

Hon. Tom Steed, 4th District

Form 10-300
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Oklahoma	
COUNTY: Comanche	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	OCT 15 1973

1. NAME

COMMON:
Fort Sill Indian School

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
East edge of *Lawton Office Bldg*

CITY OR TOWN:
Lawton

STATE: Oklahoma	CODE: 40	COUNTY: Comanche	CODE: 031
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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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input 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	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"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	Currently
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		Unused
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
The United States Government

STREET AND NUMBER:
Bureau of Indian Affairs

CITY OR TOWN:
Washington

STATE: D.C.	CODE: 11
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5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

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

STREET AND NUMBER:
Comanche County Courthouse

CITY OR TOWN:
Lawton

STATE: Oklahoma	CODE: 40
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6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Oklahoma Historic Sites Survey

DATE OF SURVEY:
1958

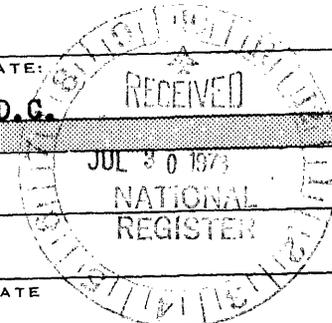
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Oklahoma Historical Society

STREET AND NUMBER:
Historical Building

CITY OR TOWN:
Oklahoma City

STATE: Oklahoma	CODE: 40
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS



STATE: Oklahoma
COUNTY: Comanche
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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Fort Sill Indian School opened as a Quaker institution in 1871, on a site about one mile north of the present school. It occupied a single frame building that was destroyed by fire in 1885. The school itself had closed some years before for lack of interest. The site is now clear of all buildings.

In 1891 the school was re-opened, at its present location, again in frame buildings. However, a two-story stone building was built later that same year. A boys dormitory, also of stone, was built two years later. The girls dormitory was built in 1904, followed the next year by an employees' club, the last of the old style stone buildings.

Construction of an auditorium/gymnasium in 1936 heralded the start of work on a modern school campus. A classroom building was erected in 1939, dormitories in 1940, 1941, and 1951. By 1940 the school served Grades 1-12. In 1960 Grades 1-6 were dropped and in 1964 Grades 7-8. Modern dormitories have been added and, but for Building 309, virtually all the major old buildings have now been razed.

Building 309 was put under contract on June 24, 1904. A completion date of December 15, 1904, was called for. The cost was to be \$9951. The building was 40 x 62 feet in size with two 12-foot-high floors over a full basement and topped by an attic. Walls were of native limestone. Floors, partitions and roof framing were of wood. Roof itself was of interlocking painted metal shingles. Unlike the school's other buildings at the time, the girls dormitory had indoor plumbing, steam heat, and electric lighting.

The basement contained the bath facilities, a playroom, the boiler room. On the first floor were two large dormitory rooms, a sitting room, and quarters for the matron. The second floor, supervised by an assistant matron, contained two large dormitory rooms for the older girls. The attic was used for storage only.

The interior of the dormitory was severely damaged by fire on January 5, 1907. Bids for materials to repair the damage amounted to more than \$2300. In 1917 a contract for \$1357 was awarded for construction of sleeping porches of wood across both floors on the back (east) side of the dormitory. By 1920 a one-story, 27 x 32-foot bath annex had also been added to the east face. On the front, meanwhile, an open, roofed porch had been constructed. The last significant change came in 1930 - the addition of a two-story-plus-basement section on the north.

Numerous minor changes were made in later years. The sleeping porches were rebuilt, the front porch roof removed, the bath annex interior remodeled. In 1957 the dormer windows were removed. The building was vacated in 1964. Utilities were disconnected, the salvage of usable fixtures and preliminary demolition work begun. Then later that year preservationist pressure brought an end to the demolition. Windows were boarded up, the building enclosed in a protective chain link fence. Today

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input checked="" 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) 1871 to the present

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input checked="" 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"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

With but a single break, Fort Sill Indian School has served the Plains tribes (primarily) for over a century. It was established in 1871, only two years after its namesake neighbor, Fort Sill. Closed through the 1880s, it was re-opened in 1891 and is still operating today.

The area immediately surrounding the school is an extremely important one historically. Fort Sill, through its long and illustrious career, has concerned itself primarily with the needs of the white man ... providing protection first from the various hostile tribes, then, with an increasingly sophisticated weaponry arsenal, from a variety of hostile foreign enemies. The Fort Sill Indian School area, on the other hand, has met -- or at least attempted to meet -- strictly Indian needs ... political and economic ... medical and spiritual ... and educational.

