

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Oklahoma	
COUNTY: Atoka	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
APR 19 1972	

1. NAME

COMMON:
Boggy Depot *site*

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Old Boggy Depot - The Depot on Boggy

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
14 m. SW of

CITY OR TOWN:
Atoka (Sec. 1, T 3 S, R 9 E)

STATE Oklahoma	CODE 40	COUNTY: Atoka	CODE 005
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3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Oklahoma Historical Society and Others

STREET AND NUMBER:
Historical Building

CITY OR TOWN: Oklahoma City	STATE: Oklahoma	CODE 40
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5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

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

STREET AND NUMBER:
Atoka County Courthouse

CITY OR TOWN: Atoka	STATE: Oklahoma	CODE 40
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6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Oklahoma Historic Sites Survey

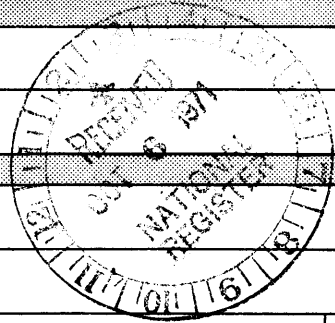
DATE OF SURVEY: **1958** Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Oklahoma Historical Society

STREET AND NUMBER:
Oklahoma Historical Building

CITY OR TOWN: Oklahoma City	STATE: Oklahoma	CODE 40
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS



STATE: **Oklahoma**

COUNTY: **Atoka**

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DATE: _____

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)

Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Ruins Unexposed

(Check One)

Altered Unaltered

(Check One)

Moved Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

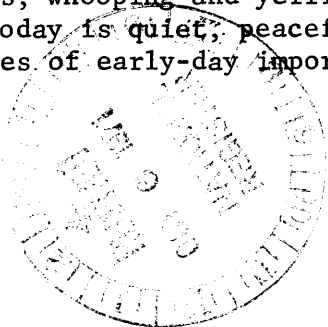
The terrain in this section of south-central Oklahoma is pretty well identified by the network of streams that drains it. Clear Boggy Creek runs about a mile east of Old Boggy Depot. The Clear, Muddy, and North Boggy streams seem to have been given their names by early French traders who called them Vazzures (vaseuse, miry or boggy). Americans adopted the translation probably about the time of the exploratory expedition made in 1805 by Dr. John Sibley. He wrote in his report: "...we arrived at the mouth of the Vazzures, or Boggy River ..." The word "Depot" was added when the Chickasaws emigrated from the East and were paid annuities here (cf. No. 8).

Fertile land in the bottom^y of the Boggy and the Blue gave the Chickasaws a certain agricultural prosperity soon after their arrival in the late 1830s. Newcomers had soon erected a gristmill and a sawmill on the Boggy. By 1847 the agent was reporting that the Chickasaws were "improving every year in their habits of industry." Produce from their farms combined with trade generated by the network of military and civilian trails that met at Boggy Depot to make the town a lively commercial center. Several large trading operations were maintained there. And the Civil War added yet another element of prosperity to the area. Boggy served as the Confederate^(s) major commissary depot in Indian Territory throughout the conflict.

During its three decades of prosperity the town acquired a brick church, several large commercial buildings, and a number of substantial homes, including the handsome two-story house owned by Rev. Allen Wright.*

Depot dwindled rapidly. When fire destroyed the Rev. Wright home in 1952 the town was reduced to barely-visible street outlines, tree-choked foundations, abandoned wells and cement cisterns...and its old cemetery. The area is now included in a state memorial park. Markers indicate the location of many of the once important buildings and institutions.

And there is still a flagpole to be sure. But it would be difficult indeed to recreate the scene of a century ago when Indian troops, loyal to the Confederacy, were in the habit of galloping at high speed around Stars and Bars, whooping and yelling and singing their Choctaw war songs. Boggy Depot today is quiet, peaceful...and, very often, completely deserted to her memories of early-day importance.



* When the M-K-T by-passed the town on the east, in 1872, and New Boggy Depot to the south won the post office, Old Boggy

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) 1838 into the 20th Century

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

For more than three decades -- from 1837 when Cyrus Harris, afterwards governor of the Chickasaw Nation, built the first log cabin on the site, to 1872 when the Missouri, Kansas and Texas Railroad appeared -- Boggy Depot was one of the most important settlements in Indian Territory. Though its last significant structure, the imposing home of Rev. Allen Wright, was destroyed by fire March 28, 1952, reducing the site to a state historical park containing the old cemetery and informational signs noting now vanished buildings and institutions, Boggy Depot deserves the protection of National Register status for its many contributions to the development of Oklahoma and her people, Indian and white alike.

The removal of the Chickasaws from the East to Oklahoma began in 1837. Most of the emigrants first encamped near Fort Coffee, just up the Arkansas River from Fort Smith. Then as a road was constructed westward across the Choctaw Nation they moved on to the land they had purchased there from the Choctaws in what is now south-central Oklahoma. The largest Chickasaw settlement was along the Boggy and Blue Rivers. A depot for the issuance of their supplies was located here in 1838. It was known as Boggy Depot, or "the Depot on Boggy," and it was soon a bustling community. Corn was shipped by water up the Red and Boggy Rivers to within 30 miles of the new depot. Beef cattle were driven directly from Arkansas. By 1841 the commissioner of Indian affairs was reporting that Saffarans & Lewis and Berthelet Heald & Co., local merchants, had a large stock of commodities that included "blankets, domestics, calicoes, with various other dry goods, sugar, coffee, axes, hoes, chains, augurs..."

