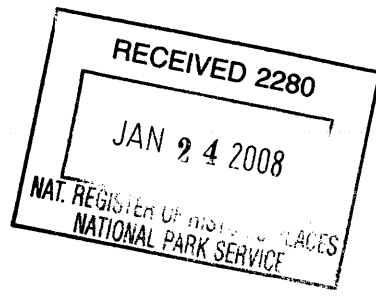


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



150

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

historic name Jay Buckle Springs

other name/site number Jaybuckle Springs

street & number East of County Road N1840, 500 feet north of intersection with E1420 not for publication

city or town Reed vicinity

state Oklahoma code OK county Greer code 055 zip code _____

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)
Bob Leachman 1-22-08
Signature of certifying official/Title SHPO Date
State Historic Preservation Office
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

- I hereby certify that the property is:
- entered in the National Register. See continuation sheet.
 - determined eligible for the National Register See continuation sheet.
 - determined not eligible for the National Register.
 - removed from the National Register.
 - other, (explain): _____

Signature of the Keeper [Signature] Date of Action 3/7/2008

Ownership of Property
(check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property
(check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
		buildings
		sites
3		structures
		objects
3		Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

Historic Function
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: village site

Current Function
(Enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION AND CULTURE: outdoor recreation

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

NO STYLE

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation _____
walls concrete, rock

roof _____
other _____

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 7

Jay Buckle Springs
Name of Property

Reed, Greer County, Oklahoma
City, County and State

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 8

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Areas of Significance

(enter categories from instructions)

SETTLEMENT

SOCIAL HISTORY

Period of Significance

1925-1957

Significant Dates

1925

Significant Persons

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other Name of repository:

Margaret Carder Library, Mangum, Oklahoma

See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 9

Jay Buckle Springs
Name of Property

Reed, Greer County, Oklahoma
City, County and State

Acreage of Property less than ten acres

UTM References

(Place additional boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

1 1/4 4/3/6/5/6/5 3/8/6/8/6/5/7
Zone Easting Northing

2 / / / / / / / / / / /
Zone Easting Northing

3 / / / / / / / / / / /
Zone Easting Northing

4 / / / / / / / / / / /
Zone Easting Northing

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property.)

Property Tax No.

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 10

Michael Cassity, Ph.D.
Historical Research and Photography
304 W. Albuquerque
Broken Arrow, Oklahoma 74011
Phone: 918 451-8378 • Fax: 918 451-8379
mcassity@valornet.com

Date: October 5, 2007

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs: Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items: (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

name/title Joe Alton Maddox, Trustee of Revocable Trust

street & number 21156 E CR 1420 telephone _____

city or town Mangum state OK zip code 73554

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section No. 7 Page 5

Jay Buckle Springs, Reed, Greer County, OK

Narrative Description

Jay Buckle Springs is a general complex of multiple natural points in close proximity where fresh water issues from the earth. The springs are located on the map in an area reaching from about five hundred feet to eight hundred feet north of the intersection of Greer County Road N1840 and E1420. While there are at least four points at which the springs emanate, three on the east side of E1420 and one on the west side, this nomination includes as contributing features the developments and improvements associated with the two south-most springs on the east side of the road. These developments include a concrete dam at the large spring, a horse-watering trough nearby, and a smaller concrete holding tank beside the road south of the large spring.¹

The area north of Reed, like the rest of Greer County, Oklahoma, is generally a semi-arid region with an average of about twenty-three inches of precipitation. The landmarks for the area are often waterways. The Elm Fork of the Red River, which flows from the west to the east, is such a waterway and the Jay Buckle springs emanate from an embankment rising from the flood plain south of that river. Almost all the surface water in this area is highly mineralized, with a preponderance of gypsum, and the resulting water is usually referred to as either salty or gypsy and cannot be used for human consumption. Thus any source of fresh water that is unsaturated with minerals is both notable as a landmark and valuable as a resource. The Jay Buckle Springs represents such a water source. The embankment containing the springs is generally wooded with substantial undergrowth, both trees and brush fed by the natural flow of water beneath the surface.

The water source was developed for use by the surrounding area, generally estimated at a radius of twelve to twenty-five miles, and the site includes three resources: (1) the Main Spring Reservoir; (2) a Horse-watering Trough; and (3) a Small Spring Reservoir.

Feature 1: Main Spring Reservoir (Contributing)

The largest spring emanates from the west side of an embankment in a U-shaped formation, or ravine, that separates two modest bluffs that descend from the benchland above which reaches eastward. The reservoir, constructed in 1925, is an irregular shape, with a concrete dam on the west and retaining walls above water level on north and south and east. The reservoir is set back from the roadway, which is also the section line on the west, about eighty feet. The dam impounds water that

¹ The preparer of this nomination wishes to express gratitude to Ms. Jennie Buchanan of the Western Trail Historical Society for her help in conducting the research and site analysis of the Jay Buckle Springs. Ms. Buchanan went far beyond any reasonable expectation in providing assistance in research and in arranging meetings with knowledgeable local people and gaining access to the resources of the Jay Buckle community.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section No. 7 Page 6

Jay Buckle Springs, Reed, Greer County, OK

seeps from the sandstone at the northeast corner and thus forms a reservoir of fresh water. The dam is made of two linear walls, about four and a half feet above the outside grade at the highest point, and these walls intersect in a peak at the westernmost point to form a broad V. Each of the two walls in the dam is about twenty-five feet long. An additional concrete wall on the north side of the impoundment intersects with the dam and reaches to the east; this wall serves as a secondary dam segment and merges with the embankment to become a retaining wall on the north. This concrete segment rises with its bottom edge ascending above the water level so as to allow water from the spring to flow out of the cavity in the earth beneath; the water seeps from the sandstone in that cavity. The retaining wall continues to the south, above the water line, and within a few feet the smooth concrete connects with a short concrete block masonry retaining wall (date unknown). That retaining wall then connects at the southeast corner of the impoundment with a stone retaining wall that is usually considered to predate the concrete dam, but there is also some speculation that the stone retaining wall was added "in the dry '30s" but documentation has not been found for any date. It may have been part of the 1925 construction. That stone retaining wall then follows the contour of the embankment until it intersects at the southwest corner of the impoundment. The pool of water is lined with concrete at the bottom and the water ranges from about four feet to five feet deep. At one time the dam included a drain valve near the peak of the two walls, but the plumbing for the valve has long since corroded and the aperture filled. The dam also originally had a guardrail supported by steel pipe anchored in the concrete. The guardrail kept people and livestock from contaminating the drinking water, but since the 1960s the reservoir has been used for swimming and thus the guardrail was no longer necessary; when the steel rusted the guardrail was completely removed.

Feature 2: Horse-watering Trough (Contributing)

The Horse-watering Trough is a small reservoir, about six feet long and three feet wide, approximately forty feet west and south of the Main Spring Reservoir. This reservoir, constructed at the same time (1925) as the Main Spring Reservoir, is a concrete-lined trough dug into the earth and is fed by the same general complex of springs that surfaces elsewhere in the vicinity; the top of the concrete is flush with the surface of the surrounding grade. No longer used, the trough has been filled with sand and covered by the heavy—and movable only with heavy machinery—concrete slab that once formed the tabletop of a picnic table as a safety measure. The small reservoir itself reportedly remains intact under the slab.