Here Lawrie Tatum, the first Quaker Indian agent, came in 1869. Here, in 1871, he opened the first Quaker Indian school. Here, too, was developed the Fort Sill Indian Sub-Agency, an Indian hospital (still operating), and a number of licensed Indian trading posts (including the well known Red Store), along with the supporting community that surrounded these agencies and institutions. For a time, therefore, it was thought that perhaps this entire non-military area of some 1,000 acres might be included in a Historic District for which National Register status would be sought. However, since so little of a physical nature remains of this entire complex, the district idea has been rejected in favor of this nomination for a single building of the Indian School.

Building 309, though it dates only from 1904, is quite well preserved. Too, it is the only anywhere-near-original structure of the complex that remains; the rest of the school's physical plant is relatively new. Similarly, the Fort Sill Indian Hospital immediately to the north has been routinely upgraded over the years to the extent that it is today a thoroughly modern facility. And, finally, the Sub-Agency building, the Cox, Red, and Paschal stores, the Addison Hotel, the Methodist Mission Church, the Doctor's House and other residences and business establishments in the area have long since disappeared from the now vacant field lying north of the hospital.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Ruth, Kent, et al., Oklahoma: A Guide to the Sooner State, University of Oklahoma Press, 1956, p. 312
 Wright, Muriel H., A Guide to the Indian Tribes of Oklahoma, University of Oklahoma Press, 1951, p. 22

--- Research Materials in possession of the Comanche County Historical Society, Lawton, Oklahoma

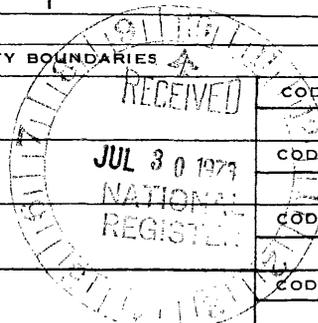
10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

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
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"	34°	37'	23"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"	98°	22'	50"
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"			
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **c. 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: **May 1973**

STREET AND NUMBER: **Historical Building**

CITY OR TOWN: **Oklahoma City** STATE: **Oklahoma** CODE: **40**

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

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 & Son*

Title *SHO for Oklahoma*

Date _____

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Ernest A. Gammally
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
 Associate Director
 Professional Services
 Date **OCT 15 1973**

ATTEST:
W. B. [Signature]
 Keeper of The National Register

Date **10.9.73**

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

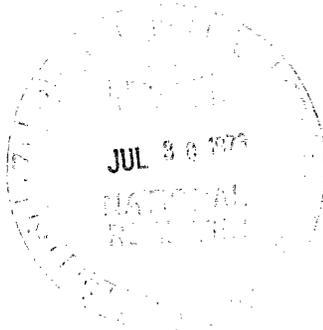
STATE	
Oklahoma	
COUNTY	
Comanche	
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(Number all entries)

No. 7. Description

Fort Sill Indian School

the masonry walls remain remarkably sound, but the roof, interiors, and framing are in poor condition and will, say the experts, continue to deteriorate increasingly, if preservation work is not undertaken soon.



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Oklahoma	
COUNTY	
Comanche	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
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	OCT 18 1975

(Number all entries)

No. 8. Significance

Fort Sill Indian School

For these reasons, then, the decision has been made to ask for National Register recognition for Building 309 alone. Still handsome, if no longer used, it is an authentic part of the school's past. By preserving it, it is hoped, the historic significance of the area immediately surrounding it -- its buildings and what took place in them -- can be recognized and thus also memorialized.

The Medicine Lodge Treaty of 1867, ratified by the Congress the following year, assigned lands to the Southern Plains tribes, provided for the establishment of agencies and of schools for children 6 to 16. Fort Sill was established on Kiowa-Comanche lands in 1869. An agency was opened for the Comanches. On February 20, 1871, the Fort Sill Boarding School opened, under Quaker supervision. The Comanches showed little interest in education, however, and the school closed in 1878. But it was reopened in 1891, in a few frame buildings, a mile south of the original site. A two-story stone building was built later that year. Two years later a boys' dormitory was built. The school has remained in operation from 1891 down to the present day.

