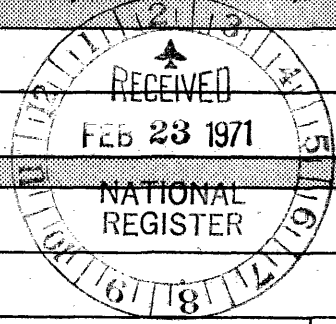


NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Oklahoma	
COUNTY: Haskell	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 716.40.0008	DATE 6/2/71



1. NAME

COMMON:
McCurtain House

AND/OR HISTORIC:
 Gov. Green McCurtain House

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
6 miles ENE of

CITY OR TOWN:
Kinta (NE/4 NE/4 Sec. 35, T 8 N, R 20 E)

STATE: **Oklahoma** CODE: **40** COUNTY: **Haskell** CODE: **061**

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 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 type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Not Yet

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)	Will be open as museum
<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		when reconstruction is completed

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Oklahoma Historical Society

STREET AND NUMBER:
Historical Building

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

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

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

STREET AND NUMBER:
Haskell County Courthouse

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

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
McCurtain House

DATE OF SURVEY: **1970** 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: **Haskell**
ENTRY NUMBER: **716.40.0008**
DATE: **6/2/71**
FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Even in almost total ruin (see picture), the McCurtain House manages to appear both handsome and prepossessing. Basically an L-shaped, two-story structure -- three rooms on each level -- its unusual design and generous dimensions make it seem more spacious than it actually is. All six of its original rooms (an 8x30-foot lean-to was added to the back of the house later) open onto either the "dog-trot" or porch, which combine to form a unique, T-shaped double gallery. The stairway to the upper level goes up from the "dog-trot" and is thus protected by the main roof. Tall cut-stone chimneys, painstakingly laid, guard either end of the main section of the house. Both are almost intact after nearly a century, a third of which time the house stood empty and neglected. The outside planking, according to one report, was originally whitewashed. An ornamental touch is the boxy bay-window projection on the south wing of the house.

An oldtimer who worked in the home described Green McCurtain (in an 1938 interview) as "well-to-do; he had big barns, and owned plenty of cattle, hogs, and sheep. He had land and placed tenants on it to farm for him. He had big patches of cotton, corn and feed-stuff and there were all kinds of turkeys, geese, ducks and chickens around his place." Until the Oklahoma Historical Society purchased the property recently it had only cows around it. A lean-to shed/corral had been added to the east to complete reduction of the house to a shambles. Of the out-buildings only a stone summerkitchen remains on the northeast corner of the house, a spring house on the northwest. But dismantling of the ruined home, preparatory to reconstruction, is now under way.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



SIGNIFICANCE

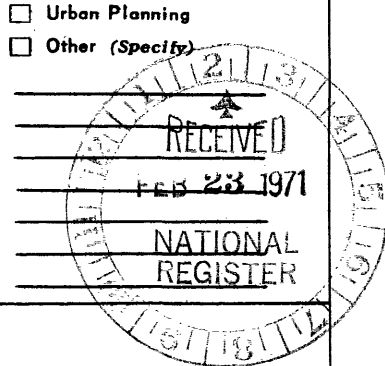
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian 16th Century 18th Century 20th Century
 15th Century 17th Century 19th Century (late)

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) *built in 1880's*

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



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

No understanding appraisal of tribal life in the concluding decades of the Choctaw Nation can be made, says John Bartlett Meserve, without a knowledge of the McCurtain dynasty. "Under the capable leadership of chieftains drawn from the McCurtain family," he says, "this powerful tribe was influenced in an intelligent manner and its membership led securely through the concluding years of their political life until the complete erasure of their last frontier was witnessed by Green McCurtain, the last elected chieftain of the Choctaw Nation." It is a sweeping commendation, but a not unwarranted one.

With a white ancestry of reputed Scotch-Irish descent, the McCurtain family played an important role among the Choctaws from the early 1800s. Cornelius McCurtain was born in Mississippi in 1803. He married Mahayia Nelson and came to old Indian Territory in 1833, settling in the Fort Coffee area. In 1849 he was elected district chief, serving until 1854 and thereby setting the pattern for his seven children, three of whom were later to become principal chief. Jack McCurtain was elected chief in 1880, re-elected in 1882. He was succeeded by Edmund (chiefs were allowed by law to serve but two successive terms). Both brothers were known and respected for their efforts to maintain law and order in the nation, where white incursions were aggravating the lawlessness that brought Judge Isaac Parker at nearby Fort Smith to national prominence.