Feature 3: Small Spring Reservoir (Contributing)

The Small Spring Reservoir is located about one hundred fifty feet south of the Main Spring Reservoir about fifteen feet from the east edge of the pavement on the east side of the roadway. This is the third component of the 1925 set of improvements at Jay Buckle Springs and consists of a rectangular concrete reservoir positioned near the roadway where passersby would be able to obtain

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section No. 7 Page 7

Jay Buckle Springs, Reed, Greer County, OK

drinking water. It consists of a rectangular concrete box about four by six feet. As the description of the reservoir at the time of its 1925 dedication remarked, it was "built for the benefit of those who wish to drink of the fresh, cool, sparkling spring water." Presumably the traveling public would be able to dip a ladle into the basin or fill a small container. Larger containers would be filled at the Main Spring Reservoir. This reservoir, though slightly chipped so that the reinforcing steel rods are exposed in places, continues to collect fresh water and currently provides the domestic water supply for one of the residences in the area. It is enclosed on the top with a removable cover to keep out debris, but the cover is not an integral part of the reservoir.

The natural source of water that rises to the surface at Jay Buckle Springs has been an important supply for people in this area since the 1870s and doubtless before that too. But this nomination includes those features that were constructed in 1925, and segments that either preceded or closely followed the 1925 work, to make the spring a more accessible community resource and those features retain integrity of structure, materials, workmanship, location, appearance, feeling, and association.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section No. 8 Page 8

Jay Buckle Springs, Reed, Greer County, OK

Narrative Statement of Significance

The complex of features located at Jay Buckle Springs is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A in the areas of significance Settlement and Social History. The springs had long served the needs of the surrounding rural area and the immediately adjacent small community, but improvement of the springs in 1925 improved access and reflected the social development that had already taken place nearby and provided the basis for future community growth. The features at Jay Buckle Springs were associated with this settlement and their development and use reflected the social and economic transformation of this rural area.

Historical Background: Land and Water in Commons

The land containing Jay Buckle Springs was first claimed in 1897 when the area was opened by the United States government to settlement under the terms of the Homestead Act, but well before then the springs and the land had developed a substantial history that shaped their future use. In fact, the land had been the subject of wildly mistaken surveys, international competition, and conflicting claims to ownership, especially by the United States and Texas.

When Thomas Jefferson acquired the enormous parcel of land known as the Louisiana Purchase from France in 1803, the western boundaries of the area, the borders separating previously France and now the United States from Spain, were but vaguely understood by either party. According to the precedent of earlier exchanges of territory between Spain and France, part of that border followed the course of the Red River westward to the 100th Meridian, at which point the border turned north until it reached the Arkansas River, then resumed a westward direction.² The problem was that the Red River itself, as well as much of the area it traversed, was at the time unmapped. The lack of official knowledge of the area, however, did not deter the mapmakers who endeavored to graphically depict the boundaries of this new acquisition, and in 1819 John Melish prepared and published a widely-circulated map that presumed to be authoritative and that showed these boundaries.

The truth was that much was unknown about the area represented on Melish's map, and although it became the standard reference it also failed to depict the 100th Meridian accurately—placing it nearly a hundred miles east of the actual longitude. By that map, an area of about two thousand square miles that would be future southwest Oklahoma lay in Spanish territory, and therefore also, in the course of development over the next twenty years, it would be transferred to Mexico and then to Texas first as a sovereign nation and then as a state. In 1819 the issue had been ostensibly

² Grant Foreman, "Red River and the Spanish Boundary in the United States Supreme Court," *Chronicles of Oklahoma*, 2 (September 1924), 299; Emma Estill-Harbour, "A Brief History of the Red River Country since 1803," *Chronicles of Oklahoma*, 16 (March 1938), 84-85.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section No. 8 Page 9

Jay Buckle Springs, Reed, Greer County, OK

resolved by the Adams - Onís Treaty between the United States and Spain, but that treaty simply repeated the Red River and 100th Meridian boundaries without further clarification. It was only in 1852 when U.S. Army Captain Randolph B. Marcy was sent to explore the Red River to its origins that it became known that the river actually had three forks, two of them substantial, the fork to the south being called the Prairie Dog Town Fork (or River) and that to the north referred to as the Rio Roxo, or Red River. (Today the fork to the south is known as the Red River and the fork to the north is the North Fork of the Red River.)

This information about the forks became important in 1857. In that year surveyors of the 100th Meridian determined that the longitude previously charted was erroneous and that the true 100th Meridian lay eighty miles west of the forks in the Red River. Given that the Red River constituted a major boundary, the question of which fork was the main course of the river became a matter of some consequence. Which fork actually was main stream of the Red River? If it were the south fork, the region north of it would no longer be part of Texas, so the state of Texas in 1860 called for a joint survey with the United States government to determine the boundary. Texas instructed its commissioners on the survey team to insist on the north fork of the Red River as the proper boundary and the state legislature, planning ahead for this area, also authorized the creation of a county known as Greer County in the area south of the north fork and north of the south fork. It was no surprise that the Texas commissioners found the north fork to be the boundary and the U.S. commissioners argued for the south fork, so the effort resulted in conflicting reports from the two sets of commissioners—and also a continuing dispute over the proper jurisdiction of this land. Complicating the issue was the fact that Greer County, Texas had already been created, at least on paper.

Still unresolved, the issue became more critical and less hypothetical when white people began to move into the area between the forks of the Red River. This they did in association with the expansion of Texas cattle ranching. Cattle ranching in Texas had initially developed along the coastal region, but by the 1860s had migrated northward and was concentrated in the north central part of the state. The distinctive elements of what became known as the Texas system of cattle ranching had been formed, and along with it a pattern of cultural influences and social organization also took shape. The ranching system itself, as historian / geographer Terry G. Jordan explained, included especially:

. . . the subtropical practice of allowing cattle to care for themselves year-round in stationary pastures on the free range, without supplementary feeding or protection. Through such self-maintenance, the herds should not merely survive, but reach a grass-fattened maturity, ready for market.³

³ Terry G. Jordan, *North American Cattle-Ranching Frontiers: Origins, Diffusion, and Differentiation* (Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 1993), 210.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section No. 8 Page 10

Jay Buckle Springs, Reed, Greer County, OK

In the years after the Civil War, the Texas cattle industry began to expand in two significant ways. One involved the development of corridors for the movement of large herds of cattle to distant markets while the other involved the spread of ranching into new areas. In the case of Greer County, these two trends were combined. The quest for national markets for cattle required moving the cattle to points along the railroad in Kansas, and that required, further, driving them across the lands set aside as Indian Territory in the area that would become Oklahoma. Several major trails emerged connecting north central Texas to the Kansas railroad towns and as the markets moved progressively westward in Kansas, so too did the trails move west, and one of the great cattle trails connecting Texas with the Kansas railroad centers etched its path directly across Greer County, and this was the route known variously as the Western Texas Trail, the Western Trail, or the Great Western Trail. Beginning in the 1870s this trail crossed the south fork of the Red River at Doan's Crossing and continued north, ultimately reaching Dodge City where the cattle either were shipped to market by railroad or continued on to Wyoming and Montana on what was called the Texas Trail; there the cattle would form the basis for new herds on ranches. By 1878 this trail was in general use and that year around a hundred thousand head of cattle were driven northward along that corridor. Three times that number of cattle are estimated to have followed this trail in 1881 (its peak year) and it probably carried a total of around seven million cattle in the nineteen years that it was actively used.⁴

Almost from the very beginning, however, some of the cattle that were headed north turned to the northwest after crossing the Red River and were taken into the pastures of Greer County itself. Exactly who brought the first cattle into the area to graze is a subject of disagreement and probably cannot be ascertained definitively. In 1937 and 1938 James Albert Barnett interviewed numerous Greer County ranchers about their memories of early settlement and concluded that two ranchers named Hanie (sometimes spelled Haynie) and Handy in 1880 "were the first cattlemen to use the lands of Greer County as their range. Their 'ranch' included the western portion of Greer County and large tracts in Wheeler and Collingsworth Counties" in Texas. There also, however, seems to be a consensus that John Powers also brought cattle into the area, one herd in the spring and one in the fall of 1880; there is some suggestion that he may have brought yet other cattle through the area in 1879, possibly transporting them to the adjacent lands in the Texas panhandle.⁵ Hanie and Handy together operated the HAY Ranch, and HAY was the brand they used on their cattle. They trailed their cattle into this area and worked their way northwest "to some fresh water springs on Elm River."⁶ The cattle that Powers brought were branded with the J-Buckle, or Jaybuckle, brand on their left sides. This brand was generally the letter J beside a bisected circle, the bisected circle representing a cinch buckle used on horses. Powers located his headquarters on a spring just south of the Elm Fork of the North Fork of the Red River. As one account notes, "The fresh water springs where they

⁴ Jesse J. Dyer, "A Survey of the J Buckle Kingdom," *Panhandle Plains Historical Review*, XVI (1943), 60.

