

PH0674737

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
 NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM
 FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

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

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC Ferguson House

AND/OR COMMON
 Ferguson Ranch House

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
 NW of Cache
 Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge

CITY, TOWN Cache _NOT FOR PUBLICATION
 CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
 6

STATE Oklahoma CODE 40 VICINITY OF COUNTY Comanche CODE 031

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input 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 STATE Oklahoma
 VICINITY OF 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 type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" 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

The 1 1/2 story Ferguson House and adjacent buildings are finished on the exterior with native cobblestone picked up on the site. Sand that was used in the mortar is of decomposed granite particles which was readily obtainable from the stream bed of Blue Beaver Creek close by. The native sand was also used in the concrete which makes up the basement and back-up walls in the house.

In addition to the main house, Mr. Ferguson built a workshop, a filling station and storage structure that was half in and half out of the ground. The pitched roof of the workshop is a poured concrete slab, while the roof of the storehouse is a barrel vaulted combination of stone and concrete. The pitched roof of the house is of wood construction as is the shed roof over the dormer windows. Roof shingles are of the composition type.

The house contains a living room, kitchen-dining room, bed room and bath room on the first level. A stair runs to the second level where there are two bed rooms. Of the two rooms in the basement, the largest was once reached from the outside by a large opening which has been sealed. The small room is reached by a stair from the kitchen area and must be crossed in order to reach the larger room. Generous tubs of moulded concrete are at the bottom of the stairs and were probably used for laundry purposes.

A metal carport has been added in recent years to the southwest side of the house.

The house is oriented to southeast which provides a good exposure for the front porch in catching summer evening breezes and shade. The steps to the front door are broad, providing lots of sitting space for the family, and was utilized by all in the late spring, summer and fall.

Medicine Park is situated seven miles east of the Ferguson House where a great deal of the cobblestone constructions may be seen. Fences, retaining walls, houses, cabins and larger, multi-story structures stand as examples of this unique building material. The Ferguson House, and countless others including ruins, remain as specimens of southwest Oklahoma cobblestone construction.

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 type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) Ranching	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES 1927 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Ben Ferguson / None

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Before Europeans reached the territory which is now Oklahoma, the Wichita people inhabited the area containing the Wichita Mountains. In the last quarter of the nineteenth century the Kiowa and Comanche tribes were moved to a reservation in this same area. As it became evident that the frontier was closing, white settlers increased their demands for the opening of Indian lands. This portion of the Wichita Mountains was not broken up for settlement, however, as the leases of the grazing land to Texas cattlemen prevented this.

At the turn of the century the efforts of the Oklahoma City Commercial Club, with its many influential civic leaders, persuaded the Oklahoma congressional delegation to support conservation endeavors for the Wichita Mountains. The area was proclaimed the Wichita Forest Reserve in 1901, and a National Game Preserve in 1905.

Rancher Ben Ferguson was compelled by the Army in 1926 to give up his land and home and relocate his family to a new house he built 3/4 of a mile northwest of his original location. This house, located on Highway 49 and adjacent to the National Game Preserve, was constructed with the assistance of a carpenter named Sam Reimer from nearby Medicine Park. The building was completed in 1927 along with a workshop, filling station and storage building.

The family lived in this building till 1942 when emergency war time legislation resulted in Fort Sill taking the property to extend the artillery range. After the war, in a land "swap", the property passed from the military to the Fish and Wildlife Department. The Ferguson House continues to serve as a residence for a Refuge employee and his family.

The architecture of the Ferguson House is a style popular in this region at the time of its construction. The Fergusons used the materials that were available from their land for the construction of their buildings. The Ferguson House is also a symbol of the ranching industry which has been so instrumental in the development of Oklahoma.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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

Idel Ferguson Rowe (Mrs. Wayne Rowe) Interview, December 27, 1978

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

UTM NOT VERIFIED

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY c. 1 acre

UTM REFERENCES

A | 1,4 | 5,3,6 | 1,2,0 | 3,8 | 4,1 | 5,1,0 |
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING
 C | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED
 B | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING
 D | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

This house is located 0.8 miles southwest of the dam for Lake Jed Johnson and on the north side of Scenic Highway 49. The front yard is fenced which separates it from the highway on the south, the driveway on the west and the workshop building on the east.

