) Koerner, grew up a mile north of the Knippelmier Farmstead. It was both the surviving family members' and Mr. Koerner's belief that the Knippelmier family constructed the barn, although undoubtedly friends and neighbors pitched in to "raise" the barn. Mr. Koerner described the Knippelmiers' as "jack-of-all-trades" who were more than capable of building the barn.¹²

Critically, the Knippelmiers' built at least three matching barns for the family that survived into the late twentieth century. The other two barns were located northeast of the extant Knippelmier barn on and near the homeplace in Section 18, Township 10 North, Range 7 West. Both of the other barns have been destroyed,

⁹ Minco, Oklahoma, 117. See also United States Federal Census, 1900 and 1910; Warranty Deed, William H. McMahan and Nannie J. McMahan to Herman Knippelmier, 30 March 1908 (available Grady County Clerk's Office, Grady County Courthouse, Chickasha, Oklahoma); and Warranty Deed, Charles Williams and Nell Williams to Herman Knippelmier, 11 October 1913.

¹⁰ Minco, Oklahoma, 30 and 35.

¹¹ *Ibid.*, 85, 93 and 117-118.

¹² Warranty Deed, George Dennett, S.J. Dennett and Stephen Dennett to Herman Knippelmier, 12 April 1915. See also Minco, Oklahoma, 117-118; Phyllis Britt Interview by Cynthia Savage, 28 January 2011; and, Marvin and Berniece Koerner Interview by Cynthia and Lee Savage, 12 February 2011.

Knippelmier Farmstead

Name of Property

Grady County, OK

County and State

leaving only the Knippelmier Farmstead barn extant. The United States Department of Agricultural aerial image dated July 19, 1940 clearly shows two buildings on the west side of Section 18 that matches the barn on Henry and Pauline Knippelmier's farmstead, including the roofline and orientation of the buildings. The north barn is located within a farmstead that includes a house and other improvements in the northeast quarter of Section 18 on the Knippelmier homeplace. This barn is set substantially back from the adjacent section line road. The south barn is located to the south and is situated much closer to the section line road dividing Section 18, Township 10 North, Range 7 West, from Section 13, Township 10 North, Range 8 West. Directly across the section line road in Section 13, Township 10 North, Range 8 is a well-developed farmstead that likely belonged with the second barn and the Knippelmier family. The exact date that the two barns in Section 18 were destroyed is unknown; however, Mr. Koerner is confident that one of the barns was destroyed due to a fire and the other barn was demolished by the current landowner, Mr. Roy Koerner.

Henry and Pauline Knippelmier followed the construction of their barn with the erection of a substantial one and one-half-story farmhouse, possibly in 1917 or 1918. The house reportedly cost nearly one-third more than the barn at a price of \$1,200. As with the barn, the Knippelmier family is credited with the construction of the farmhouse, although the assistance of friends and neighbors is also acknowledged.¹³ The other buildings and improvements to the farmstead likely followed rapidly as Henry and Pauline embarked on a lifelong farming career that lasted until their respective deaths in 1980.

Because Henry and Pauline Knippelmier maintained their farmstead through 1980, there are few points that demarcate any significant changes to the property. However, ownership of the actual land transferred in 1933 from Herman and Marie Knippelmier to Henry and Pauline Knippelmier. This is a significant change as it marks the point at which Henry and Pauline were full legal owners of the complete farmstead, consisting of both the buildings and land. This also marks a significant change in the Knippelmier family as Herman and Marie not only deeded land to Henry and Pauline but also the remainder of their Oklahoma landholdings to their other children. In documents dated May 1, 1933, Herman and Marie transferred 110 acres to Henry, as well as nearly 80 acres to their daughter Dora Holtus; 83 acres to their son Herman; almost 80 acres to their daughter Mary Blinde; 80 acres to their son William; and, 80 acres to their daughter Emma Mechaelis. The shift in land ownership coincides with Herman Knippelmier's subsequent passing in 1933. Marie survived Herman by six years, three of which were reportedly spent living with her sons William and Herman in Oklahoma and the other three with her daughters in Nebraska.¹⁴