⁵ James Albert Barnett, "A History of the 'Empire of Greer,'" M. A. Thesis, Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical College, 1938, 95.

⁶ Dyer, "A Survey of the J Buckle Kingdom," 60.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section No. 8 Page 11

Jay Buckle Springs, Reed, Greer County, OK

established their headquarters have since that time been known as Jaybuckle Springs, and the land grazed by the cattle owned by Powers and his associates has been known as the Jaybuckle Ranch.⁷ In short order, the ranch operated by Hanie and Handy joined with that of Powers in grazing the area and this was augmented by yet another herd, the Flying E, operated by one Mat Murphrey. These ranchers brought more and more cattle into the area, and what was collectively known as the Jaybuckle Outfit, with headquarters at the springs of that name, consisted of about fourteen thousand head of cattle by the end of 1880. The several ranches maintained ownership of their own cattle, but jointly used the range, keeping track of their cattle only by their different brands, not by the territory that they grazed; this was one of the defining characteristics of the Texas system of cattle ranching. Other ranchers moved into the broader area of Greer County, so that there were more than a hundred thousand cattle in the county.⁸

It is important to note that this range was both free and open. For years the range was vast and sprawling, unoccupied and unsettled by others, ungoverned by county courts or commissions, undivided by fences, unrecorded in the property books, uncarved by property lines, unscarred by railroad tracks, unfettered by the burden of ownership or the cost of rents and leases, untaxed by authorities, and unmarked by the schools, towns, and farmsteads that dotted the map elsewhere. It was open and it was also free in virtually every sense. Whether it was intended to be free for the taking or not, it was taken and it was not paid for. In one instance, the Day Land and Cattle Company, of which John Powers was one of the corporate organizers, purchased land entitlements from Texas War veterans and leased more land to stake a claim to the area, but these claims were disallowed in a court case; no one, it turned, out could claim the land although many people used it. One report maintains that in 1887 the Jaybuckle range was fenced in what amounted to a huge endeavor. Even when that fence defined its perimeter, the Jaybuckle range consisted of the northwest corner of Greer County—an area of 344,640 acres, or five hundred thirty-eight and one half sections of land.⁹ The land still was not divided and subdivided into separately owned parcels. It was in some important ways, a vast commons that belonged to no one in particular and to everyone in general.

The practice of ranching remained for years that of the Texas system. Leaving the cattle generally free to fend for themselves, not feeding them beyond the natural grasses they found, even in winter, using a spring roundup to brand the calves and mavericks and using the fall roundup to gather the cattle for market. Open range ranching required only small crews of cowboys, often augmented during the roundup seasons, and it necessitated only modest structures. The headquarters of the Jaybuckle range were at Jaybuckle Springs, and a few line camps were located elsewhere. The buildings housing the headquarters were modest and were reported initially as “a half dugout three

⁷ Dyer, “A Survey of the J Buckle Kingdom,” 60-61.

⁸ Dyer, “A Survey of the J Buckle Kingdom,” 62. See also Estelle D. Tinkler, “The History of the Rocking Chair Rancho,” *Panhandle-Plains Historical Review*, XV (1942), 9-15.

⁹ Dyer, “A Survey of the J Buckle Kingdom,” 62; “Under 14 Flags,” *Mangum Star*, October 13, 1937.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section No. 8 Page 12

Jay Buckle Springs, Reed, Greer County, OK

logs high, fourteen feet wide, and fourteen feet long." This was supplemented in 1881 by the construction of two houses made of pickets assembled with wire stretched between corner posts and also subsequently another dugout.¹⁰ The locations of these primitive structures are not known.

The Jaybuckle ranch continued to operate and the Jaybuckle brand continued to be used even after 1884 when the Day Land and Cattle Company was formed since John Powers sold his cattle to the new company as his stake in it. And the ranching practice continued much as before. According to S. H. Tittle, who had been foreman of the Hanie-Handy operation and who became foreman of the Day Land and Cattle Company, and later became Greer County sheriff, John Powers, the general manager of the new company, "spent much of his time on the ranch" although none of the Day Land and Cattle Company owners actually made a home there.¹¹

To some it was a ranching paradise, but not everybody looked upon that paradise with approval. Texas saw the land as open for settlement. The United States government maintained that it was closed. In 1884 U.S. Army Lieutenant C. J. Crane reconnoitered Greer County to rid it of settlers and found at least sixty thousand cattle but "not more than ten families." He also reported that "almost nothing has been done in the way of improvement" although he also noted a settlement ("occupants absent"), evidently at Elm Fork.¹² In his primary mission, Lieutenant Crane acknowledged, he was somewhat less than successful. He scoured the area not so much to run a census as to remove the ranchers and others from the area. Some of the people Lieutenant Crane encountered in Greer County claimed to have the right to be there, and Crane reported that "the cattlemen especially desire delay," and that removal would require a firm deadline and an enforcement of that deadline. As it happened, the Jaybuckle cattle remained in Greer County and the Jaybuckle range was fenced in.

There was, however, another pressure on the cattle ranching industry that undermined powerfully the ranching on the open range quite as much as legal considerations in distant places. The sociology and economy of the area was changing on the ground. The state of Texas continued to encourage settlement of Greer County and more people took advantage of the opportunity to homestead free land there. The intricacies of settling on land that was officially closed to settlement by the U.S. government, but encouraged by the state government, were filled with contradictions, but the "homesteading" continued. Even though U.S. officials had warned settlers in 1884 that homesteading was not permitted and they would have to leave, as historian Emma Estill-Harbour concluded, "For the next four years settlers came to the county from all parts of the United States but

¹⁰ Dyer, "A Survey of the J Buckle Kingdom," 66; "Greer County's First Citizen Came as Cowboy," undated newspaper clipping in Genealogical Files of Mangum Public Library. Account of George W. Boyd. Context indicates the year of publication as 1932.

¹¹ Dyer, "A Survey of the J Buckle Kingdom," 77.

¹² Report of C. J. Crane to Adjutant General, quoted in Dyer, "A Survey of the J Buckle Kingdom," 81.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section No. 8 Page 13

Jay Buckle Springs, Reed, Greer County, OK

mostly from Texas.”¹³ By 1886 enough settlers had moved in and staked out claims that they gathered and petitioned the state of Texas for recognition of the previously authorized Greer County in this area between the two forks of the Red River. The county seat would be at the new town of Mangum. Greer County was now not just a phantom on the map; it was an organized county. Post offices were emerging to serve the communities springing up, and one post office was located at Mangum. In 1888 those settlers were again warned to stay out.¹⁴ Clearly, this did not deter them for, as Dr. Estill-Harbour observed, they were confident the state of Texas would preserve their land claims.

