

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Oklahoma	
COUNTY: Muskogee	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 711140.0018	DATE 11/23/71

1. NAME

COMMON:
Fort Davis

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
c. 1 m. N of Bacone College

CITY OR TOWN:
Muskogee (SE/4 Sec. 7, T 15 N, R 19 E)

STATE Oklahoma	CODE 40	COUNTY: Muskogee	CODE 101
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3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Comments

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
William McKinley Hill

STREET AND NUMBER:
Harris Road

CITY OR TOWN: Muskogee	STATE: Oklahoma	CODE 40
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5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

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

STREET AND NUMBER:
Muskogee Courthouse

CITY OR TOWN: Muskogee	STATE: Oklahoma	CODE 40
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6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Civil War Sites in Oklahoma

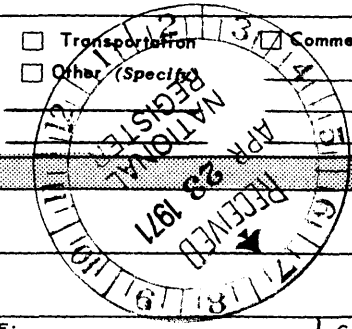
DATE OF SURVEY: 1967 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Historical Society

STREET AND NUMBER:
Historical Building

CITY OR TOWN: Oklahoma City	STATE: Oklahoma	CODE 40
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS



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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input checked="" 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	

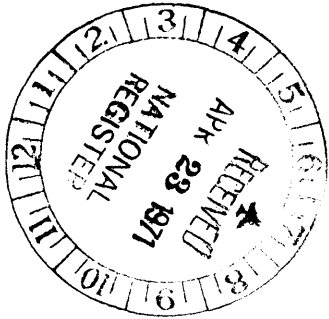
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Precise information on the appearance of Fort Davis in 1862 is virtually nonexistent. The Confederacy had little time and few facilities for record keeping. Thanks for the sparse details on the post that are available are due Historian Grant Foreman, T. P. Clonts, a skilled engineer and surveyor, and Cheasquah Harris, who was born and reared near the fort and remembered the early day appearance of the ruins. (Harris' father was once stationed at Fort Davis and had told him much about the location, size, and use of the dozen or more structures making up the fort. Harris' daughter and her husband now own the site.)

In January 1937 the three men went over the ruins carefully. Together they measured spaces, determined the size of buildings, and located them as best they could. A report of the results, compiled by Clonts, is on file with the Oklahoma Historical Society. From it artist Vinson Lackey has sketched a recreation of the post as it might have looked. It shows plank and log structures, several of them two-story in height, surrounding an Indian mound with its pole and fluttering Confederate banner.

All that remains today is the mound, a U. S. and a Confederate flag, an old dug well, and a few stones to mark the ruined buildings. Trees cover much of the new peaceful site.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian | 16th Century | 18th Century | 20th Century
 15th Century | 17th Century | 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

1861-1862

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|---|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input checked="" 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 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 Davis (for President Jefferson Davis) was for a brief time the Confederacy's principal stronghold in the struggle to keep Indian Territory loyal to the South and prevent a Federal invasion of Texas from the north. Though something of an exercise in futility, it was an important -- if short-lived -- military base and it figures prominently in both the military and political history of the region during its brief existence.

In November 1861 the Confederate government created the Department of Indian Territory, naming Brigadier General Albert Pike as commander. For his headquarters Pike selected a location he had had his eye on for some time - a site on the south bank of the Arkansas River opposite Fort Gibson, the North's headquarters post. The choice was a good one for several reasons. Two miles down the Arkansas from the mouth of the Verdigris River and commanding the all-important Texas Trail, it was strategically situated. Too, a prehistoric Indian mound some 25 to 30 feet high on the site provided both a convenient observation post for activities at Gibson and, in its lee, a handy drill and assembly area screened from Federal field glasses. The location was also high and healthy, well watered and well timbered.