The Knippelmier Farmstead has long been described as a "Minco landmark." In addition to the character-defining farmhouse and barn, the Knippelmier Farmstead is distinguished by its prominent location on State Highway 152 (originally 41). The highway developed as an important farm-to-market link between Oklahoma City and western Oklahoma, which it remains to the present day.¹⁵ On August 21, 1934, Henry and Pauline Knippelmier granted a right-of-way to the State of Oklahoma for Oklahoma State Aid Project Number 553-B. The easement provided the North 33.5 feet of the South 50 feet of their land in Section 13, Township 10 North, Range 8 West for construction of State Highway 41. In 1950, as part of the preparation to pave State

¹³ Minco, Oklahoma, 117-118.

¹⁴ Warranty Deed Record, Herman and Marie Knippelmier to Henry Knippelmier, 1 May 1933. See also Warranty Deed Record, Herman and Marie Knippelmier to Dora Holtus, 1 May 1933; Warranty Deed Record, Herman and Marie Knippelmier to Herman Knippelmier, 1 May 1933; Warranty Deed Record, Herman and Marie Knippelmier to Mary Blinde, 1 May 1933; Warranty Deed Record, Herman and Marie Knippelmier to William Knippelmier, 1 May 1933; Warranty Deed Record, Herman and Marie Knippelmier to Emma Mechaelis, 1 May 1933; Minco, Oklahoma, 117-118.

¹⁵ The highway does not appear on the 1924 map "State of Oklahoma Showing Progress of Construction on the Preliminary Designation of the State Highway System." However, the highway appears on the 1927 State Highway Map. Maps available <http://www.okladot.state.ok.us/maps/state/archive.htm>.

Knippelmier Farmstead

Name of Property

Grady County, OK

County and State

Highway 41, Henry and Pauline Knippelmier granted .94 of additional acreage to the state. The highway was subsequently paved in the early 1950s and the name changed to State Highway 152 in 1955-1956.¹⁶

Undoubtedly influenced by the property's prominent location, the Knippelmier Farmstead barn was twice featured in *Oklahoma Today* magazine. The barn made its first appearance in the May-June 1956 issue of the magazine. The full page, color photograph of the barn was taken by Edith Hogan and showed the south elevation of the barn with the center barn doors open. The caption for the photograph incorrectly noted it as "The Red Barn," located on a farm near Binger." Binger is located about twenty-six miles west of Minco on Highway 152. However, the image of the barn in the magazine clearly matches the existing Knippelmier barn and the Knippelmier family also stated that the barn in the photograph was the extant Knippelmier barn. The Knippelmier barn was featured a second time in the May-June 1957 issue of *Oklahoma Today*. Although exactly the same photograph was used and the location of the barn was again misrepresented as being near Binger, the caption the second time around was much more expansive. The caption read:

Every state has its red barns. There's nothing particularly different about this one, but it is a good picture – and a good symbol of Oklahoma agriculture at its best. A prideful occupation that knows other lines, other dreams may have more glamour—but there's one sure thing about farming. Come what may, men must eat. This red barn's near Binger, west central Oklahoma.

The Knippelmier Farmstead, of course, is more than a symbol of Oklahoma agriculture. The farmstead represents a noteworthy element of Grady County's ethnic heritage and social history. The German enclave that formed in north central Grady County in about 1908 continued to characterize that part of the county until fairly recent times. Into the 1970s, the Knippelmier, Koerner, Doebeli, Frey, Eden and Kuhlman names remained in evidence on the county land rolls with Knippelmier, Frye, Koerner and Kuhlman still present today over a century later. Based on a windshield survey, the subject Knippelmier Farmstead remains the best extant example of the ethnic German settlement in this section of Grady County. The farmstead, of course, is highlighted by the family-built farmhouse and barn. The highly distinctive red barn is particularly emblematic of the ethnic German heritage. While most of the other places retain some of their historic buildings, although all of the Kuhlman place buildings have been demolished, none have the striking combination of the Knippelmier farmstead with the known attribution of the buildings specifically to the German-born and first generation German-American family.