The parts of Old Greer County that were most impacted by the settlement were those in the south and east, at least until around 1894, but the bright vision of homesteads throughout the county on the part of farmers was for ranchers a dark specter of the future. Even those settlers who moved in who focused their energies on grazing cattle, either on the open range or in fenced claims, with farming as an afterthought, undermined the open range of the large ranches that had been dominant. The problem for the ranchers was that the lack of burdens of ownership also meant the lack of verifiable claim to the land; the land that had been open to their use was likewise open to the use of anyone. The ranchers were not unaware of this circumstance and there is evidence that they anticipated an end to their free reign. As early as 1884, Charles G. Francklyn, owner of the Francklyn Land & Cattle Company in Texas, and one of the large users of Greer County pasturage, wrote another rancher to inform him that “the Government has exempted us cattlemen from the order turning out settlers or those claiming land in Greer County.” But, he also wrote, “We have, as you know, been spending a lot of money in fencing, tanking etc to put the upper place [in Texas] in position to carry a number of cattle in the event of having some day to leave Greer County.”¹⁵

The very organization of Greer County in 1886 foreshadowed the new era coming to the land, for now the property of the ranchers—namely the cattle—was subject to taxation, and this diminished the attractiveness of the once free pasturage at the same time that it increased the pressure on the ranchers to find pastures elsewhere.¹⁶ Wheeler Paxton, who came into the country in 1888 with his father, was a witness to the transformation of the area: “About that time most of the large cattle outfits began to disperse to go to new ranges. The WO was the first to go; it was followed by the A

¹³ Emma Estill-Harbour, “Greer County,” *Chronicles of Oklahoma*, 12 (June 1934), 146.

¹⁴ Estill-Harbour, “Greer County,” 146.

¹⁵ Charles G. Francklyn to ----- Harrold, October 20, 1884; the letter is printed in Lester Fields Sheffy, *The Francklyn Land & Cattle Company: A Panhandle Enterprise, 1882-1957* (Austin: University of Texas press, 1963), 147.

¹⁶ See the letter of George Tyng to Miller, evidently in 1886, printed in Sheffy, *The Francklyn Land & Cattle Company*, 201-202: “About the taxes sought to be levied on the Bar X cattle in the newly-organized county of Greer and for whose payment the hungry new officials *talk* of holding the cattle we have thrown in there from surrounding country. We shall probably drive the cattle home when we get ready.”

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section No. 8 Page 14

Jay Buckle Springs, Reed, Greer County, OK

and F, the Day Land and Cattle Company. . . . The last outfits to leave were the Jaybuckle and the H-Y. Doc Day moved the H-Y outfit to the Cherokee Strip and then closed out. The [remainder] of the Jaybuckle was sold to Quinlin and Rowden, who later moved to the Cherokee Strip and sold out to Davis Brothers.¹⁷ The day of the ranching empires, including that of the Jaybuckle, was fading as a new order emerged on the land. A few miles north of Jaybuckle Springs, near the brand new community of Jester in 1890, a school was organized with H. H. Terry the teacher. That community also built a church, with the aid of local cowboys, and an agreement was worked out so that the cowboys could use the building on Saturday nights for dances, but on Sunday morning the building would be put to more reverent uses.¹⁸ This delicate arrangement was perhaps symbolic of the larger transformation gradually taking place, a transformation in which the open range of the cattle empire was being replaced by towns and churches and schools and farms.

At the same time, the political landscape was also changing. The pressure generated by the flow of settlers into the area rapidly pushed the issue surrounding legal jurisdiction to the land to a crisis. Events finally came to a head in 1890 when the United States filed suit against the state of Texas. The lawsuit had its origin in the federal legislation that organized Oklahoma Territory in 1890; very simply, but very bluntly, the Oklahoma Territory Organic Act ordered the U.S. Attorney General to file suit to resolve the dispute.¹⁹ The case, which the state of Texas urged the United States Supreme Court to decline to hear, evidently preferring that the case be argued in a Texas court, provided an opportunity for both sides to develop complex and wide-ranging arguments that addressed the prior use of the land known as Greer County, Texas, the details of diplomatic agreements, and the understandings of local topography by Native Americans, white explorers and settlers, military officials, and about anybody else who had formed a view of the proper boundaries and river flows of the Red River in that area. After volumes of evidence had been gathered and arguments developed, the Supreme Court finally heard the case and rendered its verdict, a very long document, on March 16, 1896. And that judgment ruled that the south fork of the Red River—the Prairie Dog Town Fork—was the main stream of the river, that the sequence of diplomatic agreements and treaties intended that the boundaries follow the main course of the Red River in a westwardly (not northwesterly) fashion until it intersected the 100th Meridian, and that the area previously organized as Greer County was actually a part of Oklahoma Territory.²⁰

With the Supreme Court decision of 1896, Jaybuckle Springs entered a new era along with the land surrounding it. It was now open to claim. Exactly one year later, Robert Terry, son of Jester schoolteacher H. H. Terry, built a house and established residence on the parcel of land containing

¹⁷ W. W. Paxton, "Wheeler Paxton Tells of Life on the Farm and Range in Old Greer," *Mangum Star*, October 13, 1937.

¹⁸ Paxton, "Wheeler Paxton Tells of Life on the Farm and Range in Old Greer." See also the Vertical File for Jester, Oklahoma, Oklahoma Historical Society.

¹⁹ Estill-Harbour, "Greer County," *Chronicles of Oklahoma*, 12 (June 1934), 146.

²⁰ *U.S. v. Texas*, 162 U.S. 1 (1896).

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section No. 8 Page 15

Jay Buckle Springs, Reed, Greer County, OK

Jaybuckle Springs. He was twenty-five years old, had come to the area from Texas, and intended to farm the land. Seven years later, when he filed proof of living up to the requirements of the Homestead Act, he had a one room house, twelve by fourteen feet in size, multiple sheds, a well, and an orchard, all under fence.²¹ In what may at first appear to be a striking, and odd, omission from the developments Terry recorded, there is no mention of the springs—probably the most distinctive and attractive feature of the property that he acquired in his homestead.

That omission, however, becomes understandable when one considers several factors. The obvious indication is that the springs were as yet undeveloped or, if so, just primitively so, or, if they had been developed, Terry himself did not claim credit for the work. It is this latter circumstance that seems most probable since some kind of reservoir was necessary for users to obtain water from the spring. Moreover, that leads to another element that likely caused the springs not to be mentioned as one of Terry's developments on his property. The springs, like the open country of which they were a part, had long been essentially a common property, accessible to all. Whether this was a conscious decision at specific moment is doubtful; more likely the practice took hold and remained—incontrovertible in an area where the whole landscape had once been considered a shared resource and a vast commons, where fresh water meant the difference in life and death, and where habits of mutuality easily took hold. Moreover, with surveys and settlement, open access to the spring was encouraged by the accidental convergence of geography and the survey system. The springs were—and are—located almost directly adjacent to the section line running north south, and roads followed section lines. To fence off the springs from the public passing by them just a few feet away, a public that desperately needed the water, would have been an act of conceit that, while legally permissible, probably would not have been tolerated and there is no evidence to suggest that such an enclosure of the commons was ever considered. After Robert Terry claimed the quarter section of land as his own and fenced in most of it, the springs continued to be a common resource open to all users.

