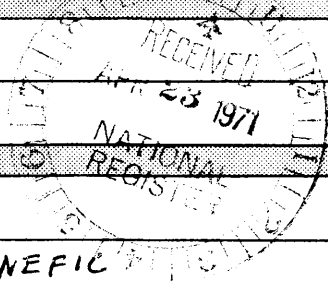


**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Oklahoma	
COUNTY: Bryan	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 716400006	DATE 6/21/71



1. NAME

COMMON:
Fort McCulloch

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
c. 2 m. SW of

CITY OR TOWN:
Kenefic (SW/4 Sec. 7, T 5 S, R 9 E)

STATE: Oklahoma CODE: 40 COUNTY: Bryan CODE: 013

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No			

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Frank Apel

STREET AND NUMBER:
116 N. 4th Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Durant

STATE: Oklahoma CODE: 40

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
County Clerk

STREET AND NUMBER:
Bryan County Courthouse

CITY OR TOWN:
Durant

STATE: Oklahoma CODE: 40

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Civil War Sites in Oklahoma

DATE OF SURVEY: 1967 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Oklahoma Historical Society

STREET AND NUMBER:
Historical Society

CITY OR TOWN:
Oklahoma City

STATE: Oklahoma CODE: 40

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Oklahoma
COUNTY: Bryan
ENTRY NUMBER: 716400006
DATE: 6/21/71
FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)					
<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" 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

General Pike turned over Fort Davis to Colonel Cooper soon after the defeat of the Confederates in the Battle of Pea Ridge (March 6-8, 1862) and marched his troops down the Texas Trail to where it crossed Blue River some 25 miles north of the Red. Here about two hundred yards from its southwest bank he set almost his entire brigade to digging an impressive breastworks and building a headquarters set-up. Named for General Benjamin McCulloch, killed at Pea Ridge, the new post did not look much like the traditional army post. Headquarters tent stood on an eminence in the center amid clustered log buildings and walled-in tents, mess shacks, and other crude structures. Surrounding knolls were occupied by the tents, huts and dugouts of the soldiers.

To the north and to the southeast were heavy dirt breastworks in the shape of a Greek cross. To the north was another larger one in the traditional five-pointed star shape. On either side of the fort were large arsenal pits. Fort McCulloch was the major Confederate stronghold erected in Indian Territory. Located in the southwestern corner of the Choctaw Nation, it boasted a strong strategic position, overlooking the Texas Road crossing of Blue River and commanding roads leading to Fort Gibson on the north, Fort Gibson on the east, Fort Washita on the west, and Texas to the south. There was no Federal invasion of this corner of Indian Territory, however, and the post was temporarily abandoned July 21, 1862, when General Pike took his troops to Texas. Various Confederate units occupied the fort from time to time and General Stand Watie used it briefly in 1865 for an office. After Appomattox it was abandoned for good.

Today nothing remains on the site but earthen trenches and an extensive system of trenches and high breastworks, overgrown with thick trees in spots, worn down by erosion and the plow in others. It is enough, however, to give the visitor a feel for its size and elaborateness. Although no reconstruction is contemplated, development plans (after acquisition from private owners) call for clearing of the breastworks and installation of sufficient pathways and informational markers to recreate the Civil War setting and outline its significance. Only a few years ago it was still possible to see remains of an old dam and bits of the cable of the ferryboat used in flood time by those unable or unwilling to ford the stream or cross on the crude wooden bridge that was usually in service at this point.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Oklahoma	
COUNTY	
Bryan	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
71-6140-0006	6/2/71

(Number all entries)

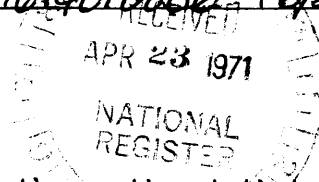
No. 8. Significance

Fort McCulloch

content." Yet he set up his headquarters so far to the southwest that virtually all of Indian Territory lay between him and federal forces in Arkansas, Missouri and northeastern Oklahoma. Here he had a complement of at least 1500 white troops, in addition to considerable Indian forces. And the magnificent system of earthen redoubts and bastions he threw up also boasted two companies of artillery. It tells much about Fort McCulloch to note that the 14 field pieces, including twelve powerful Parrott guns, were never fired but twice: once at dawn, presumably to give the soldiers and horses an idea of how much racket an actual firing could make (considerable excitement and confusion ensued), and on another occasion, to impress visiting (and friendly) Plains Indians.