According to The Germans in Oklahoma, 1910 was the "...height of German settlement in the state, both in terms of total number and percentage of the total population." This coincides with the subject German settlement in Grady County. Overall, however, Grady County was not one of the north central counties that experienced a high proportion of German settlers. In 1910, Grady County had a population of less than 300 German-born residents. By 1930, the number of German-born residents in Grady County had fallen to less than 100. Typically in Oklahoma, the German settlers concentrated in Canadian, Kay, Kingfisher, Logan, Noble, Blaine, Oklahoma, Lincoln, Garfield and Grant counties which by 1920 contained 43 percent of the German-born residents. In contrast to Grady County, the county immediately to the north, Canadian County, had over 500 German-born residents in 1910. Although declining by 1930, Canadian County still possessed more than triple the number of German-born residents as did Grady County. Notably, Canadian County was one of the top three Oklahoma counties in terms of German settlement but it is also the closest county to the Knippelmier Farmstead with the Grady/Canadian county line less than two miles north of the subject property.¹⁷

¹⁶ Minco, Oklahoma, 117-118. See also Easement for Right-of-Way, Henry D. Knippelmier and Pauline Knippelmier to State of Oklahoma, 21 August 1934 and Dedication Deed Public Highway, Henry Knippelmier and Pauline Knippelmier to State of Oklahoma, 13 November 1950.

¹⁷ Richard C. Rohrs, The Germans in Oklahoma, (Norman, Oklahoma: The University of Oklahoma Press, 1980), 15-22.

Knippelmier Farmstead

Grady County, OK

Name of Property

County and State

While clearly a minority population, the German residents of Grady County nonetheless bucked the typical settlement pattern of Germans in Oklahoma by forming an ethnic community. This was, of course, likely encouraged by the concentrated movement of the families from the same region in Nebraska. While community centers, such as a church, are usually more representative of the overall community, the Centerview Church is no longer extant. The adjoining cemetery does not as well represent the community because it does not embody the critical element of their common livelihood. All of the identified families shared a common occupation as farmers and farming was and continues to be a dominant occupation in the area. As such, the Knippelmier Farmstead is illustrative of the ethnic German settlement in the area, as well as a significant local example of the lifeways of a social group within the county. As such, the property merits recognition by listing on the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A in the areas of European ethnic heritage and social history.

Developmental history/additional historic context information (if appropriate)

Located in Indian Territory, the land on which Grady County is situated was first part of the vast original Choctaw Nation, granted to the tribe in 1820 in the Treaty of Doaks Stand and covering much of what is now southern Oklahoma. Seventeen years later, the Chickasaws formed an alliance with the Choctaws and were largely removed to the Choctaw lands in Indian Territory by 1840. Quickly chafing at their incorporation into the Choctaw Nation, the Chickasaws began rallying for their own tribal domain. In 1855, the matter was resolved by the Choctaw-Chickasaw Treaty which divided the old Choctaw Nation into three areas. The Choctaw tribe retained the east one-third of their original lands in Indian Territory. The Chickasaw tribe gained their autonomy from the Choctaw tribe and the center one-third of the original Choctaw Nation in exchange for \$150,000 paid to the Choctaws. The final one-third of the old nation was perpetually leased to the United States government for \$800,000 with the Choctaws receiving three-fourths of the money and the Chickasaws the remaining \$200,000.¹⁸

The Chickasaws divided their lands into four counties, Tishomingo, Panola, Pontoc and Pickens. Pickens, the westernmost county, for the most part contained the area that now forms Grady County. In addition to historically significant Native American sites, Pickens County was also traversed by the Chisholm Trail. Beginning in the early 1870s, the Chisholm Trail brought people through Pickens County in greater number than ever before, the majority of which were heading cattle to markets in Abilene and Caldwell, Kansas from Texas. However, many others, intermarrying into the Chickasaw tribe, took up permanent residence in Pickens County, Indian Territory. With the number of ranches growing in Pickens County and more settlers arriving, the first communities in Pickens County were formed in the 1870s. This included the ghost communities of Silver City, Fred and Parr, among others.¹⁹

