

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM
FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

| | |
|------------------|-------------|
| STATE: | Oklahoma |
| COUNTY: | Comanche |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY | |
| ENTRY DATE | NOV 29 1978 |

1. NAME

COMMON:
Blockhouse on Signal Mountain

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: ~~West Range, 6 miles West of Main Post, Fort Sill, and 2 miles North of Mackenzie Hill Road.~~

CITY OR TOWN: Fort Sill

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: Hon. Tom Steed, 4th District

| | | | |
|----------|------|----------|------|
| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY: | CODE |
| Oklahoma | 40 | Comanche | 31 |

3. CLASSIFICATION

| CATEGORY (Check One) | OWNERSHIP | STATUS | ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both | <input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate) | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment | <input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input checked="" 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. AGENCY

U. S. Army

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable)
HQ, US Army Field Artillery Center

CITY OR TOWN: Fort Sill

STATE: Oklahoma

CODE: 40

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Director of Facilities Engineering

STREET AND NUMBER:
1950 Barbour Road, HQ US Army Field Artillery Center

CITY OR TOWN: Fort Sill

STATE: Oklahoma

CODE: 40

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

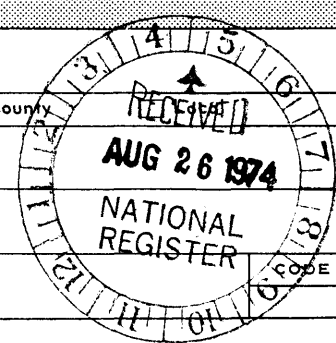
DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:
COUNTY:
ENTRY NUMBER:
DATE:

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7. DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Size 14' x 16', of native stone construction. One story, one room. Located at the top of Signal Mountain on the West Range of the Fort Sill Military Reservation. Originally constructed in 1871. Reconstructed in the 1940's. Condition fair. Presently used as an historic site and as an aiming point for Field Artillery training.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. 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)

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 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 type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Built in 1871 as a signal station and weather observatory to protect outpost stationed there. Messages were relayed by heliographs, semaphore flags, and signal lamps to inform the garrison at Fort Sill on Indian movements, and to communicate with other troops. First meteorological records for this region were obtained here. The blockhouse has been used as an aiming point by generations of Field Artillerymen.

The view from the Blockhouse also provided advance information on the approach of distinguished visitors such as GEN William Tecumseh Sherman who arrived in May 1871 to inspect the new fort and found a guard of honor ready to receive him.

Messages were transmitted from a base station at the post to another station on Medicine Bluffs, and from there to the Signal Mountain Blockhouse. At times signals were relayed to the detachments on Mt. Scott in the Wichita Mountains and from there as far north as Fort Reno.

The Indians have utilized Signal Mountain long before the military for smoke signals because of the outstanding visibility provided throughout the surrounding area. During periods when Fort Sill troops were not operating the blockhouse, the Indians continued to use it, and several white frontiersmen were killed by raiding Indians in the 1870s.

"Blockhouse Signal Mountain" has been a familiar phrase to Field Artillerymen laying their guns ever since the Field Artillery School was founded here in 1911. Today the Post's main firepower demonstrations are held in the vicinity of Signal Mountain and the blockhouse on its summit is a visible point of historic interest to thousands of spectators.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

1. Early Post Records, Fort Sill, Oklahoma (on file Fort Sill Museum)
2. Nye, W. S., Carbine and Lance, University of OK Press, Norman, P. 122, 132, 285.
3. Carter, R. B., On the Border with Mackenzie, Antiquarian Press, N.Y., 1961 (Reprint), p. 258.
4. Carter, R. B., Old Sergeants Story, Frederick H. Hitchcock, N.Y., 1926, p. 159

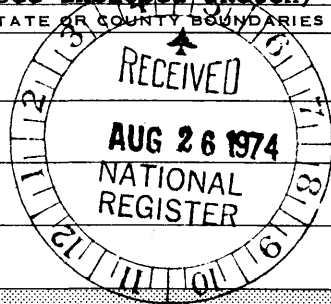
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

| 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° 40' 28.658 | 98° 29' 26.048 | | | | |
| NE | 34° 40' 28.654 | 98° 29' 23.550 | | | | |
| SE | 34° 40' 26.442 | 98° 29' 23.550 | | | | |
| SW | 34° 40' 26.442 | 98° 29' 26.048 | | | | |

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1 acre (see inclosed sketch)

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: Mr. Gillett Griswold, Director | | DATE: 23 Apr 74 |
| BUSINESS ADDRESS: US Army Field Artillery and Fort Sill Museum | | |
| STREET AND NUMBER: HQ US Army Field Artillery Center | | PHONE: 351-5123 |
| CITY OR TOWN: Fort Sill | STATE: Oklahoma | CODE: 40 |

12. CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

State Liaison Officer recommendation:

Yes
 No
 None

Don DeChuc
 State Liaison Officer Signature

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

William LeBaruch
 Federal Representative Signature

8/19/74
 Date

Director, Real Property & Natural Resources, T&OASD (I&L)

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

W. LeBaruch
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

REPORT OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Date: 7/29/78

ATTEST:

William LeBaruch
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: Nov 22, 1978

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

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|------------------|-------------|
| FOR NPS USE ONLY | |
| RECEIVED | APR 5 1977 |
| DATE ENTERED | NOV 29 1978 |

Blockhouse on Signal Mountain, Fort Sill, OK

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 1

Description.

Office Memo on file in the Fort Sill Museum's archives, from Inspector General, Field Artillery School to Executive Officer, Field Artillery School, 11 December 1945, stated that F.A.S. Book Department funds would be used to rehabilitate the Blockhouse on Signal Mountain. It was rehabilitation project on the exact original site, using existing walls, foundation, and the stone at the site, which has fallen from the original structure. The only new materials were roofing, doors, and windows. These were compatible with those originally installed. The original dimensions were maintained. Photographs of the Blockhouse taken by early-day photographers were used as guidelines in the rehabilitation project.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8

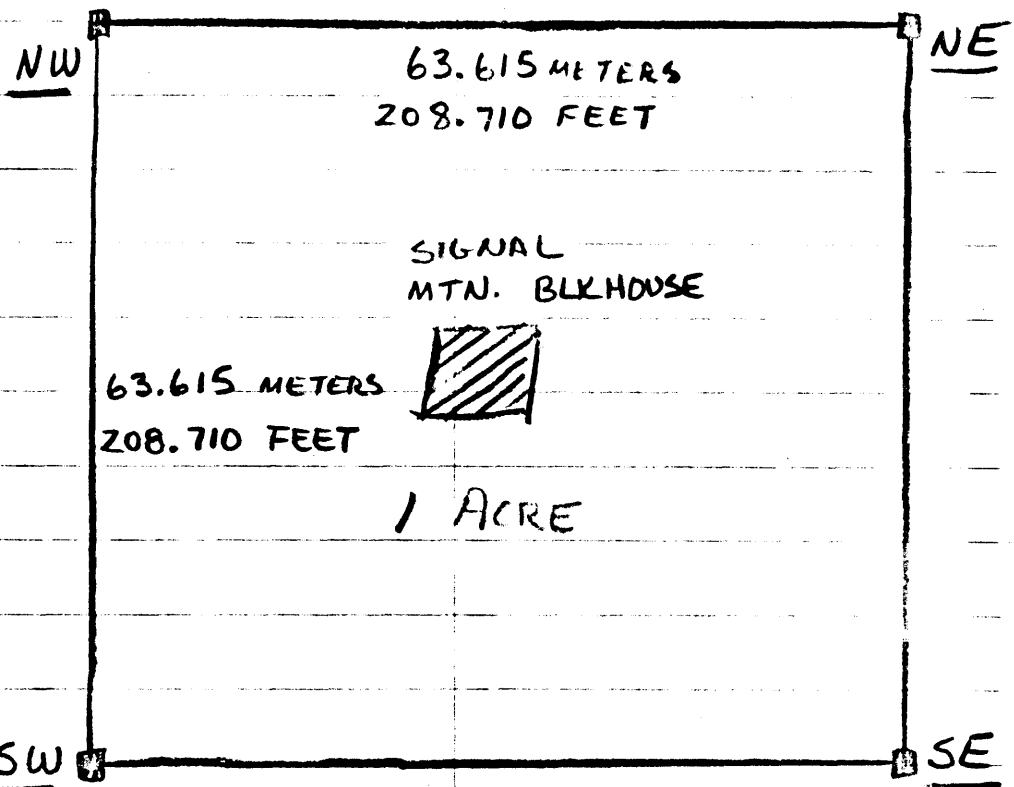
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Statement of Significance.

The Blockhouse is used only as an aiming point for Field Artillery. This means that the gunners use it as a known reference point when they lay their guns for a fire mission. The Blockhouse has never been used as a target, except by the Indians.

L_o 98° 29' 26.045"
L_A 34° 40' 28.658"
E 546,671.132
N 3,836,880.677

L_o 98° 29' 23.550"
L_A 34° 40' 28.654"
E 546,734.747
N 3,836,850.677



E 546,671.132
N 3,836,817.062
L_o 98° 29' 26.048"
L_A 34° 40' 26.442"

E 546,734.747
N 3,836,817.062
L_o 98° 29' 23.550"
L_A 34° 40' 26.442"