But time was running out for the Choctaw Nation. And it was Green McCurtain's responsibility to lead his people at a time when, according to Meserve, "many of their leaders were unable or unwilling to appreciate how utterly untenable these quasi-independent political units were in the midst of American life." Green recognized the inevitability of the changes that were coming, devoted his time and efforts to seeing that they came as smoothly and as advantageously to the Choctaws as possible. Though his formal education was limited, he served capably in a variety of tribal offices -- county sheriff, representative to the National Council, school trustee, district attorney, national treasurer, and senator -- before becoming principal chief in 1896. With no little courage and ability he broke down Choctaw resistance to the Dawes Commission

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Gower, Gomer, An Interview, Oct. 16, 1937, Pioneer History, Grant Foreman Collection, Vol. 26, pp. 210-214.
 Lewis, Susan, An Interview, 1938, Indian-Pioneer History, Grant Foreman Collection, Vol. 109, pp. 189-90.
 Meserve, John Bartlett, "The McCurtains," The Chronicles of Oklahoma, Vol. 13 (1935), pp. 297-312.

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	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		35° 07' 43"	95° 09' 25"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

NO UTM
HL

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: c. one acre

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

ORGANIZATION: Oklahoma Historical Society DATE: February 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: [Signature]

Title: Liaison Officer for Oklahoma

Date: FEB 20 1971

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

Date: MAY 13 1971

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Oklahoma	
COUNTY	
Haskell	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
71640008	6/21/91

(Number all entries)

No. 8. Significance

McCurtain House

(established by Congress in 1893 to negotiate with the Five Civilized Tribes to extinguish tribal title to their lands in preparation for statehood) and put them in the advantageous position of being the first of the five tribes to reach an agreement with the commission.

This so-called Atoka Agreement was signed in 1897. Green McCurtain was easily re-elected in 1898. Unable to succeed himself in 1900, he again ran and was elected in 1902, the last general election held in the Choctaw Nation. He served until 1906, then continued in office by an act of Congress. In the years that followed he served his people in many ways, making a number of trips to Washington at the request of the Interior Department. A capable executive and administrator, and widely respected by the Choctaws, he remained their chief until he died in 1910.

Green McCurtain built this comfortable two-story home in the 1880s on his farm near San Bois, seat of San Bois County in the Choctaw Nation. The town, established around 1838, is gone now, but its location on the Forst Smith-to-Perryville in pre-railroad days gave it considerable importance. It became something of an unofficial capital of the Choctaw Nation when McCurtain was chief. His house faced the Fort Smith/Perryville road and visitors on tribal business came to it from all parts of the Choctaw Nation. McCurtain's importance in the community is indicated by his appointment as first postmaster of San Bois in 1879.

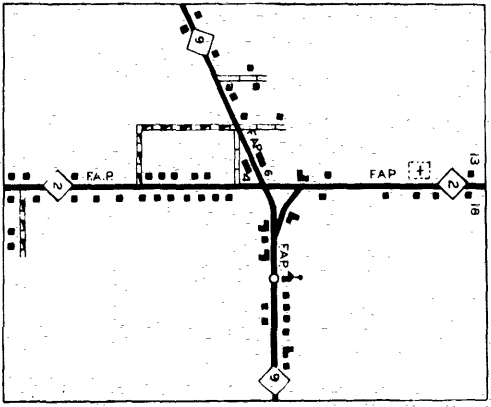
In 1901, however, the Forst Smith and Western Railroad bypassed San Bois. Most of its citizens moved to the new town of Kinta some five miles to the southwest. McCurtain himself in time followed them, building a new house a mile north of the town, where he died in 1910. He is buried in the San Bois cemetery in sight of his old home.

That handsome structure, his home during the years he was the most influential tribal leader in the Choctaw Nation, will be reconstructed as a memorial to him as well as to the McCurtain family.