As part of the Chickasaw Nation, non-Native American settlement in Pickens County was restricted by the laws of Indian Territory. Despite these restrictions, development of the county continued through the 1890s. The legal questions surrounding land ownership in the county were relieved by the 1897 Atoka Agreement which provided for allotment of the Choctaw and Chickasaws lands. Under this agreement, land holders were given possessory rights to lots which allowed them to buy improved lots at half the appraised value and

¹⁸Tommy Wayne Stringer, "The Founding and Early Development of Chickasha, Oklahoma," (MA Thesis, Oklahoma State University, 1971), 2-3. See also Arrell Morgan Gibson, Oklahoma: A History of Five Centuries (Norman, Oklahoma: University of Oklahoma Press, 1981), 48-49, 62, 75-76.

¹⁹Ibid., 3, 6-7. See also Mary Hewett Bailey, "A History of Grady County," (MA Thesis, University of Oklahoma, 1937), 1-12.

Knippelmier Farmstead

Grady County, OK

Name of Property

County and State

unimproved lots at 62.5 percent of the appraised value. By 1900, the county contained several permanent communities, the largest of which was Chickasha.²⁰

In 1907, Grady County population stood at 23,420. The three years following statehood swelled the county population to 30,309. In 1911, the county was enlarged by the addition of the townships of Dutton, Prairie Valley and Washington, originally located off the northwest side of Grady County as designated in 1907. Located west of the Ninety-Eighth Meridian, these townships were originally part of Caddo County. The voters in the townships, as well as both counties, approved the move at elections in April 1911. In June of that year, the county commissioners of both counties also sanctioned the change. Grady County paid \$463.31 to Caddo County for settlement of any monetary amounts due by reason of the transfer.

Following the land transfer, Grady County continued to grow at a moderate rate through the 1910s. By 1920, county population stood at 33,943. The 1920s proved to be an explosive decade for Grady County as the number of county residents escalated to 47,638 in 1930, a jump of nearly 13,700 persons. Unfortunately, the 1930s were more difficult, due to the general economic distress wreaking havoc nationwide combined with the high tenancy rate on county farms. The Grady County population resultantly dropped to 41,116 by 1940. The county continued to lose citizens through the 1940s, 1950s and 1960s. County population dropped to 34,872 in 1950 and below the 1910 population by 1960 to 29,590. The 1960s were relatively stable with a marginal loss of 236 residents, bringing county population to 29,354. County growth accelerated in the 1970s, raising the 1980 population to 39,490. The upwards trend has continued for Grady County, as the 1990 population, coming in at 41,747, passed the 1940 population.

Throughout the twentieth century, Grady County relied heavily on its agriculture community for economic stability. In addition to cattle, major crops in Grady County included cotton, wheat, oats, broomcorn and forage crops of all kinds. Melons, sweet potatoes, Irish potatoes, vegetables and fruits began emerging as important crops in the 1930s. Dairying has also played an important role in Grady County throughout the decades. By the 1950s, the county led the state in dairy production income with an \$1.5 million annual revenue for Grade-A dairymen. Grady County continued to lead the dairy industry in Oklahoma through the twentieth century to the present day.²¹

From the 1920s onward, and particularly for the 1970s and 1980s, the oil and gas industry was another major economic factor in the county's development. Although not resulting in the overnight explosion experienced by other Oklahoma counties and towns, Grady County benefitted for decades from nearby activity in the Cement Field, the Carter Knox Oil Field and Chickasha Gas Field. In terms of rural properties, this oil/gas boom resulted in increasing prosperity for the farmers which oftentimes allowed for replacement of the historic farmhouse with a contemporary house. Improvements to outbuildings, as well as replacement, were also fairly common.²²

²⁰Stringer, "The Founding," 15. See also Weedman, "Chickasha," 5; Gibson, Oklahoma, 194; and, Bessie Weedman, "Chickasha History Continued," (N.P.: Available at the Oklahoma Historical Society Research Library, Chickasha Vertical File, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, 2 June 1936), 1.

