

PH0369683

Form 10-306  
(Oct. 1972)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

STATE:	Oklahoma
COUNTY:	Comanche
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	JAN 30 1978

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

**1. NAME**

COMMON:

Henry Post Air Field, U.S. Army

AND/OR HISTORIC:

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:

4900 area, on south side of Post Road  
*N of Lawton on E 51st*

CITY OR TOWN:

Fort Sill

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:

Hon. Tom Steed, 4th District

STATE:

Oklahoma

CODE

40

COUNTY:

Comanche

CODE

31

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Public Acquisition:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	_____	_____

**4. AGENCY**

U. S. Army

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable)

HQ, US Army Field Artillery Center

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

Fort Sill

STATE:

Oklahoma

CODE

40

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:

Director of Facilities Engineering

STREET AND NUMBER:

1950 Barbour Road, HQ US Army Field Artillery Center

CITY OR TOWN:

Fort Sill

STATE:

Oklahoma

CODE

40

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY:

Federal

State

County

Local

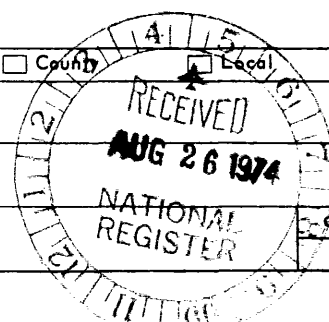
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:

CODE



STATE:

COUNTY:

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

*Inc 13*

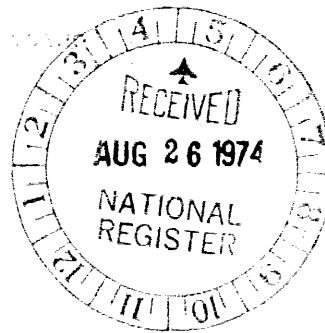
**7. DESCRIPTION**

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Size, 10 acres. Located at the southeast corner of the Post between Highway 277 and Fort Sill Boulevard. The original portion of the field was first used by aircraft in 1915, was expanded and surfaced in 1917, and further expanded in subsequent years. Present condition, excellent. Present use, air field for the US Army Field Artillery Aviation Command.

The 10 acres selected for National Register nomination is a grass-covered unaltered area south of the main parking apron.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**8. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

In 1915 served as flying field and first tactical station for the first air unit in the US Service, the 1st Aero Squadron. While here the first aerial mosaic was made, the first squadron cross-country flight was made, and the first experiments in airplane observation of artillery fire conducted. Two flying schools were active here in World War I, and the field continued in use by the Air Service until 1942, when Army Aviation was established here. On 28 Jul 15, the first air unit in the U. S. military service, the First Aero Squadron, arrived at Fort Sill to conduct experiments in the aerial observation of artillery fire. The squadron was commanded by 1LT (later MG) Benjamin D. Foulois, who subsequently became Chief of the Air Corps. This post was the first tactical station for this unit. While here the squadron made the first aerial mosaic, using a Brock automatic camera. The pioneer aerial photographic work done at this time resulted in the redesigning of the Brock camera and further development of aerial cameras. The first squadron cross-country flight of the fledgling Air Service began here on 19 Nov when six Curtiss Jennies of the First Aero Squadron took off for Ft Sam Houston, TX, a distance of 439 miles. On 15 Mar/16, while still assigned to Ft Sill, this squadron became the first U.S. Tactical air unit in the field when it began operations with GEN Pershing's expedition into Mexico.

Construction of Henry Post Army Airfield was begun at Ft Sill on 8 Aug 17, on the plateau where the Kiowa chief Big Tree had tried to steal GEN Grierson's cavalry horses in 1870. The same site had been used as a flying field by the First Aero Squadron in 1915. The field was named in memory of LT Henry B Post, 25th Infantry, a pioneer military aviator who had been killed in an airplane accident near San Diego in 1914 while attempting an altitude record. The Third Aero Squadron arrived at Post Field for station on 17 Aug 17 and was followed by several others.

The School for Aerial Observers, employing both balloons and fixed-wing craft, was established at Post Field in January 1918 and trained hundreds of observers before the end of the war. In 1918 also the Air Service Flying School was established here, employing several aero squadrons.

In 1921 more miles were flown by aviators based at Post Field, Ft Sill, than at any other field in the U.S., it was estimated. A total of 1,672,000 man miles were flown by Post field fliers, equal to 67 times around the world. On 6 Jun 42 the War Dept established Army Aviation at Ft Sill, concurrently with adoption of organic short-range air observation for Field Artillery. The Dept of Air Training took over Air Corps facilities at Post Field and Ft Sill became the training center for the Army's "spotter" pilots. On 9 Nov 42 Army Aviation entered combat when an L-4 (Piper Cub) flew from the USS Ranger during the invasion of North Africa.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

1. Lawton Constitution-Press, 28 Jul - 19 Nov 1915, coverage of 1st Aero Squadron at Fort Sill.
2. Post records on file at Fort Sill Museum.
3. Goldberg, Ed. A History of the United States Air Force, 1907-1957, p. 10.