Although its thirteen or more major buildings were all of plank and log, Fort Davis was quite an impressive establishment. (But it almost surely cost nowhere near the \$1,000,000 some claimed was spent on it. Chances are the inflated estimates result from the fact Confederate paper money was already beginning to depreciate the South's currency.) Almost at once, however, events in Arkansas undercut the new base's usefulness. In March 1862 Confederate forces were decisively defeated in the Battle of Pea Ridge. (In this battle, interestingly enough, General Pike's Indian troops performed creditably, although they had gone to Arkansas reluctantly. They felt that treaties signed with the Confederacy the year before called for military service only in Indian Territory.) After the defeat Pike returned to Fort Davis. Then, feeling his new headquarters post to be indefensible, he left General Douglas H. Cooper in charge with a small garrison and withdrew the bulk of his forces still farther south where he ordered construction of Fort McCulloch (for which National Register status is also sought).

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Britton, Wiley, The Union Indian Brigade in the Civil War, Kansas City; Franklin Hudson Publishing Co., 1922, pp. 73, 155, 156, 163
 Foreman, Grant, "Fort Davis," The Chronicles of Oklahoma, Vol. XVII (1939), pp. 147-150
 Lackey, Vinson, The Forts of Oklahoma, Tulsa, 1963, pp. 26-28
 Morrison, W. B., "Fort McCulloch," The Chronicles of Oklahoma, Vol. 4, (1926), pp. 216-222

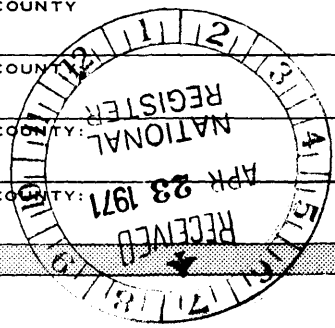
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				OR	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			
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"	35°	47'	00"	95°	19'	35"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"						
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"						
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"						

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **8 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: **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 *Ann W. Oker*

Title *Liaison Officer of Oklahoma*

Date

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

Ernest A. Conaway
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date **NOV 23 1971**

ATTEST:

William J. Mustang
 Keeper of The National Register

Date **NOV 22 1971**

Handwritten notes:
 200
 217
 218

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

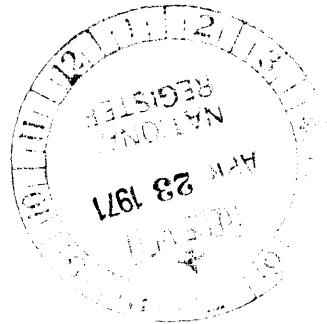
STATE Oklahoma	
COUNTY Muskogee	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 711, 40, 0018	DATE 11/23/71