²¹"Chickasha, Oklahoma: Queen of the Washita Valley," (Chickasha, Oklahoma: Chickasha Chamber of Commerce, 1943), n.p. See also "Chickasha", Available at the Oklahoma Historical Society Research Library, Chickasha Vertical File, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, n.d.), 3-4; Bailey, "History of Grady County," 68; and, The Sunday Oklahoman, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, 18 July 1954.

²² Ibid.

Knippelmier Farmstead

Name of Property

Grady County, OK

County and State

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Bailey, Mary Hewett. "A History of Grady County." MA Thesis, University of Oklahoma, 1937.

Britt, Phyllis. Interview by Cynthia Savage. 28 January 2011.

"Chickasha." Available Chickasha Vertical File, Oklahoma Historical Society Research Library, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. N.D.

"Chickasha, Oklahoma: Queen of the Washita Valley." Chickasha, Oklahoma: Chickasha Chamber of Commerce. 1943.

Easement for Right-of-Way, Henry D. Knippelmier and Pauline Knippelmier to State of Oklahoma. 21 August 1934. Available Grady County Clerk's Office, Grady County Courthouse, Chickasha, Oklahoma.

Gibson, Arrell Morgan. Oklahoma: A History of Five Centuries. Norman, Oklahoma: The University of Oklahoma Press, 1981.

Koerner, Marvin and Berniece. Interview by Cynthia and Lee Savage. 12 February 2011.

Minco, Oklahoma: 1890-1990. Rich Hill, Missouri: Bell Books, 1990.

Oklahoma State Highway Maps available <http://www.okladot.state.ok.us/maps/state/archive.htm>, retrieved various dates.

Oklahoma Today. Volume VI: Number 6. May-June 1956: pages 22-23.

Oklahoma Today. Volume VII: Number 3. May-June 1957: pages 19-20.

Rohrs, Richard C. The Germans in Oklahoma. Norman, Oklahoma: The University of Oklahoma Press, 1980.

Stringer, Tommy Wayne. "The Founding and Early Development of Chickasha." MA Thesis, Oklahoma State University, 1971.

The Sunday Oklahoman. Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. 18 July 1954.

United States Federal Census. 1900, 1910 and 1930. Available www.ancestry.com, retrieved various dates.

Warranty Deed, Charles Williams and Nell Williams to Herman Knippelmier. 11 October 1913. Available Grady County Clerk's Office, Grady County Courthouse, Chickasha, Oklahoma.

Warranty Deed, George Dennett, S.J. Dennett and Stephen Dennett to Herman Knippelmier, 12 April 1915. Available Grady County Clerk's Office, Grady County Courthouse, Chickasha, Oklahoma.

Knippelmier Farmstead
Name of Property

Grady County, OK
County and State

Warranty Deeds, Herman and Marie Knippelmier to Henry Knippelmier/Dora Hotus/Herman Knippelmier/Mary Blinde/William Knippelmier. 1 May 1933. Available Grady County Clerk's Office, Grady County Courthouse, Chickasha, Oklahoma.

Warranty Deed, William H. and Nannie J. McMahan to Herman Knippelmier. 30 March 1908. Available Grady County Clerk's Office, Grady County Courthouse, Chickasha, Oklahoma.

Weedman, Bessie. "Chickasha." N.P.: Available Chickasha Vertical File, Oklahoma Historical Society Research Library, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. 14 May 1936.

_____. "Chickasha History Continued." N.P.: Available Chickasha Vertical File, Oklahoma Historical Society Research Library, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. 2 June 1936.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been requested)
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
 - Other State agency
 - Federal agency
 - Local government
 - University
 - Other
- Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):

Knippelmier Farmstead
Name of Property

Grady County, OK
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 6 Acres MOL
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

| | | | | | | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| 1 | <u>14</u> Zone | <u>591400</u> Easting | <u>3910520</u> Northing | 3 | <u> </u> Zone | <u> </u> Easting | <u> </u> Northing |
| 2 | <u> </u> Zone | <u> </u> Easting | <u> </u> Northing | 4 | <u> </u> Zone | <u> </u> Easting | <u> </u> Northing |