Some of the newly arrived Indians, Chickasaw as well as Choctaw, were relatively wealthy. They brought their slaves with them from the Southeast and the area was soon producing a surplus of corn and other products. Trade increased greatly in 1846 when the great surge of white settlement of Texas got under way. Emigration through Boggy Depot increased again in 1849 when the Gold Rush to California began. A post office was established Nov. 5, 1849, with William R. Guy, proprietor of the Boggy Depot hotel, as postmaster. The office was the mail connection for nearby Fort Washita (established in 1842 to protect the Chickasaws from the more war-like Plains Indians to the West) and provided postal service for much of the surrounding region.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Foreman, Grant, Advancing the Frontier, Norman: University of Oklahoma, 1933, pp. 105n, 167, 250n
 Foreman, Grant, The Five Civilized Tribes, Norman: University of Oklahoma, 1934, pp. 88-114.
 Ruth, Kent, et al., Oklahoma: A Guide to the Sooner State, Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, pp. 403-404
 Wright, Muriel H., "Historic Places on the Old Stage Line from Fort Smith to the Red River," Chronicles of Oklahoma, Vol. XI (1933), pp. 788-822

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				O R	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	34°	19'	20"	98°	19'	02"	0			0		
NE	34°	19'	20"	96°	18'	39"						
SE	34°	19'	07"	96°	18'	39"						
SW	34°	19'	07"	96°	19'	02"						

NO UTM
42

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **c. 1.8 acres**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

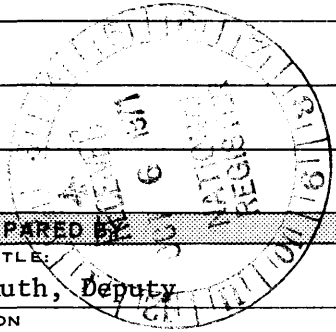
11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: **Kent Ruth, Deputy**

ORGANIZATION: **Oklahoma Historical Society** DATE: **August, 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: *Son A. Shum*

Title: *Liaison Officer for OHHS*

Date: **SEP 3 1971**

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

Robert M. Utley
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: *4/19/72*

ATTEST: *William M. ...*
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: _____

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Oklahoma	
COUNTY Atoka	
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ENTRY NUMBER APR 19 1972	DATE

(Number all entries)

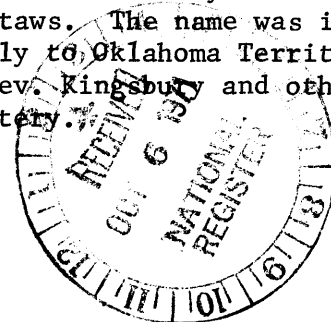
No. 8. Significance

Experience in their homelands with the Natchez Trace (established in 1802) had given the Choctaws and Chickasaws an appreciation of the importance of roads. Boggy Depot, at the junction of the busy Texas Road and the military road from Fort Smith (extended westward to Fort Sill after the Civil War), was soon one of the principal road center in Indian Territory. And the third week in September 1858 saw yet another link forged in its transportation chain. The first Concord arrived from the east on the fabled Butterfield Overland Mail Route from St. Louis to San Francisco, the country's first trans-continental mail service. It remained in operation until 1861.

Boggy Depot was so named officially by the Post Office Department in 1849. A boundary treaty in 1855 placed it in the Choctaw Nation. The town's church, built in 1840 by Rev. Cyrus Kingsbury (the so-called "Father of the Choctaw Missions" who came from Mississippi with that tribe in the 1830s), served as capitol of the Choctaw Nation in 1859 when Chief Basil LeFlore ordered the national council to meet there temporarily during a factional dispute.

Federal forces abandoned southern Indian Territory at the start of the Civil War and the Confederates promptly made Boggy Depot a military post and major commissary depot. A confederate banner floated from a flagpole in the center of town for four years and there is a long row of Confederate graves in the town's cemetery. One of the first Masonic lodges to be established in present Oklahoma was started here by Rev. J. S. Murrow about*

One final Boggy Depot contribution to Oklahoma, however, has outlasted all her physical structures: the state's name. Chief Allen Wright (1826-95) served two terms as principal chief of the Choctaw Nation and translated several books into the Choctaw language. In 1866 he suggested "Oklahoma" as a name for the proposed Indian Territory. The word is a Choctaw phrase meaning "Red People" and had occurred frequently in the Treaty of Dancing Rabbit Creek when reference was made to the Choctaws. The name was in common use after that and it was finally given officially to Oklahoma Territory and, in 1907, to the state. Chief Wright with Rev. Kingsbury and other prominent pioneers are buried in the town's cemetery.



* 1868. In 1872, however, the M-K-T built through this area, missing the town on the east. Meanwhile, "New" Boggy Depot had come into being two miles to the south, drawing away the post office. The death knell for the "old" town had sounded.