

PH0674702

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	MAY 10 1979
DATE ENTERED	MAY 11 1981

FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

NAME

HISTORIC Arrastra Site

AND/OR COMMON

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge

NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

CITY, TOWN
Cache

VICINITY OF

6

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Oklahoma

40

Comanche

031

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

AGENCY

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable)

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Bob Karges, Manager)

STREET & NUMBER

Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge

CITY, TOWN

Cache

VICINITY OF

STATE

Oklahoma 73527

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, Comanche County Court House
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Lawton

STATE

Oklahoma 73501

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge Survey

DATE

May 1978

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

State Historic Preservation Office

CITY, TOWN

Oklahoma City

STATE

Oklahoma 73105

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Building materials of the Arrastra were natural boulders of native granite and mortar to fill the joints. The pieces of granite were large enough that once the final location of a piece was made, its mass and weight were enough that it was not going to move around.

The Arrastra appears to be completely undisturbed since its construction about the turn of the twentieth century. Moss and lichens cover the exposed surfaces of the stone and mortar but the wooden members have disappeared long ago.

This Arrastra consists of a trough about two feet wide and one foot deep. The outer circle is fifteen feet in diameter with the inner diameter measuring close to eleven feet. Evidence that the Arrastra was used is found in the horizontal marks scored into the sides of the trough.

The slab "drag stones" used to pulverize the ore thrown into the trough have disappeared and all soil surrounding the Arrastra supports a good growth of grass and other native plants.

The location of this Arrastra is roughly 100 yards northeast of the cedar grove which is east of Mount Sheridan.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) Mining	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES c. 1901 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Unknown/Unknown

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Various descriptions of the Arrastras built during the gold rush days in the American West indicate that they were almost exact duplicates of the ones observed by Humbolt in Mexico in 1802. Americans who were familiar with the old fashioned bark mill found in small tanneries inevitably recognized its similarity to the Mexican ore mill. The arm of the arrastra to which the horse was hitched was much longer, however, to allow the animal to move in a larger circle and thus obtain more pulling power. A good American arrastra could pulverize from one to three tons of ore in twenty four hours provided the horse could make six to ten revolutions per minute.

At least two arrastras are known in the Wichita Mountains area, both close to creeks so that water was always available. In the fall of 1903 the Frisco Railroad offered free transportation on a car of ore going to Denver for processing as an inducement in developing the mines. Eventually the ore was smelted and refined at a reported \$11.87 per ton in value, hardly enough to pay the cost of any single operation in the business of mining. Six smelters were actually built in the Wichitas between 1901 to 1904 with only one able to make successful runs.

During the mining activities immediately preceeding and following the opening of the twentieth century, numerous geologists visited the Wichitas. H. Foster Bain, a young geologist at the University of Oklahoma in 1903, collected and examined rock specimens from all mines in the area. In an article published in 1904, Bain reported, ".... In no case do the prospects offer any encouragement whatever for additional prospecting."

Even though archival records reveal that Father Juan de Salas, was in the Wichitas, via an expedition from Santa Fe in 1629, for two decades, no evidence of mining activity is evidenced. But regardless of its builders, or the date of its construction, the present arrastas in the Wichitas possess significant historical meaning: Originating in Mexico four centuries ago, it is a singular reminder of the fact that Spanish "culture" barely touched the fringe of what is now the state of Oklahoma.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

W.E. Hollon, "A Spanish 'Arrastra' in the Wichita Mountains", The Chronicles of Oklahoma, Vol. XXXIV, No. 4, (Winter 1956-1957), P. 443-455.

Muriel H. Wright, "Notes and Documents", The Chronicles of Oklahoma, Vol. XXXIV, No. 4, (Winter 1956-1957) p. 484.

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY c. 1 acre

UTM NOT VERIFIED

UTM REFERENCES

A

1	4	5	3	8	8	4	0	3	8	4	6	5	0	0
ZONE		EASTING				NORTHING								

 C

ZONE		EASTING				NORTHING							

B

ZONE		EASTING				NORTHING							

 D

ZONE		EASTING				NORTHING							

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The Arrastra is located about 100 yards northeast of the cedar grove and directly east of the Cache - Meers road, on the west bank of Cedar Creek.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
Oklahoma	40	Comanche	031
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE
 Bill E. Peavler, AIA, Senior Preservation Architect

ORGANIZATION
 Oklahoma Historical Society

DATE
 January 10, 1979

STREET & NUMBER
 Historical Building

TELEPHONE
 (405) 521-9286 Ext. 67

CITY OR TOWN
 Oklahoma City

STATE
 Oklahoma 83105

12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION
 YES NO

NONE

H. Glenn Jordan
 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

In compliance with Executive Order 11593, I hereby nominate this property to the National Register, certifying that the State Historic Preservation Officer has been allowed 90 days in which to present the nomination to the State Review Board and to evaluate its significance. The evaluated level of significance is National State Local .

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE *William C. Sullivan*

TITLE *Historic Preservation Officer* DATE *3/19/87*

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Nyan A. Decker for Acting Keeper of Nat'l Register
 DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION DATE *May 11, 1981*

ATTEST: *[Signature]* KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER
 DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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Arrastra Site

Additional significance must be attached to the Arrastra in that it represents one of the few remaining tangible pieces of evidence of the gold mining fever which swept southwest Oklahoma around the turn of the century.

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Verbal Boundary Description:

To locate the Arrastra, start at the Meers entrance to the Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge. Proceed 3000 feet to a point on the center line of the Cache-Meers Road and then turn east and proceed 1500 feet to the Arrastra. A square area, the sides oriented north-south-east-west, measuring 50 feet each, are equidistant from the center of the Arrastra, and designate the boundary.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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RECEIVED <u>1079</u>
DATE ENTERED <u>MAY 1 1981</u>

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Major Bibliographical References

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Howard Meredith, Bill Peavler, Melvena Thurman and Richard Drass,
Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge: An Historic Conservation Survey
(Oklahoma City: Oklahoma Historical Society, 1978)

Hollon, W. Eugene
1956 A Spanish "Arrastra" in the Wichita Mountains. The Chronicles of Oklahoma,
Vol. 34, No. 4:443-455