But Fort McCulloch, irrelevant as it may seem in retrospect, was conceived and constructed as the major Confederate stronghold in southern Indian Territory. As such it is an important part of the over-all war picture. That it played no decisive roll in the final outcome is beside the point. For it had nothing to do with creating the peculiarly tragic conditions under which the war was fought in what is now Oklahoma and little to do with shaping them significantly. Yet it does reflect dramatically the discord,* dissension, and insubordination that hampered much of the Confederate (and to some extent even the Federal) effort in the West throughout much of the war.

*In all fairness to General Pike, it should be pointed out that he and his military superiors had been at odds for some time before Fort McCulloch was conceived. In the summer of 1861 he had negotiated several treaties with the largely South-sympathizing tribes of eastern Oklahoma. According to these treaties, says Historian W. B. Morrison, "the Indian Territory was to be defended against invasion, his Indian allies furnished with weapons and supplies by the Confederacy, and the Indian troops not to be taken out of the Territory for military service. However, either through lack of ability to furnish the supplies, or through a disregard for the claims of the Indians - or probably both - the Confederate authorities paid little attention to Pike's complaints or to the terms of the treaties." When Federal troops marched into Arkansas, Pike was ordered to send his forces to that state to assist the defense effort. And though they went reluctantly, they fought well in that disastrous defeat. Yet they received no commendation. Rightly or wrongly, both Pike and his Indian troops were hurt and resentful. These feelings played no little part in subsequent events that brought Fort McCulloch into existence.



SIGNIFICANCE

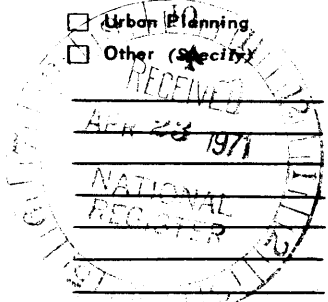
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input 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) 1861-1865

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy |
| <input 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 | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | |



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Fort McCulloch was an impressive physical memorial to Confederate General Albert Pike. Both were more than a bit controversial. In a letter dated June 2, 1862, a member of Pike's Brigade put it this way:

There is some sickness here though not more than could be expected considering the number of men and the water they have to drink - Gen'l. Pike's fortifications (or entrenchments more properly) are getting along slowly - He has commenced here as though he intended to spend the remainder of his days here - The Gen'l. is not very highly esteemed by his soldiers.

Some of his fellow officers esteemed him no more highly. Colonel (later General) Douglas H. Cooper considered him deranged in August of 1862. Later that year General T. C. Hindman ordered him arrested with all "the force necessary for the purpose." (Charges were later dropped.) This sad state of affairs had evolved largely because General Pike, then in command of all the forces of the Confederacy in the Department of the Indian Territory was, in the words of one historian, "a very unusual old man with unorthodox ideas about fighting a war." Having constructed and then (for complicated reasons) virtually abandoned a strong military post on the Arkansas River (Fort Davis, for which National Register status is also being sought), he pulled the bulk of his troops south almost to Texas and set about building a new defense post. As one of his contemporary critics put it:

He came 250 miles to the southward only halting at the Little Blue, an unknown thread of a stream twenty miles from Red River, when he constructed fortifications in the open prairie, erected a saw-mill remote from any timber, and devoted himself to gastronomy and poetic meditation with elegant accommodations.