From Commons to Community

It was clear early on that the springs filled both a physical need and a social need for the area and the springs became the center of a rural community, far-flung though it be. The use of the springs was not limited to casual use by horse and rider who passed by; the use was both systematic and large-volume. One account relates that around the turn of the century, and earlier too, ranchers in the general area took their wagons to Jaybuckle and hauled water from the "spring in barrels to the ranch houses, other water in the section being gypsy."²² Water that was termed "gypsy" had a high

²¹ Robert E. Terry Homestead Proof, Testimony of Claimant, Final Homestead Affidavit, Final Certificate No. 2617, March 25, 1904, National Archives and Records Administration, Land Entry Files.

²² "W. P. Houck Was Pioneer Cowboy of Greer County," *Mangum Star*, July 21, 1935.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section No. 8 Page 16

Jay Buckle Springs, Reed, Greer County, OK

gypsum content, making it unpotable, although cattle could be forced to drink it and sometimes even would become accustomed to drinking the mineral water. People, however, could neither drink it nor wash themselves or their clothes with it. The results of drinking the heavily mineralized waters from most of the streams in the area were predictably baleful and, while not fatal, were nonetheless violent. When used as water for washing, the minerals were retained on the skin or in the fabric as a white film that only increased with each rinsing. This meant that people began to gather at the springs to take the water to their homes and that the social function of the spring followed the physical. The newspaper biography of cowboy W. P. Houck noted that, "In the nineties, when farms began to be settled, a bridge was built across [Elm] Fork near the spring and [they] became a neighborhood gathering place, for everybody hauled water from Jaybuckle for eight and ten miles around."²³ The ranchers would haul the water to their ranches and then store it in their cisterns along with any rainwater they had been fortunate enough to collect—if any.

The population of the area began to grow, dominated now by small farms and ranches—operations that, at any rate, usually ran a small herd of cattle as well as growing crops for domestic consumption. By 1900 Greer County—still a vast area bounded on the north and east by the North Fork of the Red River and on the west by the 100th Meridian, contained around three and a half thousand farms.²⁴ In 1907, when statehood came for Oklahoma, Greer County was carved into more counties, creating the new counties of Harmon, Jackson, and Beckham, and leaving Greer County itself as a much-reduced geographical area that no longer bordered Texas. And the population continued to grow, as did the number of farms. By 1910 there were in Greer County, even though it was now but a fraction of its size ten years earlier, 2,058 farms and ranches.²⁵ Just as important as, and perhaps more important than, the growth in population and farms was the structural change in the local society and economy as a village began to emerge near Jaybuckle Springs. At first it was

²³ "W. P. Houck Was Pioneer Cowboy of Greer County." The exact reference in this quote was "across Salt Fork near the Spring," but the confusion is easily understood—and corrected. The Elm Fork is generally recognized as "saltier" than the Salt Fork which runs south of this part of Greer County, salt mines are located on the north bank of the Elm Fork north and west of Jaybuckle Springs, and the river itself is sometimes known as the True Salt Fork. As early as 1886, after maps had been prepared that named the stream Elm Fork, and the drainage to the south Salt Fork, the Wheeler County, Texas, County Commissioners called an election for the organization of the separate Greer County. In their demarcation of voting precincts they identified one district as "Bounded on the N by Elm or true Salt Fork." This order is reprinted in Barnett, "A History of the 'Empire of Greer,' " 39.

²⁴ United States Census Office, *Twelfth Census of the United States Taken in the Year 1900, Agriculture Part I: Farms, Live Stock, and Animal Products* (Washington, D.C., Government Printing Office, 1902), 114.

²⁵ U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, *Thirteenth Census of the United States Taken in the Year 1910, Volume VII Agriculture, 1909 and 1910* (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1913), 366-367.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section No. 8 Page 17

Jay Buckle Springs, Reed, Greer County, OK

much like other agrarian communities in the area—a center for congregating and for socializing more than a concentration of residents. The rural community that was becoming known as Jaybuckle or Jay Buckle, with its scattered population, had reached sufficient development by 1906 that a separate school district was formed, No. 158, and the district erected a building for Jay Buckle School about a mile south of the springs. A modest one-room building with one teacher, the school served the needs of the community until 1918 when it was replaced with a four-room school with three teachers, offering even two years of high school in the 1920s.²⁶ In 1921 the teachers at that school offered an assessment of the people and district they served, noting that stock-farming was the dominant social and economic calling of the people and that, “Probably the greatest physical asset, outside our 11 square miles of fertile soil is Jay Buckle springs, which constitutes a veritable oasis of more than local fame.”²⁷

Directly adjacent to the springs, moreover, there were changes. In 1914 homesteader Robert Terry sold two acres just north of the Main Spring to the Greer County Farmers Gin Company so that a cotton gin could be built there.²⁸ The construction of the gin reflected an important shift in the local economy. Cattle ranching had already yielded to the production of feed crops, especially corn and oats, although wheat and cotton were also grown, but in minor proportions. Quickly, however, cotton became an important cash crop.²⁹ In fact, by 1904 Greer County produced more cotton than any other county in the nation, except for Williamson County, Texas.³⁰ Thus the siting of the cotton gin near this social center reflected the further transformation of local agriculture away from feed crops and also demonstrated the rise of the springs as an economic center as well as social. As it turned out, the gin experiment was short lived and the facility was removed several years after it had been placed there. Details are sketchy, but the context is suggestive. During World War I production of cotton was stimulated by an enticing combination of price supports and government contracts. Immediately after the war, however, with the cancellation of the supports and contracts, cotton production—and the gins and mills that depended on cotton—suffered, many of them closing their doors.³¹ When the cotton gin at Jay Buckle Springs closed, the land reverted back to Terry—as provided for in the terms of the original purchase agreement. The impact of the cotton gin on this

²⁶ The Principals' Club, *The Schools of Greer County, Oklahoma* (Mangum, Oklahoma: Haskell Pruett, County Superintendent of Schools, 1921), 77-81.

²⁷ The Principals' Club, *The Schools of Greer County, Oklahoma*, 81.

²⁸ Greer County Land Records, Office of the County Clerk, Mangum, Oklahoma.

²⁹ A. W. Goke and R. E. Penn, *Soil Survey of Greer County, Oklahoma* (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1937), 4.

³⁰ “First Trail Blazed to Mangum 48 Years Ago,” *Mangum Daily Star*, November 16, 1932. See also the records in the Vertical File, Oklahoma Historical Society, for Jester, Oklahoma on comparative cotton production.

³¹ Jacquelin Dowd Hall, James Leloudis, Robert Korstad, Mary Murphy, Lu Ann Jones, and Christopher B. Daly, *Like a Family: The Making of a Southern Cotton Mill World* (Chapel Hill, north Carolina: University of North Carolina Press, 1987), 183-187.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section No. 8 Page 18

Jay Buckle Springs, Reed, Greer County, OK

location, however, lasted longer than the gin itself. The community at Jay Buckle was growing and becoming busier, attracting more people, businesses, and activities.

In 1906 Dallas I. Knight and his family had settled on the benchland above the springs, to the east, and farmed there but in 1918 Knight purchased forty acres directly west of and across the road from the main spring. An additional spring surfaced on the hillside on that side of the road, thus providing a steady and reliable source of fresh water for the land that Knight acquired. Either Dallas Knight or a predecessor on the land installed a steam boiler to heat the water and developed a community laundry on that property. Subsequently Dallas Knight's son, Baker Knight, and after 1926 with his wife, Virgie, operated the Jay Buckle Community Laundry.³² The importance of the laundry was much greater here than what it might have been in other communities. Laundry was always an onerous chore, and with the heavily mineralized waters it was that much more of a challenge. So with the presence of this laundry, where washing machines were available with hot water, and water that was clean and mercifully lacking the minerals that otherwise obtained, the springs became an important social center where people, especially the farm women, from the area would gather, take care of their chores, and also exchange news and maintain social relationships.

