

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
FEB 24 1976  
RECEIVED  
DATE ENTERED DEC 22 1978

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Fort Arbuckle (Site No. 1)

AND/OR COMMON

"Old Fort Arbuckle"

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

(Sec. 2, T 19 N, R 10 E)

CITY, TOWN

Sand Springs

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

X VICINITY OF (c. 8 m. W) No. 1

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Oklahoma

40

Tulsa

143

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

\_\_\_DISTRICT

X PUBLIC

\_\_\_OCCUPIED

X AGRICULTURE

\_\_\_MUSEUM

X BUILDING(S)

\_\_\_PRIVATE

X UNOCCUPIED

\_\_\_COMMERCIAL

\_\_\_PARK

\_\_\_STRUCTURE

\_\_\_BOTH

\_\_\_WORK IN PROGRESS

\_\_\_EDUCATIONAL

\_\_\_PRIVATE RESIDENCE

X SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

\_\_\_ENTERTAINMENT

\_\_\_RELIGIOUS

\_\_\_OBJECT

\_\_\_IN PROCESS

X YES: RESTRICTED

\_\_\_GOVERNMENT

\_\_\_SCIENTIFIC

\_\_\_BEING CONSIDERED

\_\_\_YES: UNRESTRICTED

\_\_\_INDUSTRIAL

\_\_\_TRANSPORTATION

\_\_\_NO

\_\_\_MILITARY

\_\_\_OTHER:

Per B.G. file 10/1/78

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Tulsa County Historical Society

STREET & NUMBER

6022 South 57th West Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Tulsa

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE

Oklahoma

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Office of the County Clerk

STREET & NUMBER

Tulsa County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Tulsa

STATE

Oklahoma

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Oklahoma Historic Sites Survey

DATE

1958

\_\_\_FEDERAL X STATE \_\_\_COUNTY \_\_\_LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR

SURVEY RECORDS

Oklahoma Historical Society

CITY, TOWN

Oklahoma City

STATE

Oklahoma

## 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Carefully drawn plans in the files of the Army Engineers give us a detailed picture of "Old Fort Arbuckle" as it must have looked in the fall of 1834. A fairly routine affair, it consisted of a square picket stockade of cedar logs with a single blockhouse at the northeast corner. Twenty-five feet square, its second story was canted to a 45-degree angle so as to command both walls. Inside the stockade were five log buildings arranged around three sides of a parade that was 60 yards square. Round cedar logs were used throughout and rooms for officers and enlisted men alike were 22 feet square. On the north was a double company quarters structure, with a six-foot open space between. Adjoining it on the east was the "Temporary Kitchen," separated by a massive double stone chimney that served both buildings. Similar company quarters were erected on the east, although its kitchen section was never built. A third double structure, of hewn logs, was built on the west side of the parade to accommodate the officers. It differed from the other two in that its double stone chimney was built in the central open space so to accommodate both rooms. Its temporary kitchen was given a more humble stick-and-mud chimney.

Today the logs have long since rotted away. Remaining on the site now are only stone foundations, chimney piles, and still other rocks to mark location of the fort's well.

# 3 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1834 - 1865

BUILDER/ARCHITECT United States Army

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The first of several Fort Arbuckles to be established in present Oklahoma -- and for this reason usually referred to now as "Old Fort Arbuckle -- the frontier military post nominated here played a brief, but important role in the establishment of the Creek Nation. After abandonment its buildings were used for a time by the Creeks' best known Civil War figure, the tragic Ophtholeyahola and his band of Union sympathizers. In the years after the war the grounds served as a trading post on what had been for more than a half-century a busy travel route for Indian and white man alike.

\* \* \*

When the Creek Indians were removed in the late 1820s from the southeastern United States to Indian Territory they had not only a new country to get used to, but unfriendly neighbors to learn to live with as well. The proud Osages had given up this Arkansas River area just west of what is now Tulsa, but they remained close enough to cause worry, if not actual trouble. By 1831 the government decided a "military presence" would serve as something of an inter-tribal peacemaker.