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

Beginning at the intersection of the Knippelmier Farmstead lane and State Highway 152, proceed 441 feet east to a point corresponding to the west section of the shelterbelt, then go approximately 600 feet north to the north section of the shelterbelt; then go approximately 441 feet east to the trees along the east side of the pasture; then go south about 576 feet to State Highway 152; then proceed 170 feet to the point of beginning. This forms a roughly rectangular area measuring approximately 6 acres to the north of State Highway 152 in the east half of the Southeast quarter of the Southwest quarter of the Southeast quarter of Section 13, Township 10 North, Range 8 West.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundaries include all of the property historically associated directly with the farmstead. The boundaries do not include any adjacent farm ground because the additional land is not required to understand the historic significance of the Knippelmier Farmstead and is no longer in the ownership of the Knippelmier family.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Cynthia Savage, Architectural Historian, for Preservation Oklahoma
organization Architectural Resources & Community Heritage Cons. date March 2010
street & number 346 County Road 1230 Telephone
city or town Pocasset state OK zip code 73079
e-mail archconsulting.savage@yahoo.com

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Knippelmier Farmstead
Name of Property

Grady County, OK
County and State

Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

Name of Property: Knippelmier Farmstead

City or Vicinity: Minco vicinity

County: Oklahoma

State: Oklahoma

Photographer: Cynthia Savage

Dates Photographed: 2 November 2010; 9 December 2010; 6 March 2011

Location of original digital files: 346 County Road 1230, Pocasset, OK 73079

Description of Photograph(s) and number:

Photo #0001: Farmstead from across St. Highway 152, camera facing northeast (taken 9 December 2010)

Photo #0002: Farmhouse with Barn to northeast (right) and Storage Building/Chicken House to north (left), camera facing northeast (taken 9 December 2010)

Photo #0003: Farmhouse (left), paved lane (right) and new Guest House (right) with Wash Room and Storage Building in background (left of Guest House), camera facing northwest (taken 9 December 2010)

Photo #0004: Back of Farmhouse (right), Cellar (right), Cistern (center), Guest House (center) Barn (center right), Storage Building (left), camera facing east (taken 9 December 2010)

Photo #0005: Shelterbelt (left and background), Wash Room (left), Garage (left background) Storage Building (center), Chicken House (back center) and corner of Guest House (right), camera facing northeast (taken 9 December 2010)

Photo #0006: Garage (center), Barn (right), Storage Building and Wash Room (left), House (left background), camera facing southeast (taken 2 November 2010)

Photo #0007: Barn (left), Guest House (center), Chicken House (center left), Garage (left), Shelterbelt (left background), camera facing southwest (taken 2 November 2010)

Photo #0008: East end of Shelterbelt (left) and Calf Shed (right), camera facing northeast (taken 9 December 2010)

Photo #0009: Barn (center), Guest House/Farmhouse (right), camera facing southwest (taken 2 November 2010)

Photo #0010: Barn (center), camera facing northeast (taken 2 November 2010)

Photo #0011: Lane (center), Barn (right background) Farmhouse (left background), camera facing north (taken 6 March 2011)

Photo #0012: Lane (left and center), Barn (right) Calf Shed (far right), camera facing northwest (taken 6 March 2011)

All of the photographs were printed on an Epson Stylus R2400 printer, using Epson Ultrachrome K3 ink and Premium Presentation Paper Matte. The digital images were taken in RAW format and converted to TIFF.

Property Owner:

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

Name Gary Knippelmier, Sylvia Wolk and Phyllis Sparks

street & number 9901 Pickfair Drive Telephone _____

city Austin state TX zip code 78750

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Knippelmeir Farmstead

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: OKLAHOMA, Grady

DATE RECEIVED: 7/29/11 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 8/24/11
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 9/08/11 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 9/13/11
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 11000638

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 9.8.11 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