The main spring, on the east side of the road, probably was shored up in the early years to create a reservoir larger than any natural pool would have been, and one common story circulated is that logs had been used to create a dam to collect the water at the main spring. It appears too that some stone masonry was used as a retaining wall to keep the embankment from crumbling into the reservoir. That, however, was the limit of the development and users of the water, even those who hauled barrels of the water back to their ranches, filled their buckets, one at a time. After more than two decades of heavy communal use, the deterioration was manifest. In 1925 the Mangum newspaper reported that "Jaybuckle Springs had long been one of the most valuable assets God had given Greer County. But the natural walls began caving, stock tromped around in the water, it became an inconvenient place to load wagons with water. A few individual citizens tried to improve the springs but they found the work a burden they did not want to carry."³³

It was clear to many that the springs needed repair, but the group that stepped forward to bear the responsibility reflects the commitment of a community of people that reached well beyond the fifteen, twenty, or twenty-five-mile radius served directly by the springs. And the people who took the initiative and made the sacrifices were members of a group often overlooked in the building of the communal infrastructure of rural America. In Greer County, there were fifteen Farm Women's Clubs,

³² "Heart Attack Claims Resident [D. I. Knight]," *Mangum Star*, December 31, 1942; "Baker Knight," *Mangum Star*, July 27, 1997; "Virgie Knight," *Mangum Star-News*, February 9, 1989; Greer County Land Records, Office of the County Clerk, Mangum, Oklahoma; interview with Ruth (Knight) Hill, Jay Buckle Springs, October 19, 2007.

³³ "Farm Women's Clubs a Potent Factor in County Building," unidentified newspaper clipping, genealogy collection, Mangum public library. Context indicates 1925 as publication date.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section No. 8 Page 19

Jay Buckle Springs, Reed, Greer County, OK

groups organized by neighborhood or township under the leadership and encouragement of the county Home Demonstration Agent, Helen Condon. Beginning in 1919, these clubs would meet separately for presentations and discussions concerning home and hearth issues. The clubs were responsible for upgrading food preservation techniques in the county, especially with the introduction of pressure-cookers to aid in canning, and a substantial campaign was underway to spread knowledge about poultry raising ("because it is considered the most profitable work within woman's province on the farm"), and modern dairy techniques. Often one of the specialists from the Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical College in Stillwater would visit the county and the Farm Women's Clubs would gather "at two centrally located points, City View and Jaybuckle."³⁴

In 1925, the Greer County Farm Women's Clubs took on a different kind of project from their normal home improvement activities, and this was a project that brought the women and the clubs together for a common cause: The Farm Women's Clubs took on the task of improving Jay Buckle Springs "so they will be of everlasting benefit to the public."³⁵ The Farm Women's Clubs raised money in a variety of ways: "Chickens were sold, pie suppers were held, cotton was picked, and many other methods were used to raise money" There was a palpable sacrifice involved in this, for these women were on farms that were hard hit by the agricultural downturn of the 1920s—participants in what is commonly referred to as the Agricultural Depression of the 1920s that preceded the national Depression of the 1930s. The chickens they raised and contributed came out of the new, and small, stream of revenue they hoped to gain from the poultry operations that they were still investing money in to start up. Even so, as one newspaper account reported as typical of the commitment to the project, in a part of the county distant from the springs, "one of the club members who had never seen the springs made a motion that each member give one of her finest and fattest hens to the fund and added that if one hen was not enough, they would give two or three."³⁶ In these ways the Farm Women's Clubs funded the project. "More than \$300 in money and more than that amount in labor had been donated to improve the springs."³⁷ The result was a complex of water storage reservoirs made of concrete with three separate features as reported in the local press:

A large concrete reservoir was built at the main spring for the use of the public in hauling water for home use. Another reservoir was built for the benefit of those who wish to drink of the fresh, cool, sparkling spring water, while a third reservoir was built for a watering place for horses.³⁸

³⁴ "Farm Women's Clubs a Potent Factor in County Building."

³⁵ "Jaybuckle Springs Formally Opened with Celebration," *Mangum Star*, May 7, 1925.

³⁶ "Farm Women's Clubs a Potent Factor in County Building."

³⁷ "Jaybuckle Springs Formally Opened with Celebration."

³⁸ "Jaybuckle Springs Formally Opened with Celebration."

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section No. 8 Page 20

Jay Buckle Springs, Reed, Greer County, OK

When the completed improvements at the springs were dedicated in May 1925, a crowd of about five hundred people gathered to celebrate. Local dignitaries addressed the assembly, representatives of the various Farm Women's Clubs spoke, and the main addresses were delivered by the State Home Demonstration Agent and the District Agricultural Agent.³⁹ The clubs prepared a dinner for the crowd. These festivities, by all accounts, represented a signal event for the area for two reasons. On the one hand, the springs were dedicated in a way that underscored their primary function—providing drinking water; they were, as the newspaper reported, “dedicated to the perpetual use of whosoever will come and drink of the waters.” On the other hand, the celebration marked a deeper meaning, for there was also widespread recognition that the springs themselves now memorialized something greater than simply providing water. Just as the water from the spring was generously available to all in a broad community spirit, the effort to improve the springs represented, in the words of one account, “one of the finest and most unselfish movements ever begun in this county.”⁴⁰ Or, as was observed more pointedly in another news account, “The springs are now a lasting monument to the thoughtfulness and enterprise of the farm women of the county.”⁴¹

The dedication of the improvements at Jaybuckle Springs revealed that the location was well known already, but partly because of the improvements and the dedication, the Springs were becoming even more widely recognized as a social gathering place, as a place for meetings, as a place for the transaction of business. No record exists of when the first religious camp meeting was held at the springs, but these outdoor revivals were common enough occasions that brush arbors were built to provide shade for the large crowds who came to hear the gospel and possibly to have their souls redeemed. Jaybuckle was the place for that. In fact, with the passing of the horse and buggy, the horse-watering trough saw less use for its original purpose, and was sometimes used for baptisms at the camp meetings. Current owner Joe Maddox recalls his own brother's baptism in that trough.⁴² A baseball diamond—or at least a baseball playing field—across the road to the west was frequently used too. People came to the springs for many reasons—for water, for religion, for recreation, for laundry, or just for socializing, but this was a true community center in the authentic sense of community.

In the following decades, the growth emphasized the commercial nature of this community center. The success of the laundry and the proximity to the springs—and to the bridge over the Elm Fork that had been built to enable people on the north side of the river to also use the springs—further stimulated commercial and social activity in the area and at some point in the late 1920s or early 1930s a gasoline station emerged. Marvin Lowery purchased a parcel immediately north of the main spring in 1932 and in 1933 he leased the property “now owned and operated . . . as a filling station”

³⁹ “Jaybuckle Springs Formally Opened with Celebration.”

⁴⁰ “Farm Women's Clubs a Potent Factor in County Building.”

⁴¹ “Jaybuckle Springs Formally Opened with Celebration.”

⁴² Edward Charles Ellenbrook, “Water of Life: The Story of JayBuckle Springs is Really the Story of a Community,” *Lawton Constitution*, October 30, 2007.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section No. 8 Page 21

Jay Buckle Springs, Reed, Greer County, OK

to Cities Service Oil Company.⁴³ Evidently, a store was located at the filling station too. In addition, one account places a blacksmith shop, perhaps short-lived, south of, and near to, the horse-watering trough.⁴⁴ The commercial potential of the area seemed to be growing.

