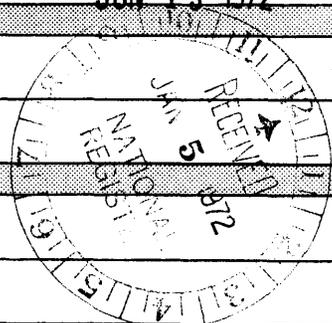


**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Oklahoma	
COUNTY: Latimer	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	JUN 13 1972



1. NAME

COMMON:
Riddle's Station Site

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
c. 3 m. E of Wilburton

CITY OR TOWN:
Wilburton (C Sec. 12, T 5 N, R 19 E)

STATE: Oklahoma CODE: 40 COUNTY: Latimer CODE: 077

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	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	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 type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Herman J. Suttmiller

STREET AND NUMBER:
Route 2

CITY OR TOWN: Wilburton STATE: Oklahoma CODE: 40

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

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

STREET AND NUMBER:
Latimer County Courthouse

CITY OR TOWN: Wilburton STATE: Oklahoma CODE: 40

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Report on the Butterfield Overland Mail

DATE OF SURVEY: 1958 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Oklahoma Historical Society

STREET AND NUMBER:
Historical Building

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Oklahoma

COUNTY: Latimer

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY NUMBER: JUN 13 1972

DATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)

Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Ruins Unexposed

(Check One)

Altered Unaltered

(Check One)

Moved Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

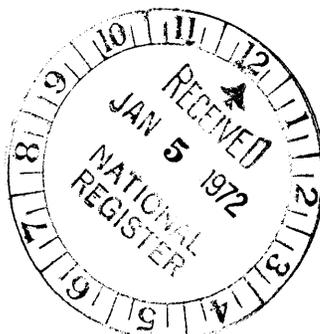
Riddle's Station, despite almost twenty years of service (as trading post and community center, if not as stage stand), had virtually disappeared by 1930 when the Conklings visited the site. "The original Riddle home," they wrote, "was probably a large log house with stone chimneys, typical of the time. All that remains to indicate the site is a pile of chimney slabs and the caved-in well a short distance northeast of the house site." The area is little changed today. In a flat, well watered valley near the Fourche Maline River, it is overgrown with grass and brush, rimmed by trees. Coal seams exposed a short distance south of the station are yet another indication of why this particular site was so congenial to settlement.

Just west of the Riddle home and station stands the family cemetery, now badly overgrown and neglected, but still guarded by an ornamental fence. One stone in it reads "Isabella Riddle, died Jan. 25, 1875, age 34 years." Another reads "Elsie Riddle, died Feb. 1, 1875, age 29 years." The grave of John Riddle is unidentifiable.

In a 1937 interview, Sam L. Riddle, George's son and grandson of John, recalled what he knew (and had heard) of the Butterfield operation. "My grandfather built the first toll bridge that was ever in this country," he said. "He went to the woods and cut logs and all of this bridge was built out of native logs. That was the first bridge that was ever built on the Butterfield Stage Line." Long since gone, of course, it was on the Fourche Maline a short distance east of the home/station site and a hundred feet or so north of the present county crossing of that river.

Note: The cemetery and the station site are included in the requested site, which we will increase to three acres from one acre.

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) 1858-1861

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 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 type="checkbox"/> Military | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

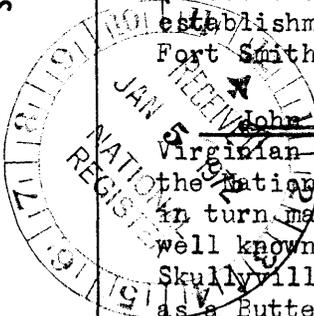
Riddle's Station is one of the more important of the even dozen such stands serving the Butterfield Overland Mail 1858-1861 along its 192-mile route across Indian Territory from Fort Smith to Colbert's Ferry on Red River. Unlike some of the other stands, however, it played a significant role in the development of the area for many years after the Civil War put an end to the service itself.