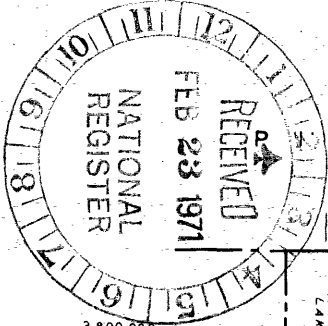
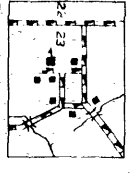
00 01 02 03 04 05 MILE
SCALE

WHITEFIELD, OKLA
SEC 13, 19N, R 19E



20 01 02 03 04 05 MILE
SCALE

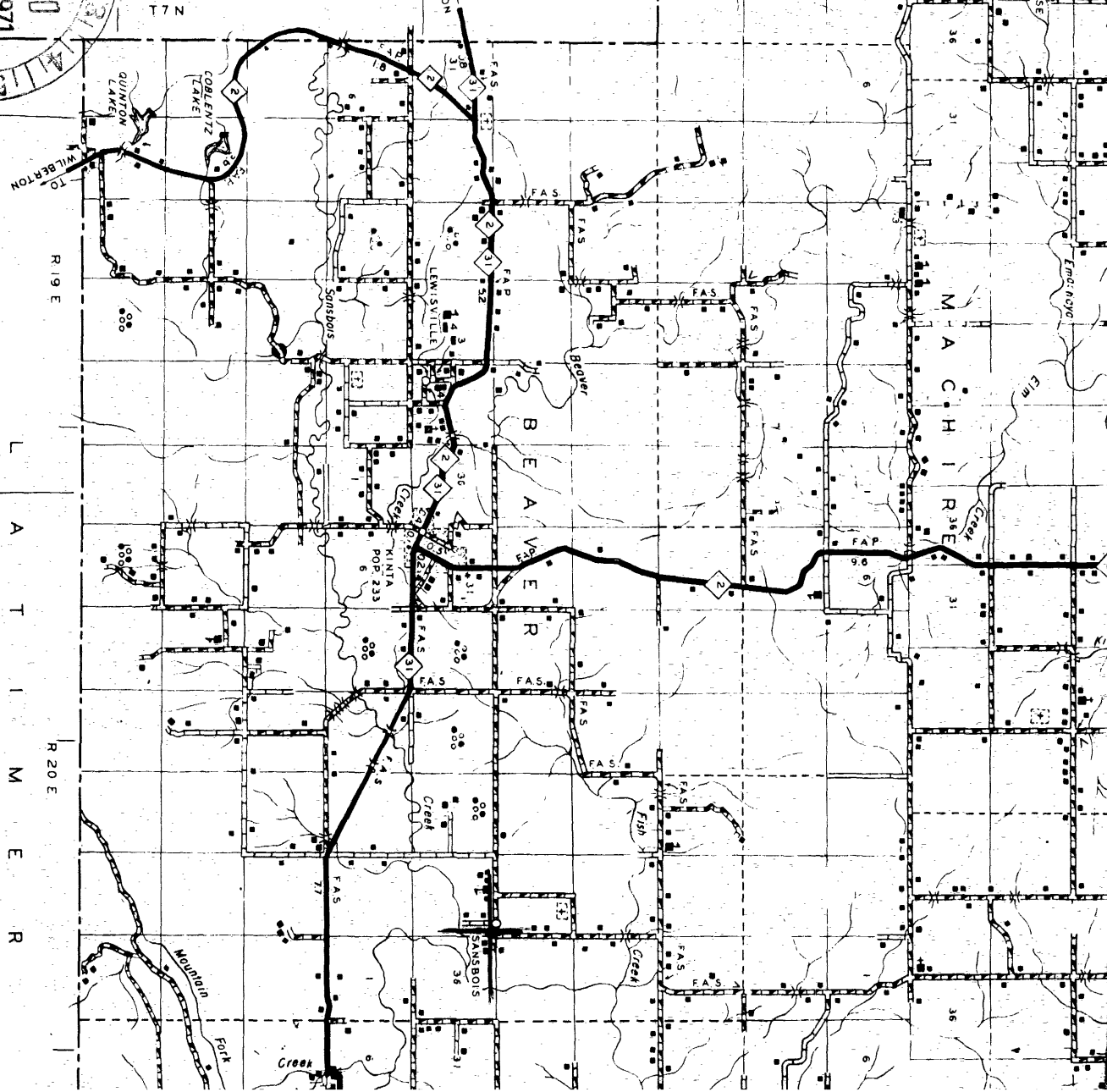
CARTERSVILLE OKLA
SEC 23, 19N, R 23E



PITTSBURG COUNTY

2,800,000
FEET

95° 15'