**Entered in
The National Register
of
Historic Places**

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



OK_GradyCounty_MincoVicinity_KnippelmierFarmstead_0001



OK_GradyCounty_MincoVicinity_KnippelmierFarmstead_0002



OK_GradyCounty_MincoVicinity_KnippelmierFarmstead_0003



OK_GradyCounty_MincoVicinity_KnippelmierFarmstead_0004



OK_GradyCounty_MincoVicinity_KnippelmierFarmstead_0005



OK_GradyCounty_MincoVicinity_KnippelmierFarmstead_0006



OK_GradyCounty_MincoVicinity_KnippelmierFarmstead_0007



OK_GradyCounty_MincoVicinity_KnippelmierFarmstead_0008



OK_GradyCounty_MincoVicinity_KnippelmierFarmstead_0009



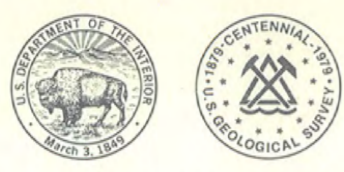
OK_GradyCounty_MincoVicinity_KnippelmierFarmstead_0010



OK_GradyCounty_MincoVicinity_KnippelmierFarmstead_0011

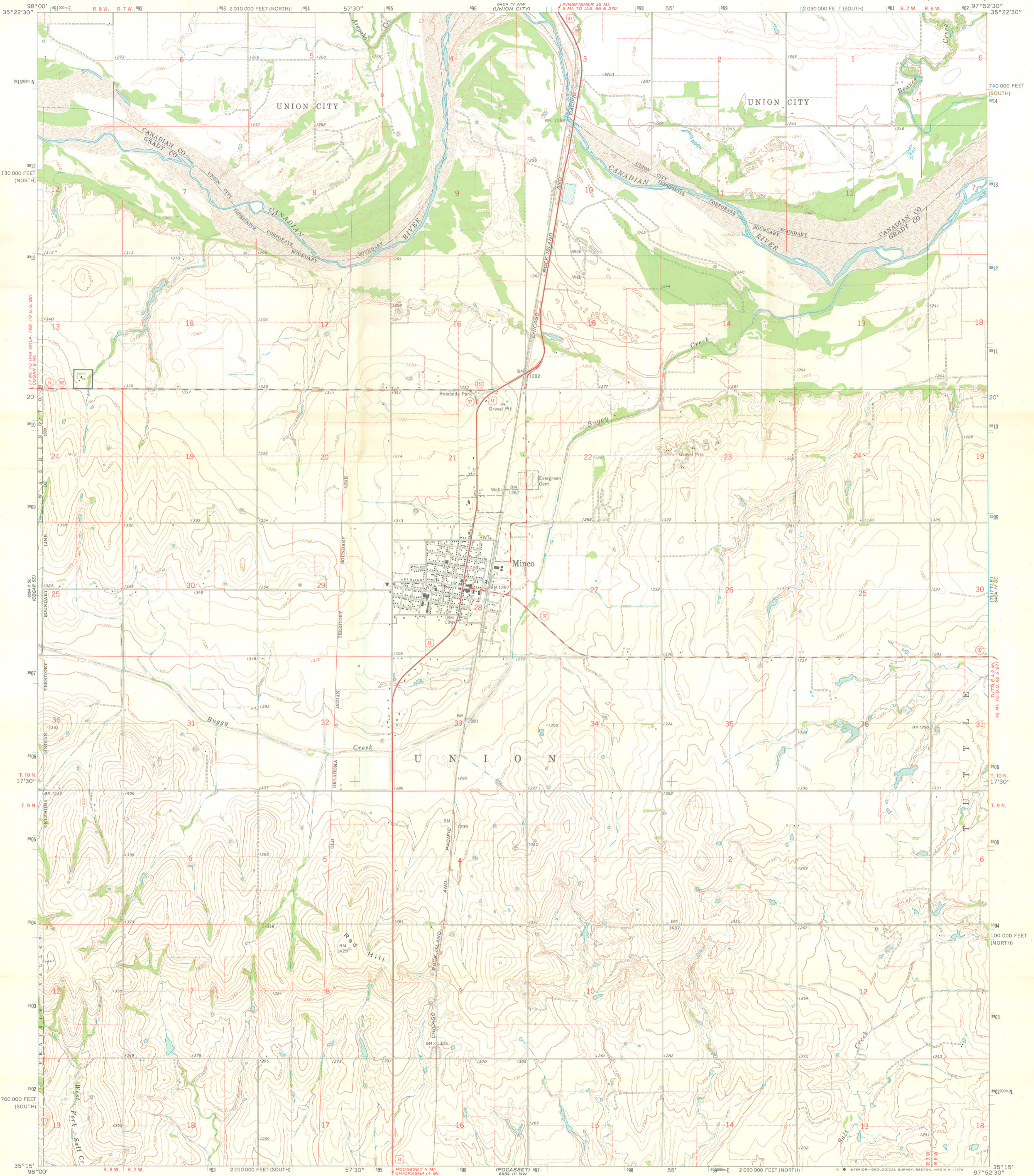


OK_GradyCounty_MincoVicinity_KnippelmierFarmstead_0012

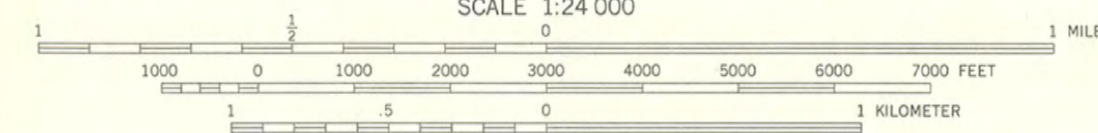
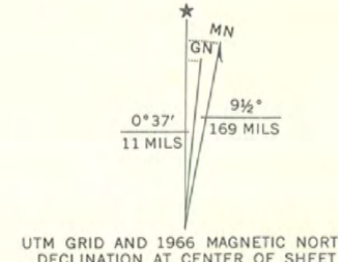


*Krippelmier Farmstead
Minco vicinity, Grady County, Oklahoma
14-591400-39105-20*

MINCO QUADRANGLE
OKLAHOMA
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS and USC&GS
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial
photographs taken 1963. Field checked 1966
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grids based on Oklahoma coordinate system,
south and north zones
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 14, shown in blue
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where
generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked
Map photoinspected 1975
No major culture or drainage changes observed



CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