In the 1930s at least one commercial water hauling business took water from the springs and delivered it to customers in the surrounding area. T. J. Barton, a businessman in Reed, hauled both coal and water to the farms and ranches in the 1930s; significantly, the water business, which had drawn upon this water for decades, was now motorized and Barton hauled it in trucks instead of wagons now. There may have been others as well who hauled the water commercially, and, of course, individuals continued to drive to the springs to fill their own barrels without charge. Plus, there were others besides Barton who saw the entrepreneurial opportunity the water provided. In 1939 Clark and Wilma Stowe purchased property north of the main spring and service station. It is possible that the Stowes hauled water even before purchasing the property, but it is certain that afterwards they developed a water-hauling business, carrying water from the springs to local farms and ranches.⁴⁵

Immediately after World War II the county road passing west of the springs was widened and paved. The Knights' laundry still operated and Marvin Lowery's filling station and store continued to serve the area, although Lowery no longer owned it after 1945. And Clark Stowe's water hauling business also continued. At some point, in fact, Stowe developed another spring that emanated from the hillside north of the spring and filling station. This may have been done in stages or at one time, and a date inscribed on the structure he built indicates 1959; some of that work, however, may have been done earlier. Those structures are not included in this nomination. Stowe added a series of concrete holding tanks or reservoirs, arranged on the hillside about two hundred yards north of the main spring, in such a manner that the top container would fill and then overflow through pipes, in a cascading manner, into the next lower reservoir, which would then overflow into a third. He also added a pump house at this complex, and this is where he would thenceforth fill the barrels on his truck with water for hauling. He also added at least one concrete structure for the purpose of raising minnows, although this enterprise seems not to have taken hold in the same degree as their water hauling business.

The various businesses continued to operate into the 1950s, but the area served by the springs was changing. The most dramatic change was the loss of population and the dwindling of the number of

⁴³ Greer County Land Records, Office of the County Clerk, Mangum, Oklahoma; interview with Ruth (Knight) Hill, Jay Buckle Springs, October 19, 2007.

⁴⁴ Ellenbrook, "Water of Life: The Story of JayBuckle Springs is Really the Story of a Community." Ellenbrook relates the account of Joe Maddox recalling the blacksmith shop.

⁴⁵ "Wilma Stowe," Mangum *Star-News*, March 20, 1997; "Clark Stowe," Mangum *Star-News*, August 6, 1987. Interviews with Darlia and Albert "Junior" Norton and Peggy Bielich, Mangum, Oklahoma, August 23, 2007; interview with Curtis Bell, Mangum, Oklahoma, August 24, 2007.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section No. 8 Page 22

Jay Buckle Springs, Reed, Greer County, OK

farms. In Greer County the number of farms declined from 2,455 in 1930 to 791 in 1959.⁴⁶ The Jay Buckle community was declining, but even though there were fewer farms—and farm families—in the area, those that were left still needed the water. It was not until after 1971, and then only incrementally, that a cooperative water system was developed which provided potable water to the rural parts of the county. Once the water system connected to an individual farm, however, that farm no longer needed to transport water from the springs or, for that matter, to use the laundry at the springs. At some point, the filling station closed and the store building was moved across the road to the Knight Laundry where it was used as a residence. In 1970 Clark and Wilma Stowe retired and moved to Fort Worth. In the early 1970s the laundry closed down. The main spring that had long been a source of drinking water, and for many, the only source of drinking water, became a swimming hole—an activity that had been strictly prohibited and vigilantly guarded against in the years when the water was for drinking.

Jay Buckle community no longer exists. The water itself, however, continues to flow. And the features associated with the springs remain, ghost-like reminders now of the broader spirit of community that created them. The main reservoir is now used exclusively for swimming, a change in function that itself indicates the social transformation that has taken place. The horse-watering trough, with no more horse traffic to water, was covered with a concrete picnic table slab to prevent accidents. The small spring that had provided water for the traveling public still runs and still provides the source of water for residents just north of the main spring.

The community that had been nourished by the springs has dried up, but the springs themselves continue to flow, still creating an oasis in a sometimes-parched land. The reservoirs that were constructed by the Farm Women's Clubs of the county, "the lasting monument to the thoughtfulness and enterprise of the farm women of the county," are clear to all who will look, although they are too seldom remembered for their purpose and their creators. The springs and the reservoirs thus provide now, not so much the physical nourishment they once offered, but an equally important nourishment of the spirit of community and of the connections with the past.

Summary

The developments directly associated with Jay Buckle Springs have long been of vital importance to the surrounding area and they provided the basis for the development of a community that literally found common ground there. Because of the function the springs provided in the settlement of the

⁴⁶ Jimmie W. Frie, R. C. Brinlee, and Richard D. Graft, *Soil Survey of Greer County, Oklahoma* (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1967), 69.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section No. 8 Page 23

Jay Buckle Springs, Reed, Greer County, OK

area and because of the social history they were associated with, the site at Jay Buckle Springs is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A, in the areas of significance Settlement and Social History.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section No. 9 Page 24

Jay Buckle Springs, Reed, Greer County, OK

Bibliography

"Baker Knight," Mangum *Star*, July 27, 1997.

Barnett, James Albert. "A History of the 'Empire of Greer,'" M. A. Thesis, Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical College, 1938.

Bell, Curtis. Interview, Mangum, Oklahoma, August 24, 2007.

Bielich, Peggy. Interview, Mangum, Oklahoma, August 23, 2007.

Bradford, Susan Cabaniss. "History of Greer County," article published on World Wide Web at <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~swokla/greer/greer.html>.

Chapman, Berlin B. "The Claim of Texas to Greer County," *Southwestern Historical Quarterly*, LIII (July 1949), 19-34; (October 1949), 164-179; (April 1950), 406-421.

"Clark Stowe," Mangum *Star-News*, August 6, 1987.

Dyer, Jesse J. "A Survey of the J Buckle Kingdom," *Panhandle Plains Historical Review*, XVI (1943), 59-89.

"Elder Rites Held July 30 in Reed Church," Mangum *Star*, July 30, 1951.

Ellenbrook, Edward Charles. "Water of Life: The Story of JayBuckle Springs is Really the Story of a Community," Lawton *Constitution*, October 30, 2007.

Estill-Harbour, Emma. "A Brief History of the Red River Country since 1803," *Chronicles of Oklahoma*, 16 (March 1938), 58-88.

-----, "Greer County," *Chronicles of Oklahoma*, 12 (June 1934), 145-162.

"Farm Women's Clubs a Potent Factor in County Building," unidentified newspaper clipping, genealogy collection, Mangum Public Library.

"First Trail Blazed to Mangum 48 Years Ago," Mangum *Daily Star*, November 16, 1932.

Foreman, Grant. "Red River and the Spanish Boundary in the United States Supreme Court," *Chronicles of Oklahoma*, 2 (September 1924), 298-310.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section No. 9 Page 25

Jay Buckle Springs, Reed, Greer County, OK

Frie, Jimmie W., R. C. Brinlee, and Richard D. Graft. *Soil Survey of Greer County, Oklahoma* (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1967).

Goke, A. W. and R. E. Penn. *Soil Survey of Greer County, Oklahoma* (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1937).

"Greer County," The Handbook of Texas Online, World Wide Web document, <http://www.tsha.utexas.edu/handbook/online/articles/GG/hcg81.html>, accessed September 22, 2007.

Greer County Genealogical and Historical Society Collections, Mangum Public Library, Mangum, Oklahoma.

