

1/16/73

STATE: Oklahoma	
COUNTY: Bryan	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
JUN 29 1972	

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

1. NAME

COMMON:
Nail's Station

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Nail's Crossing on Blue River

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
c. 2 m. SW of

CITY OR TOWN:
Kenefick (SE/4 Sec. 7, T 5 S, R 9 E)

STATE Oklahoma	CODE 40	COUNTY: Bryan	CODE 013
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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 type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input 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 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) _____ _____ _____
		<input type="checkbox"/> Comments	_____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Frank Apel

STREET AND NUMBER:
116 N. 4th Street

CITY OR TOWN: Durant	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:
Bryan County Courthouse

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

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Special Report on the Butterfield Overland Mail

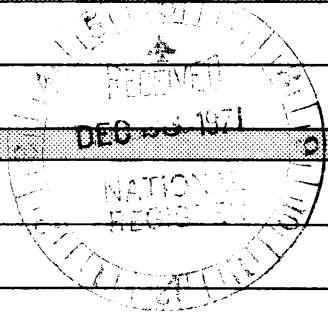
DATE OF SURVEY: 1958 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Oklahoma Historical Society

STREET AND NUMBER:
Historical Building

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



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7. DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Though the Nail home -- which served as the Butterfield station 1858-1861 -- is now but rubble (as indicated under No. 8), it was not an unimpressive one for the frontier. The Conklings saw the house in 1930 after the interior had been "modernized and otherwise altered to such an extent that the homely charm which the old rooms must have possessed" was gone. But from the house they saw and described they determined what the original must have looked like. They wrote:

Originally it appears to have been a one-story-and-a-half double log house with an open hall. The dimensions are: forty-two feet long by twenty-six feet wide. The exterior has been clapboarded, the open hall closed to form additional room, and modern window and door frames have been added. The tall outside chimneys constructed of red brick with the exception of some recent reinforcing of the foundations are the original chimneys. It is said that the bricks used in their construction were the product of Charles Sparrow, an English brick mason who molded and burned red brick at Old Boggy Depot.

An old picture of the house shows a sloping one-story porch running the length of the front of the house. Only foundation stones indicated its dimensions when the Conklings saw it. By then modern frame barns and out-buildings had replaced the old log structures of Butterfield days. "In front of the house near the abandoned road," they noted, "are the foundation ruins of a store house which stood there in the early days. It was a log building forty feet wide by fifty feet long." The property had at one time, according to the old photograph, been enclosed by a fine picket fence. Entrance to the front yard from the stage road was by stone stile. "Altogether," the Conklings concluded, "the old Nail home in the hey-day of its existence must have presented an air of distinction and comfort."

Today it is nothing but piles of stone and brick. The crossing of the Blue to the west of the house is overgrown with trees (as shown by the enclosed photograph), as is the Nail Family burial plot about a half-mile to the east.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	Oklahoma
COUNTY	Bryan
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(Number all entries)

No. 8. Significance

Nail's Station

The Nail family has long been an important one in the history of the Choctaw Nation and Indian Territory. Henry Nail, a white man, married into the Tribe in Mississippi in the late 18th century. Joel H. Nail, the eldest of his four sons, was born in Mississippi in 1794, played an active roll in the Choctaw removal to Indian Territory in the 1830s. He farmed and ranched in the Doaksville area, had part interest in the trading firm of Schrack & Nail. He died in 1846 and is buried under an impressive marble stone in the old Doaksville Cemetery. Jonathan was one of Joel H. Nail's ten children, the eldest of three sons. His only child, a son also named Joel H., was born in 1850. In the property settlement following his father's death in 1867, he received (among other things) 687 head of stock cattle (valued at \$5 a head), a "common gold watch & chain" (valued at \$75), and \$1,081.88 in cash. (His mother received the land, house and furnishings, gristmill . . . and "one fine gold watch and chain" valued at \$140.00.) He became a man of means, living in the nearby town of Caddo, where he owned various business properties, including the Nail Hotel.

Importance of the Nail family is also indicated by the impressiveness of the stones in the Nail cemetery about a half-mile east of the old home site. Although the plot is overgrown and badly neglected, its marble headstones (some ten feet tall) are enclosed by an iron fence. The Jonathan Nail shaft is inscribed:

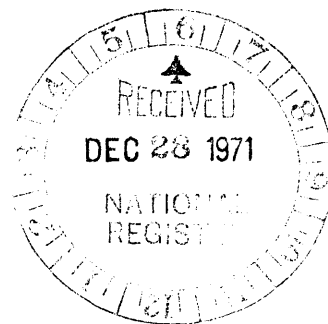
J. H. Nail*

Born

Mar. 21, 1825

Died

May 9, 1867



It is hoped that the Oklahoma Historical Society can one day acquire the Nail family burying ground and maintain it as a fitting memorial to the many contributions of this enterprising pioneer.