Fort McCulloch was indeed well removed from the scene of Civil War action. Federal troops advanced no farther than the Canadian River, about 100 miles to the northeast. "If I can prevent the Indian country from being occupied," General Pike wrote, "I will be

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Lackey, Vinson, The Forts of Oklahoma, (Tulsa, 1963), pp. 29-31
 Morrison, W. B., "Fort McCulloch," The Chronicles of Oklahoma, Vol. IV (1926), pp. 216-220
 Wright, Muriel H., "General Douglas H. Cooper, C. S. A.," The Chronicles of Oklahoma, Vol. XXXII, No. 2 (Summer 1954), pp. 166-171
 ---- and Fischer, LeRoy H., Civil War Sites in Oklahoma, (Oklahoma Historical Society, 1967), pp. 7-8

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

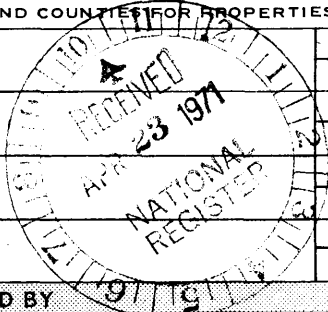
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		34° 07' 52"	96° 23' 42"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

NO OR
HL

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **8 acres**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Kent Ruth, Deputy

ORGANIZATION: **Oklahoma Historical Society** DATE: **March 1971**

STREET AND NUMBER:
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: *Kent Ruth* Title: *Liaison Officer for Oklahoma* Date: *APR 19 1971*

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

Ernest A. Connally
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
JUN 21 1971

Date: _____

ATTEST: *William P. Muehl*
 Keeper of The National Register
 Date: *JUN 11 1971*

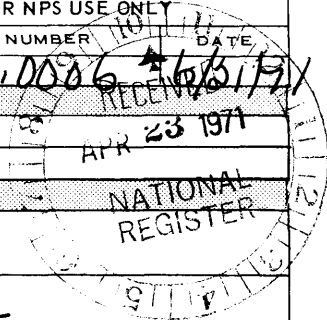
Form 10-301
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM

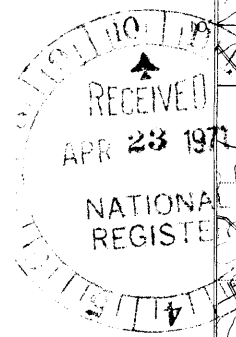
(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

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COUNTY	Bryan
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
716,40,0006	4/23/71