When the Butterfield company set out to organize its contracted mail/passenger service to San Francisco, it arranged with Indian citizens living on or near its proposed route to maintain stands where teams could be changed and other services provided. For its part, the Choctaw and Chickasaw Nation legislatures, to upgrade the existing road system and provide new roads and bridges along the Butterfield route, granted tollgate privileges to various of its citizens. The Choctaw Nation authorized seven of these privileges, each valid for six years, during regular legislative sessions in 1858 and 1859. Four of them, including the one granted Captain John Riddle, were operated as Butterfield stations. Riddle's authorization was approved Oct. 21, 1858. It called for erection of a bridge across the Fourche Maline (about three miles east of present Wilburton, in Latimer County) and establishment of a tollgate at that point, on "the road leading from Fort Smith to Boggy Depot."

John Riddle was born in Mississippi in 1809, the descendant of a Virginian who had married a full-blood Choctaw woman and settled in the Nation at an earlier date. A daughter of this marriage, Mary, had in turn married another Virginian, one John Walker, an ancestor of the well known (in Indian Territory history) Governor Tandy Walker of Skullyville, just south of Fort Smith. Tandy Walker's home also served as a Butterfield station, the first in the Indian country beyond the fort. In 1831 the Riddles and the Walkers lived in the Northeastern (Mosholatubbi) District of the Choctaw Nation in Alabama. Both families probably came (were moved) to Indian Territory around 1836.

John Riddle had been educated at the Choctaw Academy in Kentucky. In Indian Territory he became a prominent leader among this people, serving as a member of the Council for several terms and in other important positions. He was living in Skullyville in 1841, where his son, George (see below), was born. In 1858, when the Butterfield

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Conkling, Roscoe P. and Margaret B., The Butterfield Overland Mail, 1857-1869, The Arthur H. Clark Co., 1947 pp. 250-254
 Wright, Muriel H., "Historic Places on the Old Stage Line from Fort Smith to Red River," The Chronicles of Oklahoma, Vol. XI (1933), pp. 807-808, 815
 --- Interview with Sam L. Riddle, May 24, 1937, Indian Pioneer History, Grant Foreman Collection, Vol. 42, Indian Archives Division of the Oklahoma Historical Society, Oklahoma City.

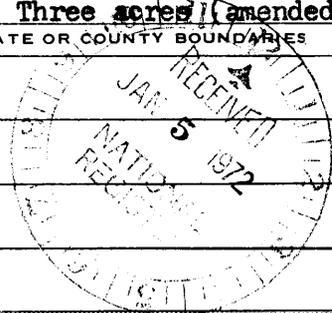
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

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 ° 53' 54"	93° 15' 00"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		15/293850/3866360		
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: ~~One acre~~ **Three acres** (amended 4/18/72)

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: **December 1971**

STREET AND NUMBER: **Historical Building**

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

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

<p>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:</p> <p>National <input type="checkbox"/> State <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Name: <u>[Signature]</u></p> <p>Title: <u>State Liaison Officer for Oklahoma</u></p> <p>Date: _____</p>	<p>I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.</p> <p><u>[Signature]</u> Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation</p> <p>Date: <u>6/13/72</u></p> <p>ATTEST:</p> <p><u>[Signature]</u> Keeper of The National Register</p> <p>Date: _____</p>
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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	Oklahoma
COUNTY	Latimer
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JUN 13 1972	

(Number all entries)

No. 8 Significance

Riddle's Station

service was being organized, his residence was on the Boggy Depot road on the west side of the Fourche Maline. Here he secured permission from the tribal government to open a trading post in connection with his stage stand. His toll bridge was one of the first in service along the Butterfield route.

The Civil War, of course, ended Butterfield service in 1861. But the Fort Smith/Boggy Depot road continued to be used. And Riddle's Station, unlike many of the others, continued as an active trading center and the nucleus of an expanding settlement. George Riddle, John's son, helped to carry on the commercial venture. After the war -- in which he served in the all-Choctaw brigade of General Cooper's forces -- he returned to the area. In 1866 he was granted a five-year license for operation of a toll bridge on the same site as that awarded his father. Traffic expanded and by 1878 the region traversed by the road was the most populous in the Choctaw Nation. Thanks to its strategic location on this road and the popularity of the Riddle family itself, Riddle's station/store/post office managed to hold its own, even after the coming of the railroad. It is, in fact, one of the few Butterfield stations in this or any other division of the company's route that retained its name and identity for almost twenty years.