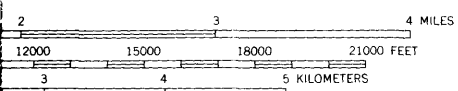
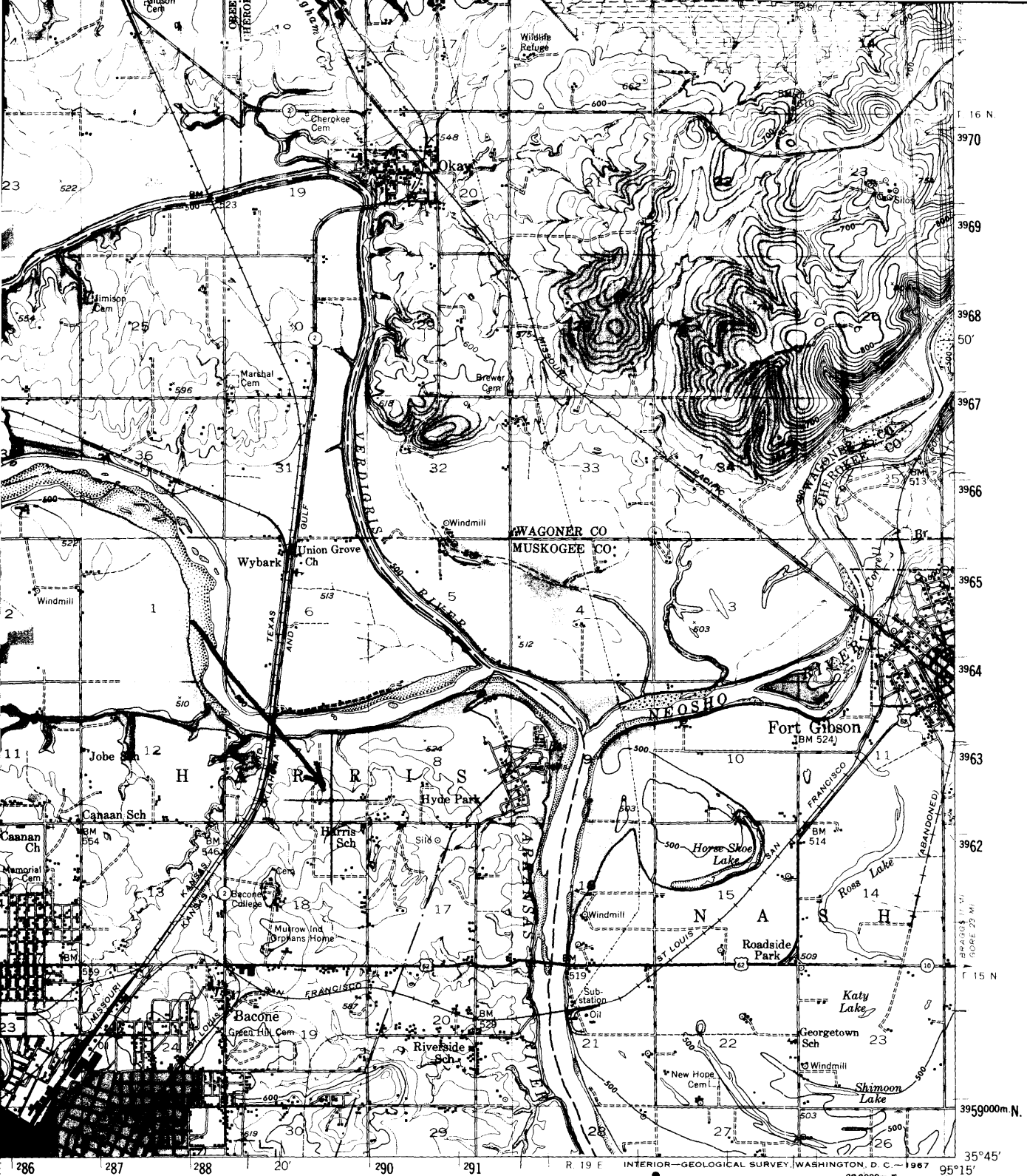
(Number all entries)

No. 8. Significance

Fort Davis

Various Confederate forces occupied the post from time to time until December 27, 1862, when Colonel William A. Phillips crossed the Arkansas River, captured the fort while it was temporarily unoccupied, and burned it to the ground. Confederate fortunes in this area were at a low ebb and the post was never rebuilt.





VERTICAL
SCALE
CONTOURS

ACCURACY STANDARDS
GEOGRAPHIC COORDINATES OR WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242
SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

ROAD CLASSIFICATION
 HARD-SURFACE ALL WEATHER ROADS DRY WEATHER ROADS
 Heavy-duty ———— 4 LANE 10 LANE Improved dirt
 Medium-duty ———— 4 LANE 10 LANE Unimproved dirt
 Loose-surface, graded, or narrow hard-surface - - - - -
 U. S. Route State Route

WAGONER, OKLA.
 N3545-W9515/15

1948

AMS 6955 IV—SERIES V783

(WEBBERS FALLS)
 6955 II

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: Fort Davis

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

C. I m. N of Bagone College

CITY OR TOWN:

Muskogee (SE/4 Sec. 7, T 15 N, R 19 E)

STATE:

Oklahoma

CODE

40

COUNTY:

Muskogee

CODE

101

3. MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE:

U.S.G.S. - Wagoner Quadrangle

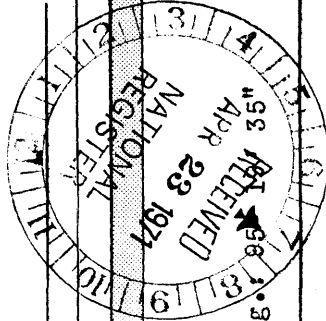
SCALE: 15N Series - 1:52,500

DATE: 1948

4. REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

1. Property boundaries where required.
2. North arrow.
3. Latitude and longitude reference. Lat.: 35° 47' 0" Long.: 95° 15' 35"



S E E I N S T R U C T I O N S

STATE	Oklahoma
COUNTY	Muskogee
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
<u>2111.40.0018</u>	<u>11/23/71</u>