

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

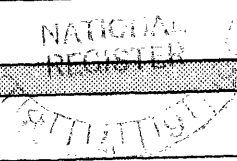
STATE:  
**Oklahoma**

COUNTY:  
**LeFlore**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
<b>716.40.0007</b>	<b>6/5/71</b>

RECEIVED  
FEB 9 1971



**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
**Conser (Peter) House**

AND/OR HISTORIC:

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**3.5 m. W of**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Hodgens (at SW Corner Sec. 4 and NW Corner Sec. 9, T 4 N, R E 25)**

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
<b>Oklahoma</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>LeFlore</b>	<b>079</b>

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

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

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input 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 type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
**Oklahoma Historical Society**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**Oklahoma Historical Building**

CITY OR TOWN: <b>Oklahoma City</b>	STATE: <b>Oklahoma</b>	CODE: <b>40</b>
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**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

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

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**LeFlore County Courthouse**

CITY OR TOWN: <b>Poteau</b>	STATE: <b>Oklahoma</b>	CODE: <b>40</b>
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**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
**Oklahoma Historical Society and State Highway Commission**

DATE OF SURVEY:  
 Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
**Oklahoma Historical Society**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**Oklahoma Historical Building**

CITY OR TOWN: <b>Oklahoma City</b>	STATE: <b>Oklahoma</b>	CODE: <b>40</b>
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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(restored)		(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 type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Peter Conser House was -- and is, restored -- a large, two-story, white-frame structure, comfortable, but not pretentious. By the frontier standards of the day it represents a certain measure of success. In the main, however, it is a typical, relatively modest farmhouse of the 1890s -- even to the rooftop lightning arresters -- and as such is virtually indistinguishable from countless other farmhouses of the period.

In its plainness it reflects the sturdy utilitarianism of the frontier. Tall cut-stone chimneys guard the east and north wings of the L-shaped house. Between them are the double porches from which Peter and his wife, Ann, could look down over the family burying ground in the front yard and their 600 acres of Conser Creek bottomlands to the north. A porch on the southwest, off the kitchen, looked out to the log smokehouse and the large barn. Now being restored, the high-roofed barn was built about 1900, boasting what was then recognized as the most modern and sanitary of facilities for taking care of milk cows, as well as excellent quarters for mules and horses.

Interior restoration of the house is not yet complete. It will continue as funds become available, as will the addition of representative household furnishings of the period. In time, it is hoped the entire four-acre property will accurately reflect comfortable farm living in the early 20th century, with the restored smokehouse and barn helping to accomplish this purpose. The house, with pertinent exhibits, will also call attention to Conser's career with the Choctaw Nation Lighthorse, to the role of the Lighthorsemen in preserving law and order on the frontier, and to the comparable role of white peace officers in Indian Territory.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



**SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1894

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 checked="" 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

"Law and Order" was a real, everyday concern on the American frontier a century ago, as it is in today's highly urbanized society. And in Indian Territory the answer was the Lighthorse.

The Lighthorsemen of the Choctaw Nation were among the most famous of these Indian lawmen. Peter Conser was Chief Lighthorseman of the Mosholatubbee District (roughly equivalent to County Sheriff). And this house in which he lived from 1894 until he died in 1934 has now been restored to serve as a memorial, not only to Conser and the Choctaw Lighthorse, but also to the Lighthorsemen of all the Indian tribes, particularly of the Five Civilized Tribes, and to their white counterparts. Together, Indian Lighthorsemen and white peace officers, they served to maintain law and order on a rough frontier where often only force was understood and respected.

Peter Conser was born about 1850 in present McCurtain County, between Eagletown and Hochatown. His father was F. X. Coinson, a Frenchman; his mother, a Choctaw. Conser himself apparently simplified the spelling of his name to make it easier to pronounce. (But according to one oldtimer who knew him well: "... he couldn't say Conser very well either.") Like most Choctaws, Coinson was a southern sympathizer. When the Civil War broke out he fled with his family to Rose Hill in the western part of the reservation. Peter was then probably in his early teens, but it is known that he later joined and fought with a company of Confederate soldiers.