DOTTED LINES REPRESENT 5-FOOT CONTOURS
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

| | |
|-------------|-----------------|
| Heavy-duty | Light-duty |
| Medium-duty | Unimproved dirt |
| U.S. Route | State Route |



THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225 OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
AND BY THE OKLAHOMA GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, NORMAN, OKLAHOMA 73069
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

MINCO, OKLA.
N3515-W9752.5/7.5
1966
PHOTOINSPECTED 1975
DMA 6454 IV SW-SERIES V883



Oklahoma Historical Society

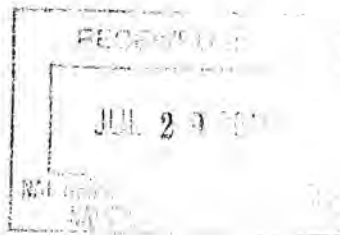
Founded May 27, 1893

State Historic Preservation Office

Oklahoma History Center • 800 Nazih Zuhdi Drive • Oklahoma City, OK 73105-7917
(405) 521-6249 • Fax (405) 522-0816 • www.okhistory.org/shpo/shpom.htm

July 22, 2011

Ms. Carol Shull
Acting Keeper of the Register
National Park Service 2280, 8th floor
National Register of Historic Places
1201 "I" (Eye) Street, NW
Washington D.C. 20005



Dear Ms. Shull:

We are pleased to transmit four National Register of Historic Places nominations for Oklahoma properties. The nominations are for the following properties:

- Knipplemeir Farm, Minco Vicinity, Grady County
- Sheets House, Newkirk, Kay County
- Phillips 66 Station #1423, Chandler, Lincoln County
- Tulsa Civic Center Historic District, Tulsa, Tulsa County

We look forward to the results of your review. If there may be any questions, please do not hesitate to contact either Lynda B. Schwan of my staff or myself.

Sincerely,

Melvena Hensch
Deputy State Historic
Preservation Officer

MKH:lbs

Enclosures