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES				
CORNER	LATITUDE				LONGITUDE				
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	34 °	38	47.915	98 °	23	47.164			
NE	34 °	38	47.915	98 °	23	42.167			
SE	34 °	38	25.803	98 °	23	42.167			
SW	34 °	38	25.803	98 °	23	47.164			

*See Cont. Sheet for UTM dated 7-8-77*

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **10 acres (see attached sketch)**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE: <b>Mr. Gillett Griswold</b>		DATE: <b>23 Apr 74</b>
BUSINESS ADDRESS: <b>US Army Field Artillery &amp; Fort Sill Museum</b>		
STREET AND NUMBER: <b>HQ US Army Field Artillery Center</b>		PHONE: <b>351-5123</b>
CITY OR TOWN: <b>Fort Sill</b>	STATE: <b>Oklahoma</b>	CODE: <b>40</b>

**12. CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION**

State Liaison Officer recommendation:

Yes  
 No  
 None

*[Signature]*  
State Liaison Officer Signature

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

*[Signature]* **8/19/74**  
Federal Representative Signature Date

**Director, Real Property & Natural Res, OASD (I&L)**

**NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

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

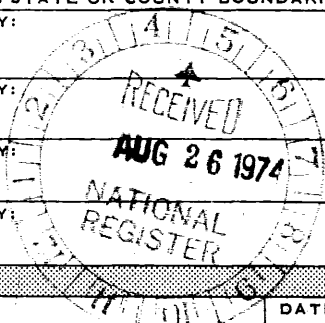
*[Signature]*  
Director, Office of Property and Historic Preservation  
**KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER**

Date 6 30 78

ATTEST:

*[Signature]*  
Keeper of the National Register

Date 1-24-78



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	JUL 8 1977
DATE ENTERED	JAN 30 1978

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

Henry Post Air Field, Fort Sill, OK

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 1

Description.

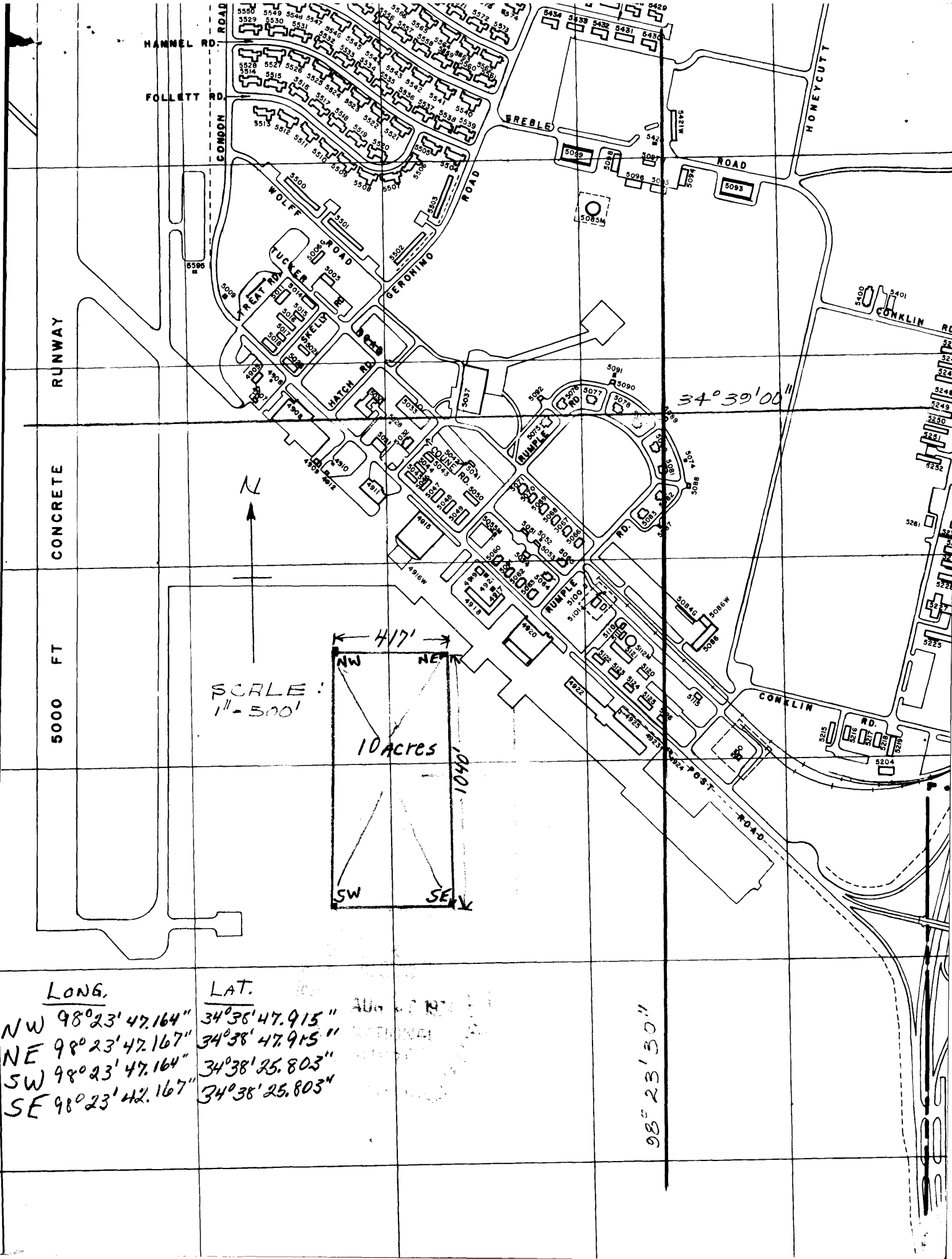
The ten acres being nominated is the ground from which most successful flights flew between 1915 and 1917. Because of the direction of the prevailing winds and the type of aircraft, the airstrip had to be a minimum of 417 feet by 1040 feet in a north-south direction. In 1917, the southern boundary of Fort Sill was extended south about one-quarter of a mile to permit the expansion of the air field. Today the Henry Post Air Field encompasses 550 acres. The present paved airstrips are west of the nominated area where it was possible to construct a longer runway. Because of this relocation, the nominated area has experienced little change since its inception and early use.