JUL 18 1975

Fort Sill Indian School

Long.: 98° 22' 50"
Lat.: 34° 37' 23"

LAWTON QUADRANGLE
OKLAHOMA—COMANCHE CO.
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

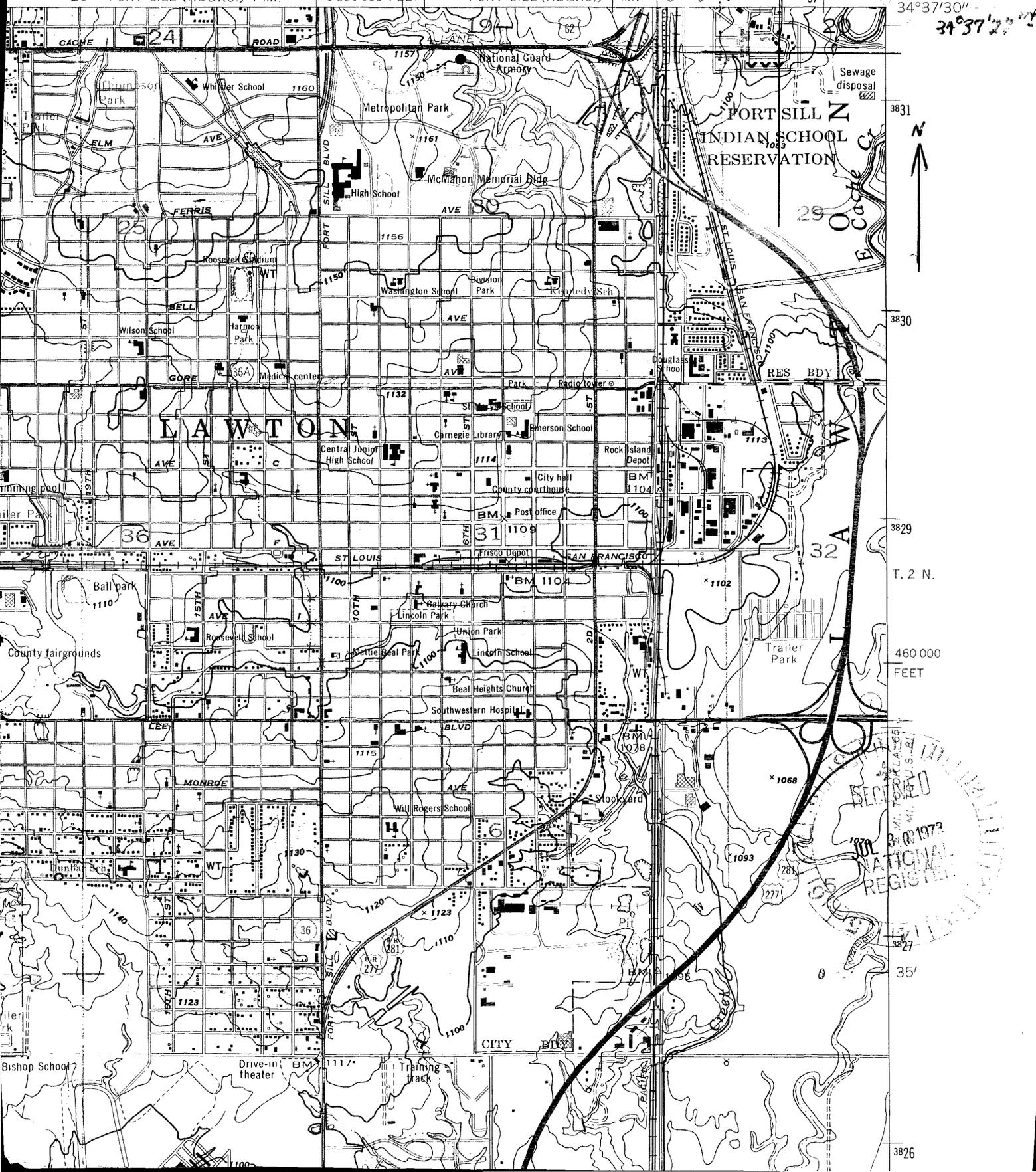
6353 III NE
(ARBUCKLE HILL)

R 12 W. R. 11 W.

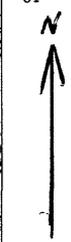
SW/4 LAWTON 15' QUADRANGLE

25' FORT SILL (HDQRS.) 4 MI. 1880000 FEET CHICKASHA (VIA U.S. 277) 51 MI. FORT SILL (HDQRS.) 4 MI.

62 281 277 57 98°22'30" 34°37'30"



34°37'23"



3831

3830

3829

T. 2 N.

460 000
FEET

35'

3826