Greer County Land Records, Office of the County Clerk, Mangum, Oklahoma;

"Greer County's First Citizen Came as Cowboy," undated newspaper clipping in Genealogical Files of Mangum Public Library. (Account of George W. Boyd; context indicates the year of publication as 1932.)

"H. H. Perry [sic], 86, Pioneer Is Dead," *Mangum Star*, December 30, 1930. (Obituary for H. H. Terry.)

Hall, Jacquelin Dowd, James Leloudis, Robert Korstad, Mary Murphy, Lu Ann Jones, and Christopher B. Daly. *Like a Family: The Making of a Southern Cotton Mill World* (Chapel Hill, North Carolina: University of North Carolina Press, 1987).

"Heart Attack Claims Resident [D. I. Knight]," *Mangum Star*, December 31, 1942.

Heisch, John D. "Old Greer County," Oklahoma Historical Society's Encyclopedia of Oklahoma History and Culture. Online at <http://digital.library.okstate.edu/encyclopedia/entries/O/OL002.html>, accessed October 22, 2007.

Hill, Ruth (Knight). Interview, Jay Buckle Springs, October 19, 2007.

"Jaybuckle Springs Formally Opened with Celebration," *Mangum Star*, May 7, 1925.

Jordan, Terry G. *North American Cattle-Ranching Frontiers: Origins, Diffusion, and Differentiation* (Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 1993).

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section No. 9 Page 26

Jay Buckle Springs, Reed, Greer County, OK

Land Entry Files, National Archives and Records Administration, file for Robert E. Terry, Final Certificate No. 2617, March 25, 1904.

Land Records, Oklahoma Historical Society Research Collections, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

"Lowery Rites Slated Jan. 6," Mangum *Star*, January 5, 1956.

Moore, Webb Leonidas. *The Greer County Question* (n.p.: 1939).

"Nancy Elder," Mangum *Star-News*, January 17, 1985.

Norton, Darlia and Albert "Junior" Norton. Interview, Mangum, Oklahoma, August 23, 2007 and Jay Buckle Springs, October 19, 2007.

Office of the Greer County Clerk, Mangum, Oklahoma, property records.

Oklahoma Historical Society, Vertical File for Jester, Oklahoma

Paxton, W. W. "Wheeler Paxton Tells of Life on the Farm and Range in Old Greer," Mangum *Star*, October 13, 1937.

The Principals' Club, *The Schools of Greer County, Oklahoma* (Mangum, Oklahoma: Haskell Pruett, County Superintendent of Schools, 1921).

"S. H. Tittle Dies, Rites Set Monday," Greer County *News*, August 20, 1951.

Sheffy, Lester Fields. *The Francklyn Land & Cattle Company: A Panhandle Enterprise, 1882-1957* (Austin: University of Texas Press, 1963),

"Thomas Jackson Barton," Mangum *Star-News*, August 19, 2004.

Tinkler, Estelle D., "The History of the Rocking Chair Ranche," *Panhandle-Plains Historical Review*, XV (1942), 1-88.

----- . *Archibald John Writes the Rocking Chair Ranche Letters* (Burnet, Texas: Eakin Press, 1979).

Tittle, Lem H. "Notes on the History of Old Greer County," *Chronicles of Oklahoma*, 20 (June 1942), 172-173.

"Trio Attends Funeral Service in Richardson," Greer County *News*, July 28, 1969. (Obituary for Robert Terry.)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section No. 9 Page 27

Jay Buckle Springs, Reed, Greer County, OK

"Under 14 Flags," Mangum *Star*, October 13, 1937.

United States Census Office, *Twelfth Census of the United States Taken in the Year 1900, Agriculture Part I: Farms, Live Stock, and Animal Products* (Washington, D.C., Government Printing Office, 1902).

U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, *Thirteenth Census of the United States Taken in the Year 1910, Volume VII Agriculture, 1909 and 1910* (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1913).

"Virgie Knight," Mangum *Star-News*, February 9, 1989.

"W. P. Houck Was Pioneer Cowboy of Greer County," Mangum *Star*, July 21, 1935.

"Wilma Stowe," Mangum *Star-News*, March 20, 1997

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section No. 10 Page 28

Jay Buckle Springs, Reed, Greer County, OK

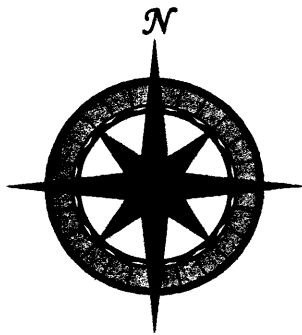
Geographical Data

Verbal Boundary Description

This property includes an irregular-shaped parcel of less than ten acres including the Jay Buckle Springs located in the southwest $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 25, Range 24 West, Township 6 North.

Boundary Justification

This boundary includes the property historically associated with the Jay Buckle Springs.



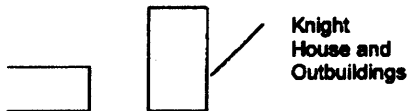
**JAY BUCKLE
COMMUNITY**

**GREER
COUNTY,
OKLAHOMA**

Map not to scale.



Site of
Jay Buckle
Laundry



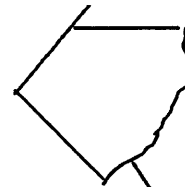
Knight
House and
Outbuildings



Clark Stowe
Reservoirs



Norton
House / Site
of Filling
Station



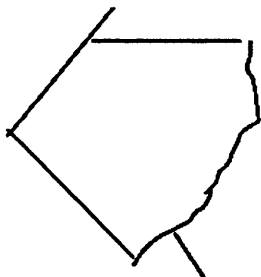
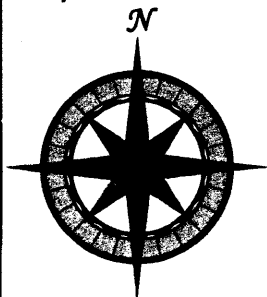
Main Spring
Reservoir



Horse-
watering
Trough



Small Spring
Reservoir



Main Spring Reservoir



Horse-watering Trough



Small Spring Reservoir

County Road N1840



Reed, Oklahoma
4 Miles

**JAY
BUCKLE
SPRINGS**
**GREER
COUNTY,
OKLAHOMA**
Map not to scale.

PROPERTY OWNER FORM

Name of Property: Jay Buckle Springs

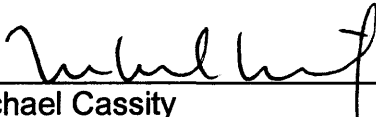
Location of Property: County Road N1840, 500 feet north of intersection with
E1420, north of Reed, Oklahoma 73554

I, Michael Cassity, hereby certify that the following constitutes the complete list of owners of record for the property named above. The information was obtained on October 18, 2007 from Greer County Assessor's Office.

Name: Joe Alton Maddox, Trustee of Revocable Trust

Address: 21156 E CR 1420

City: Mangum State: Oklahoma Zip: 73554



Michael Cassity
October 29, 2007

ELECTED OFFICIALS FORM

Name of Property: Jay Buckle Springs

Location of Property:

County Road N1840, 500 feet north of intersection with E1420
Reed, Oklahoma 73554

1. For a property located within a city or town, provide:

Mayor's Name:

Address:

City: State: Zip:

2. For a property located outside the city limits of a city or town, provide:

Name & address of Chairman, Board of County Commissioners:

Honorable Roger Lively
PO Box 207
County Courthouse
Mangum, OK 73554-0207

3. The above named property is located in Oklahoma Senate District #26
The State Senator's name is: Honorable Tom Ivester

4. The above named property is located within Oklahoma State House of
Representatives District #60
The State Representative's name is: Honorable Purcy D. Walker