The World War I (1917) hangar has been demolished. It had been raised up several feet and most of the original materials replaced. It was in an advanced stage of deterioration and would have cost an estimated \$50,000 to renovate. Such a renovation would be a reconstruction rather than preservation of original. Therefore, this building was considered unsuitable for preservation or inclusion in this nomination. The metal balloon hangar (1934) is not of sufficient age for nomination. It is located two blocks away from the original air field, with modern buildings between. When it achieves sufficient age, it may be considered for nomination as a separate and distinct structure.

Geographical Data.

UTM References

- D-A Zone 14 Easting 555<sup>220</sup>~~250~~ Northing 3833800
- A-B Zone 14 Easting 555400 Northing 3833800
- C Zone 14 Easting 555<sup>220</sup>~~250~~ Northing 3833400
- B-D Zone 14 Easting 555440 Northing 3833400



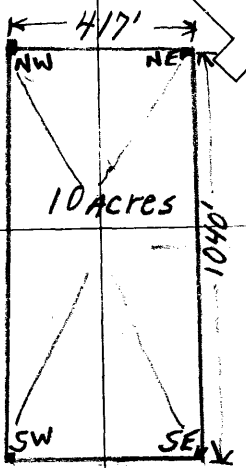
RUNWAY

CONCRETE

5000 FT

N

SCALE:  
1" = 500'



34° 39' 00"

98° 23' 30"

LONG.

LAT.

NW	98° 23' 47.164"	34° 38' 47.915"
NE	98° 23' 42.167"	34° 38' 47.915"
SW	98° 23' 47.164"	34° 38' 25.803"
SE	98° 23' 42.167"	34° 38' 25.803"