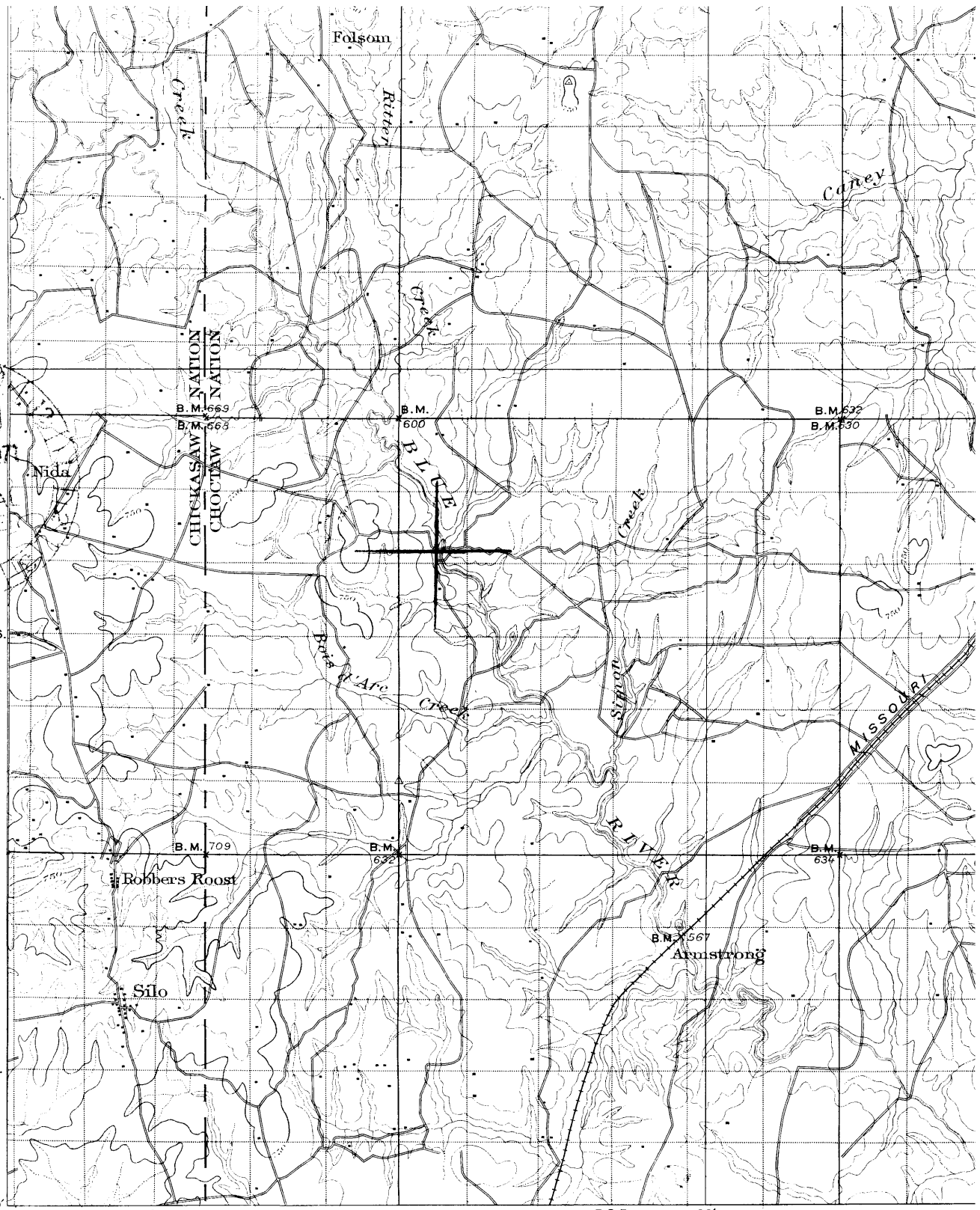


SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME			
COMMON:		Fort McCulloch	
AND/OR HISTORIC:			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
c. 2 m. SW of			
CITY OR TOWN:			
Kenefic (SW/4 Sec. 7, T 5 S, R 9 E) KENEFIC			
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Oklahoma	40	Bryan	013
3. MAP REFERENCE			
SOURCE:			
U.S.G.S. - Atoka - 30' Series			
SCALE: 1:125,000			
DATE: 1898			
4. REQUIREMENTS			
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS			
1. Property boundaries where required.			
2. North arrow.			
3. Latitude and longitude reference. Lat.: 34° 07' 52" Long.: 96° 23' 42"			



T.4.S.
T.5.S.
T.6.S.
34° 00'



CHICKASAW NATION
CHOCTAW NATION

B.M. 659
B.M. 663

B.M. 600

B.M. 632
B.M. 630

B.M. 709

B.M. 622

B.M. 634

B.M. 567

96° 30'

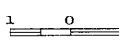
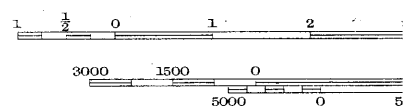
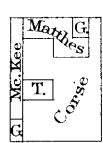
R.8 E.

R.9 E.

20'

(Demison)

C.H. Fitch Topographer in charge.
Van H. Manning, Topographer, Assistant in charge.
Triangulation by C. F. Urquhart.
Topography by W. B. Corse, F. E. Matthes, R. M. Towson,
R. H. McKee and C. W. Goodlove.
Surveyed in 1895-96-97-98.



Cor
De