PITTSBURG

T8N

TO EUPAULA

TO RIBE
TO QUINTON

T7N

TO QUINTON
660,000
FEET

R 19 E

L A T I M E R

R 20 E

MACHIRE

BEAVER

LEWISVILLE

SANSBOIS

SANSBOIS

COBLENTZ LAKE

QUINTON LAKES

BROOKER

ENTERPRISE

EIM RIVER

MACHIRE CREEK

MOUNTAIN CREEK

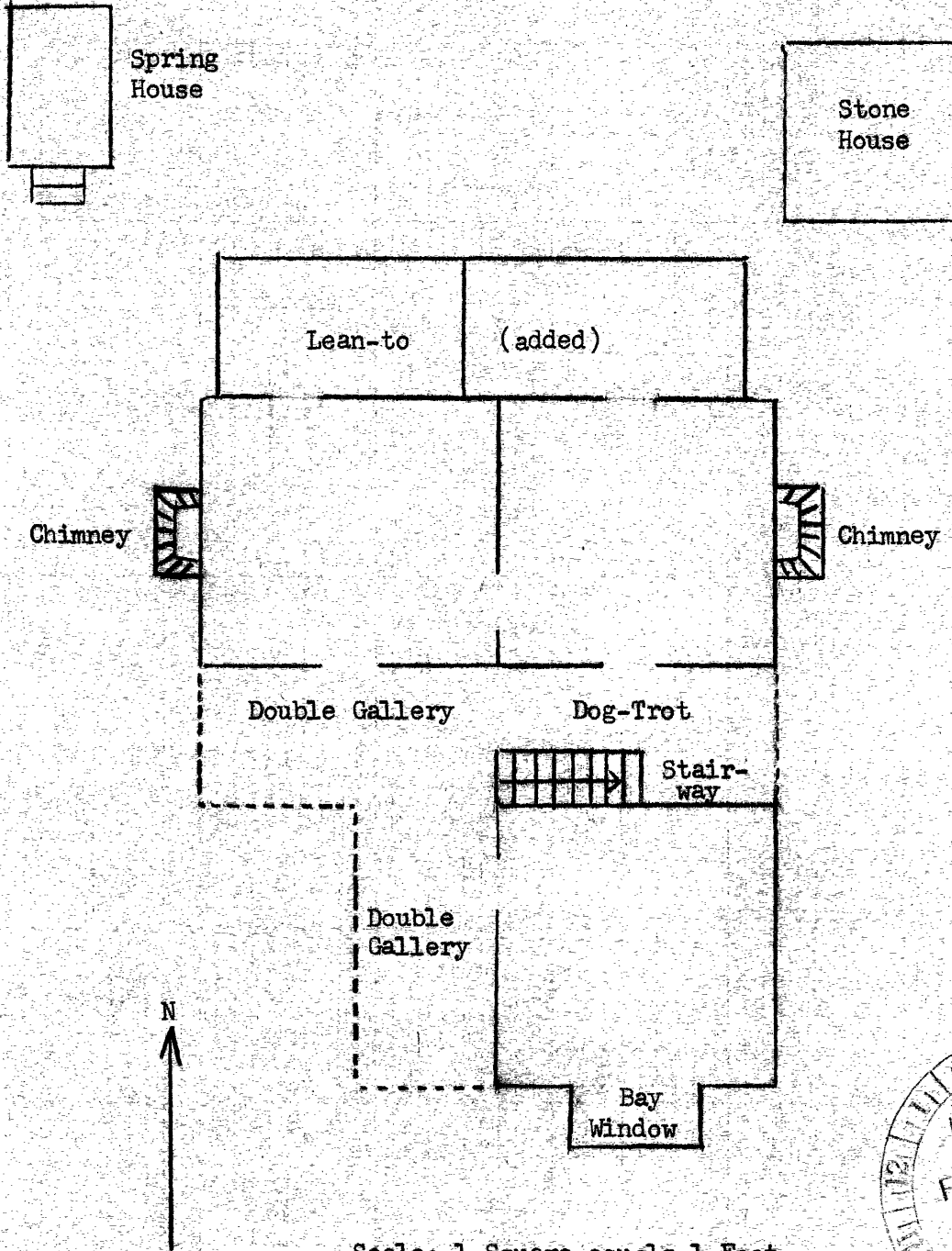
SANSBOIS CREEK

OKLAHOMA: Haskell County

McCurtain House

No. 7. Description

Rough sketch, to scale, of floor plan.



Scale: 1 Square equals 1 Foot