He married soon after the Civil War, coming to this part of the Choctaw Nation just north of Winding Stair Mountain and building a log house on the site of the present home. In 1870 or 1875 this first log house burned and he constructed a second. When he built his third and final home, in 1894, he salvaged one door and some rafters from the previous log structures.

Peter Conser's is the solid, unpretentious story of modest success built on hard work and personal integrity. When he came after the war to what later became known as the Conser community, he is said to have possessed only a cowhide bed, a horse, and shirt and trousers made from a wagon sheet. He farmed (corn, other crops), raised cattle and horses. He and his family (he had eight children)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Costner, Elbert L., "Peter Conser and the Lighthouse of the Indian Nations." An unpublished manuscript.  
 Fraker, Elmer L., An Interview.  
 Shaerer, J. D., An Interview.

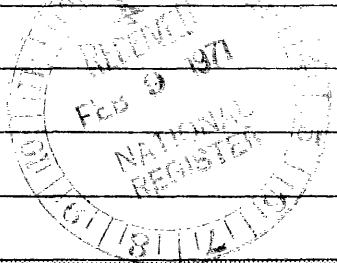
**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		34° 50' 21"	94° 41' 21"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **4 acres**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE: **Kent Ruth**

ORGANIZATION: **Oklahoma Historical Society** DATE: **February, 1971**

STREET AND NUMBER: **Oklahoma Historical Building**

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

**12 STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name: *[Signature]*

Title: *State Liaison Officer*

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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

*[Signature]*  
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

**JUN 21 1971**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:

*[Signature]*  
 Keeper of The National Register

**JUN 19 1971**

Date: **MAY**

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(Continuation Sheet)

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Oklahoma	
COUNTY	
LeFlore	
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71.6.40.0007	6/21/71

(Number all entries)