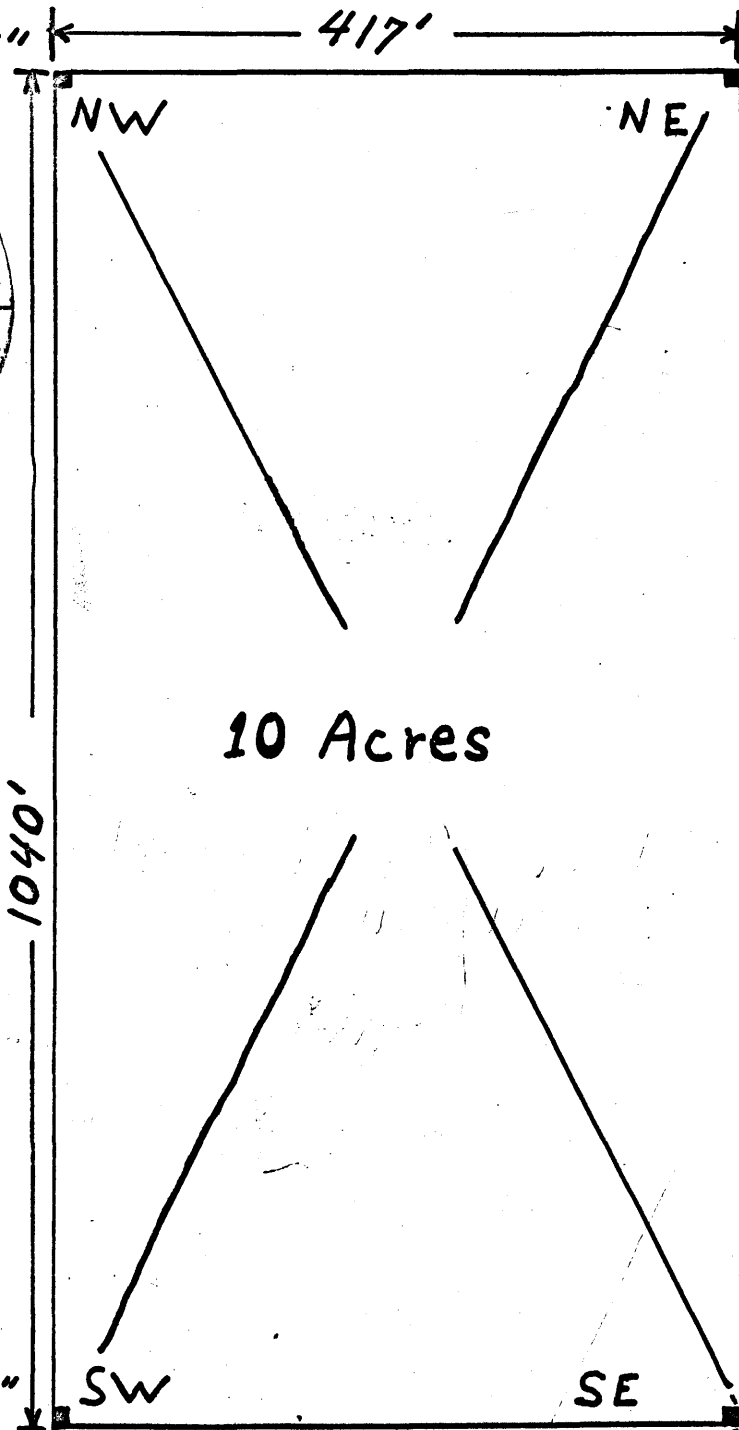
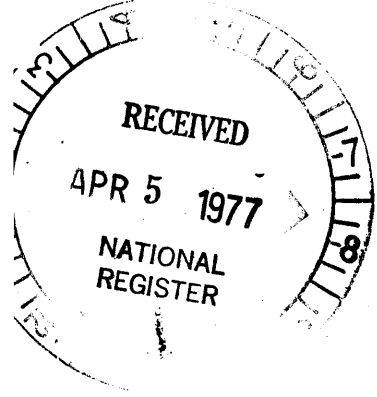
Henry Post Air Field  
Fort Sill, Comanche County, Oklahoma

US Army Map Field Artillery Center  
1 Sept. 1971 scale 1"=500'

Henry Post Air Field  
Fort Sill, Oklahoma

Lo  $98^{\circ}23'47.164''$   
A  $34^{\circ}38'47.915''$

Lo  $98^{\circ}23'42.$   
LA  $34^{\circ}38'47.$



Lo  $98^{\circ}23'47.164''$   
A  $34^{\circ}38'25.803''$

Lo  $98^{\circ}23'42.16$   
LA  $34^{\circ}38'25.81$



Form 70-801  
(July 1968)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

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

**1. NAME**

COMMON

Henry Post Air Field

AND/OR HISTORIC

NUMERIC CODE (Assigned by NPS)

JAN 30 1978

**2. LOCATION**

STATE

Oklahoma

COUNTY

Comanche

TOWN

Fort Sill

STREET AND NUMBER

Henry Post Air Field

**3. MAP REFERENCE**

SOURCE

US Army Map Field Artillery  
Center and Fort Sill  
Director of Facilities Engineering

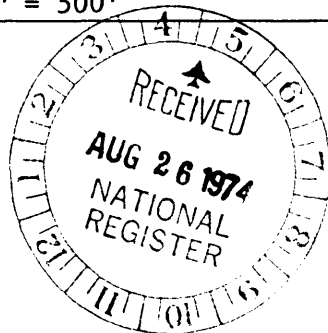
DATE

1 Sep 71

SCALE

1" = 500'

REQUIREMENTS: PROPERTY BOUNDARIES, WHERE REQUIRED, AND NORTH ARROW.



0124