* This is Jonathan Nail, whose father and son were both Joel H. Nail, a similarity of names and initials which has, not surprisingly, led some historians to refer to the Butterfield stage crossing and station as being at the "Joel H. Nail" home.

SIGNIFICANCE

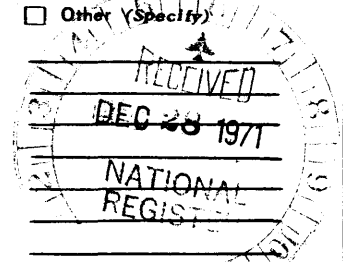
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1858- late 1860s

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

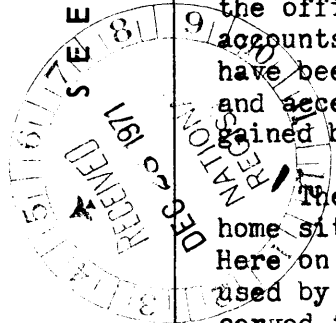
Of the twelve stations along the 192-mile route of the Butterfield Overland Mail across Indian Territory 1858-1861, Nail's could claim one unique distinction. Aboard the first Concord to leave Fort Smith west-bound Sept. 19, 1858, was Waterman L. Ormsby, a correspondent for the New York Herald Tribune. (He was the only through passenger on this initial St. Louis-to-San Francisco run.) Of Nail's he had this to say:

Fourteen miles from Boggy Depot we came to Blue River station where a very heavy bridge is building for the company. Here I saw a copy of the Weekly Herald - a distance of six hundred miles from St. Louis, and nearly seventeen hundred from New York, overland, and twenty-five miles from any Post Office. I thought the Herald was appreciated there.

Today only piles of brick and stone mark the location of the Jonathan Nail home, which served as station. Amid the rubble stands the official Oklahoma Historical Society on-site marker. But from all accounts the house was a comfortable one in which the Herald could well have been appreciated. An ornamented picket fence enclosed the property and access from the stage road, which ran in front of the house, was gained by way of a stone stile.

The important "Nail's Crossing of the Blue" is just west of the home site, down from the higher ground on which the buildings stood. Here on the fossilized limestone bed of the stream traces of the ford used by the first Concords can still be seen. Crude bridges and ferries served travelers along this route for years after the stages ceased to run.

Jonathan Nail probably moved to this area in the early 1840s. There is a record of his building a fine sawmill and gristmill on the Blue around 1844. On Dec. 13, 1866 -- as the Choctaw Nation began to rebuild after the Civil War -- the General Council granted Nail the privilege of establishing a toll bridge at his premises on "the Boggy and Sherman Road." (When he died in March of the following year, his wife, Catherine, married David A. Folsom, who was authorized by the council to take over the toll franchise.)



9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Conkling, Roscoe P. and Margaret B., The Butterfield Overland Mail, 1857-1869, The Arthur H. Clark Co., 1947.
 Ormsby, Waterman L., The Butterfield Overland Mail, edited by The Huntington Library, 1942.
 --- Records of Blue County, Choctaw Nation, Indian Archives Division, Oklahoma Historical Society, Vol. 20, pp. 256-263.
 --- Report on the Butterfield Overland Mail, a Special Committee Report, The Chronicles of Oklahoma, Vol. XXXVI (1958), 466-467.

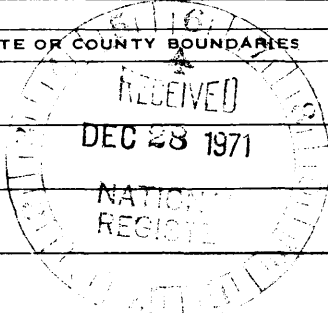
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

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° 07' 52"	96° 23' 41"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

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

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Kent Ruth, Deputy

ORGANIZATION: Oklahoma Historical Society DATE: November 1971

STREET AND NUMBER:
Historical Building

CITY OR TOWN: Oklahoma City STATE: Oklahoma CODE: 10

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name: [Signature]

[Signature]
 Liaison Officer for Oklahoma

Date: _____

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

[Signature]
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 6/29/72

ATTEST: [Signature]
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: _____

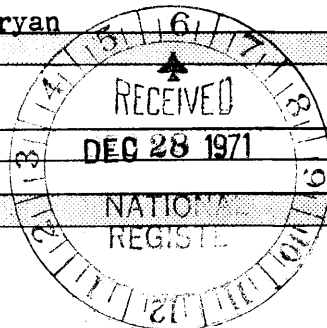
**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM**