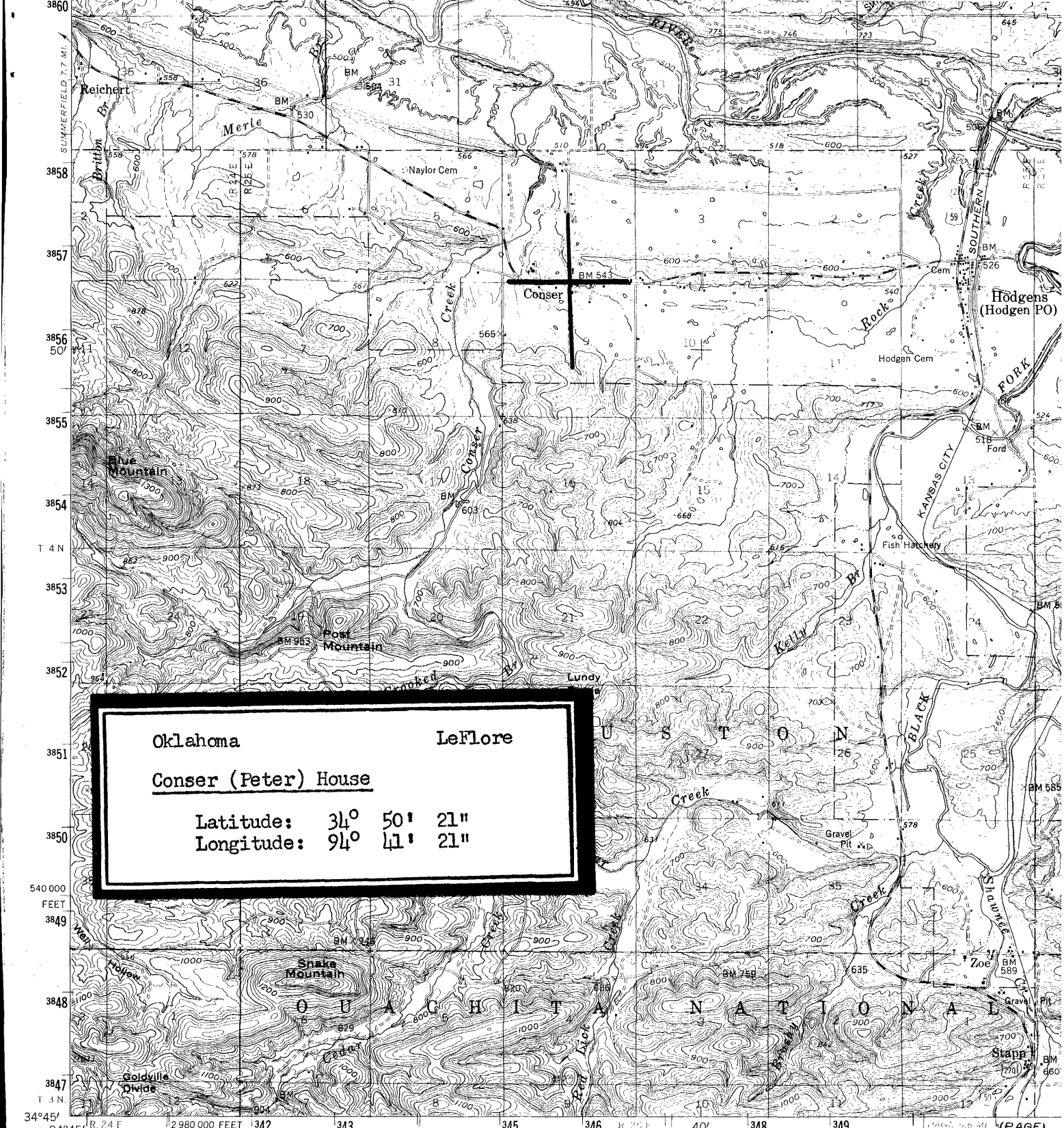
No. 8. Significance

Conser (Peter) House

for a time operated a store on the site. His first job came when Chief Jack McCurtain appointed him to the Choctaw Lighthorse, as a traveling deputy sheriff. He subsequently served as chief of a Lighthorse troop under all three of the McCurtain chiefs. His material possessions grew and after his new two-story house was completed, he and his wife, Ann, according to one report, could sit on their porch and look down over their fertile 600 acres in the Conser Creek lowlands to the north.

Conser was a friendly, likeable man, according to those who knew him. He was just and honorable in his dealing with all men, Indian and white, a worthy representative of the Lighthorse and all it stood for among the Indians.





Oklahoma LeFlore

Conser (Peter) House

Latitude: 34° 50' 21"

Longitude: 94° 41' 21"

540 000 FEET 3849 3848 3847 T 3 N 34°45' 94°45' R 24 F 2 980 000 FEET 1342 343 345 346 R 25 F 40' 348 349 (PAGE) 7053 II SCALE 1:62500

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey  
 Control by USGS, USC&GS, and USCE

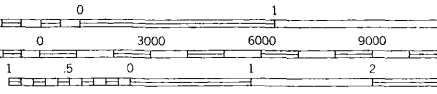
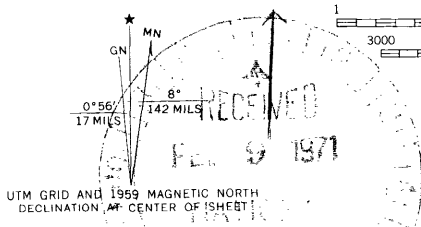
Topography from aerial photographs by photogrammetric methods  
 Aerial photographs taken 1955. Field check 1959

Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum  
 10,000-foot grid based on Oklahoma coordinate system, south zone  
 1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,  
 zone 15, shown in blue

Red tint indicates areas in which only  
 landmark buildings are shown

Areas covered by dashed light-blue pattern  
 are subject to controlled inundation

Maximum elevation 502.5 feet. Normal elevation 471.6 feet



CONTOUR INTERVAL 20  
 DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP  
 FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLC  
 A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SY