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

December 21, 1978

STREET & NUMBER

Historical Building

TELEPHONE

(405) 521-2491 Ext. 67

CITY OR TOWN

Oklahoma City,

STATE

Oklahoma 73105

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 H. Williams

TITLE

Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

3/19/81

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Nancy D. Koebel for Acting Keeper of NR

DATE

5/11/981

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	JAN 14 1981
DATE ENTERED	MAY 11 1981

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 1

Ferguson House:

The three out-buildings on the property are also of cobblestone construction. A 15' x 25' workshop to the east of the house has uniformly sized stones which are laid at random. Door and window openings are emphasized by an additional band of mortar surrounding the frames. The pitched roof is unusual because it is constructed of 3½" concrete slabs which overhang the walls 12". a cobblestone chimney projects through the roof, the ridge oriented northeast to southwest. With no interior partitions, rough unpainted concrete and sloping ceiling, the enclosed volume appears spacious.

Measuring 10' x 15', the filling station now serves as a storage place. Cobblestone columns that support the pitched roof canopy are still visible, the space between being enclosed with wood siding. Composition shingled roof and frame are wood which covers a one room attendant and stock-equipment space. A door and window between the room and covered drive completed the needs of this structure.

Exterior walls of cobblestone plus a stuccoed barrel vault roof are the major components of this store house. 6' x 10' in size, the partially below-ground structure served as storm shelter, food storage and water storage area, with the water storage tank taking-up most useable space. Access to the inside is through the up-right radial head door in the southwest end which reveals rough walls and ceiling of rock and mortar as you enter.

Reminiscent of a bungalow floor plan, the house's proportions are 36' x 36' with an 8' x 8' projection covered by a separate roof at the northeast corner. Hipped gables are seen over the composition shingles of the gables. The low eaves are supported by exposed rafters and at the gables by wood brackets. Wood doors and double-hung windows, trim and frames are painted white. A red brick chimney projects above the roof and a large cobblestone column supports the southeast corner of the porch. Landscaping consists of bermuda grass in immediate front, side and rear yards but the ever present native blue stem and prairie grasses are just beyond. Elm and oak (Blackjack) grow randomly on the property. A gravel driveway divides the "station" and the house. The non-compatible TV aerial and metal car-port can be removed without harming the house.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	JAN 4 1980
DATE ENTERED	MAY 11 1981

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 1

Ferguson House

Although the Wichita Mountain Area was designated a Forest Reserve in 1901 and a National Game Preserve in 1905, ranchers continued to retain the right to graze cattle on Reserve land. Fees were required for each head allowed on the pastures. Ben Ferguson was one of the ranchers who took advantage of this concession to cattlemen and ran cattle on the Reserve until the grazing rights were ended in 1937. As a result of these activities, Ferguson's house stands as a monument to the cattlemen who once grazed thousands of cows on the Wichita National Game Preserve.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	JAN 14 1981
DATE ENTERED	MAY 11 1981

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

Ferguson House

Ben Ferguson homesteaded in the Wichita Mountains area in 1901, the same year the Wichita Forest Reserve was proclaimed. He was an active "cattleman" for 41 years in this area until the military took the property. A leader in the Wichita Mountains Forest Cattleman's Association, a tradition still carried on by his grandson Wayne Rowe, Jr. The house is significant for its relationship to the Wichita Mountains Ranching Industry and remains as one of the best examples of the unusual cobblestone masonry peculiar to this small part of Oklahoma.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	JAN 14 1981
DATE ENTERED	MAY 11 1981

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 1

Ferguson House
Verbal Boundry Description (cont.)

The house and out-buildings are located in the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Sec. 19;
R 13W; T 3N; Mount Scott, Oklahoma, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ Cache 15' Quadrangle.

The polygon described with the following points contains all the
property being nominated:

From a point on the north edge of State Highway 49 and
10' southwest of the filling station structure go north-
west a distance of 150'; then northeast a distance of 250';
then southeast a distance of 150'; then southwest a dis-
tance of 250' to the point of beginning.