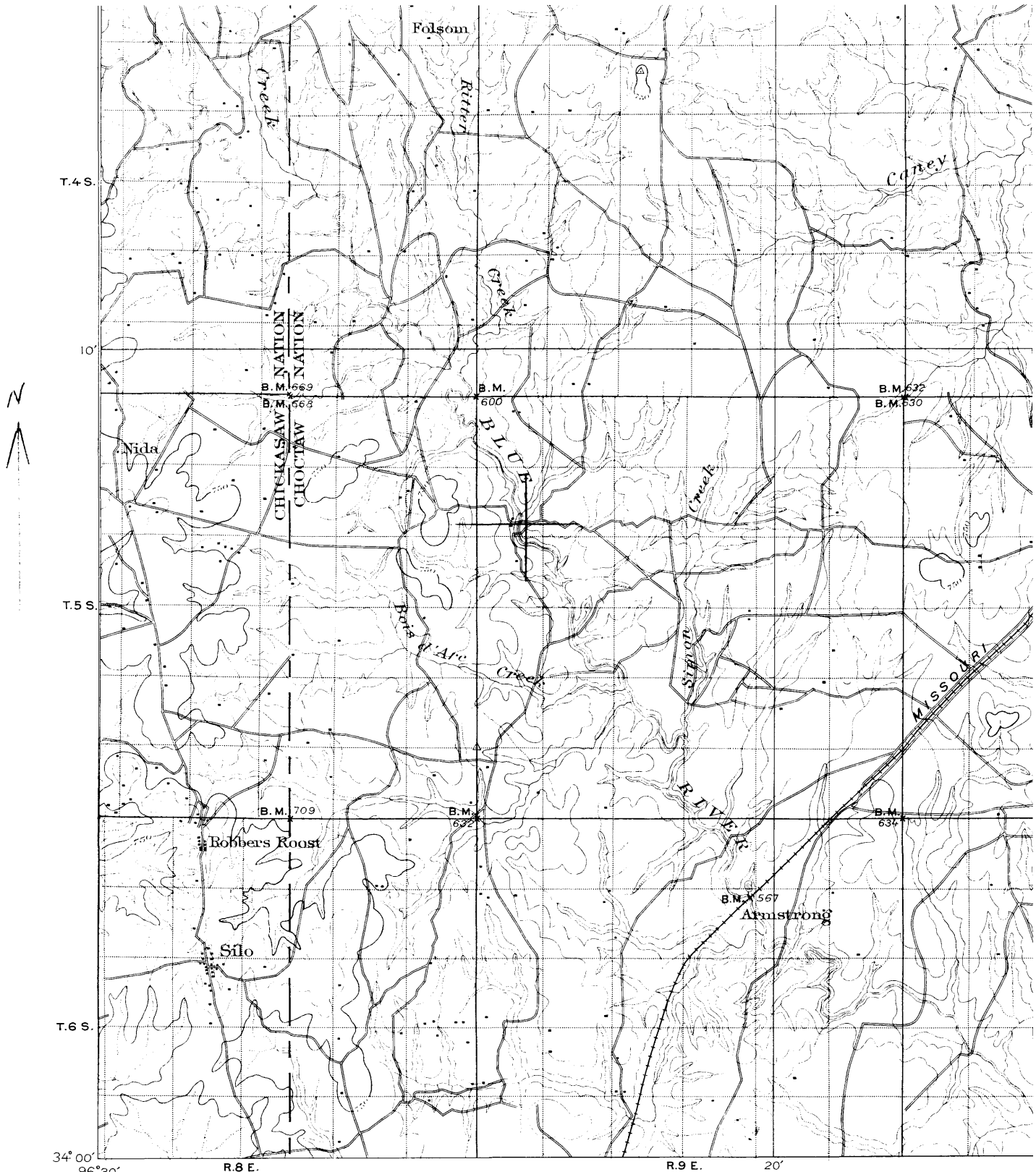
(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE Oklahoma	
COUNTY Bryan	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER JUN 29 1972	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME			
COMMON: Nail's Station			
AND/OR HISTORIC: Nail's Crossing on Blue River			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
c. 2 m. SW of			
CITY OR TOWN:			
Kenefick (SE/4 Sec. 7, T 5 S, R 9 E)			
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Oklahoma	40	Bryan	013
3. MAP REFERENCE			
SOURCE:			
U. S. G. S. Atoka Quadrangle			
SCALE: 30' Series - 1:125,000			
DATE: 1898			
4. REQUIREMENTS			
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS			
1. Property boundaries where required.			
2. North arrow.			
3. Latitude and longitude reference.			





(Denison)
 C.H. Fitch Topographer in charge.
 Van H. Manning, Topographer, Assistant in charge.
 Triangulation by C.F. Urquhart.
 Topography by W.B. Corse, F.E. Matthes, R.M. Towson,
 R.H. McKee and C.W. Goodlove.
 Surveyed in 1895-96-97-98.