The Rev. Isaac McCoy was sent out to reconnoiter. His escort was under the command of Lt. James L. Dawson. They blazed a route along the north side of the Arkansas from Fort Gibson to the mouth of the Cimarron, which they crossed here to proceed westward. This so-called "Dawson Road" was followed in 1832 by the famed Washington Irving party that produced A Tour on the Prairies. The following year General Henry Leavenworth, headquartered at Fort Gibson, sent Lt. Dawson out again, this time to locate likely sites for military posts. From the Cimarron River crossing he proceeded south and west to Little River, returned to recommend three locations. In June 1834 Brevet Major George Birch, with two companies of the Seventh Infantry, proceeded to build Fort Arbuckle on the first recommended site - a dry, fairly open ridge on the north bank of the Arkansas, a little over two miles south-east of the Cimarron's mouth. Near by was the point where an old Osage hunting trail crossed the Arkansas.

This post was garrisoned for only a year. But its presence near the point where Creek, Cherokee and Osage territories met undoubtedly contributed to maintaining peace between them. This in turn helped maintain a climate in which could grow the newly established Creek settlement of "Tal-l-see" or "Tallasse" ... present-day Tulsa.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Gardner, James H., "One Hundred Years Ago in the Region of Tulsa," The Chronicles of Oklahoma, Vol. II (19 ), pp. 766-785  
 Lackey, Vinson, The Forts of Oklahoma, Tulsa, 1963, pp. 14-16  
 Miscellaneous Army records

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 8 plus acres

UTM REFERENCES

A	<u>14</u>	<u>749675</u>	<u>4004425</u>	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Kent Ruth, Deputy

ORGANIZATION

Oklahoma Historical Society

STREET & NUMBER

Historical Building

CITY OR TOWN

Oklahoma City

DATE

October 1975

TELEPHONE

405/884-5456

STATE

Oklahoma

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

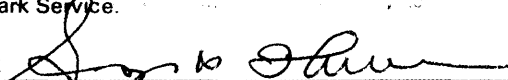
NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE



TITLE

DATE

FEB 20 1978

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Charles H. ...  
 DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

12-22-78

ATTEST:

Marilyn ...  
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

12-22-78

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 1

Fort Arbuckle (Site No. 1)

Following abandonment by the military, the old cedar pole stockade began to decay. Some buildings were still standing after the Civil War, however. These were used for trading post purposes until around 1880. And the river crossings in the area were used until 1893, when the "Cherokee Strip" was thrown open to settlement.

The immediate post site has now been purchased by the Tulsa County Historical Society. Stones from foundations and fallen chimneys clearly locate the buildings. Since this is the only pole-stockade type post in the area it is hoped that a partial reconstruction can serve to dramatize the role "Old Fort Arbuckle" played in making possible the development of this corner of the Creek Nation.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Oklahoma	
COUNTY	
Tulsa	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	DEC 22 1976

(Number all entries)

Fort Arbuckle (Site No. 1 - "Old" Fort Arbuckle)

In the summer of 1977 a professionally directed search was made for additional evidence to indicate that archeological site 34-Tu-13 is indeed that of "Old" Fort Arbuckle. Careful research was conducted in both the historical and architectural areas. Meanwhile four trenches were dug on the site as basis for the archeological research. Results of this three-pronged study are contained in the official report appended to this nomination.

While the artifactual remains uncovered in the limited excavations were admittedly "disappointing" - that is, they could not be related with certainty to the fort - they were found to be "consistent" with the site. Perhaps "more definitive" was the structural evidence - the presence of sandstone alignments that indicated structures on the site of the type the fort itself would have had. Historical and architectural findings tended to verify this and further establish the site.

Dr. Annetta L. Cheek, principal investigator in the search, summarizes her convictions like this. "It is my professional opinion that this site . . . Tu-13 . . . is the site of Old Fort Arbuckle. This interpretation is consistent with the archeological evidence, and no other interpretation available at present conforms with the evidence as well. Because the archeological remains are so scanty, I suppose that some doubt must remain, but personally I am satisfied."

