

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Oklahoma	
COUNTY: Caddo	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	MAR 1 1973

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
Fort Cobb

AND/OR HISTORIC:

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
c. 1 m. E of

CITY OR TOWN:  
Fort Cobb (NW/4 Sec. 12, T 7 N, R 12 W)

STATE Oklahoma	CODE 40	COUNTY: Caddo	CODE 015
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**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site <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	<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) _____ _____ _____
		<input type="checkbox"/> Comments	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
Jesse East

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Fort Cobb	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:  
Caddo County Courthouse

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

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
Oklahoma Historic Sites Survey

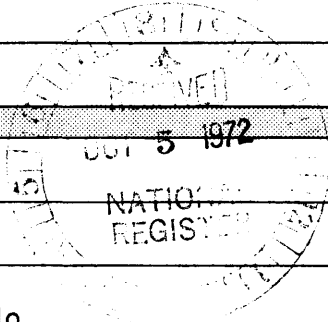
DATE OF SURVEY: 1958     Federal     State     County     Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
Oklahoma Historical Society

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Historical Building

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



STATE: Oklahoma  
COUNTY: Caddo  
ENTRY NUMBER: MAR 1 1973  
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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 type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
(Check One)			(Check One)		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered			<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		
			<input type="checkbox"/> Moved		
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

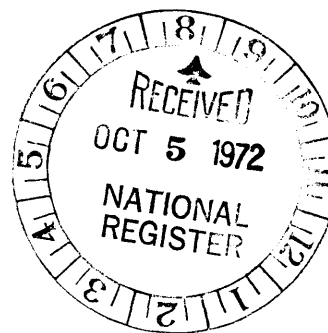
Fort Cobb was never much to look at. Nor, for that matter, was it ever much to live in. Rather a temporary affair to begin with, it was abandoned, occupied, left deserted, re-occupied spasmodically, and only partly rebuilt before final abandonment, all in but a few months more than nine years.

Picket houses chinked with clay and roofed with sod, in the common plains frontier manner, accounted for most of the soldiers barracks and officers quarters. They were neatly built and fairly livable, when the weather cooperated, but still crude. The post's only stone building was built for the commanding officers. Walls of cottonwood poles provided a minimum of safety.

When the Tenth Cavalry returned to the burned-out ruins of Fort Cobb after the Civil War, soldiers thatched the stone building for a commissary, repaired a few of the log and adobe huts, erected half-dugouts for additional barracks. It was these dugouts, roofed with canvas, comfortable enough in dry weather, that became water reservoirs when the rains came in late 1868 and contributed to General Sheridan's decision to abandon the site for good.

Today, a century later, there are no physical remains to remind one of the important fort that was for a time the farthest west of any military post in the Indian Territory.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	Oklahoma
COUNTY	Caddo
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	MAR 1 1973

(Number all entries)

No. 8. Significance

Fort Cobb

For the nine-plus years it existed, however, a period that spanned the Civil War, the "temporary" post played an important role in the slow pacification of the Southern Plains Indians and the protection of both white settlers in Texas and friendly Indian tribes in the eastern half of Indian Territory. It was established October 1, 1859, by Major William H. Emory, on the west side of Pond (now Cobb) Creek, about three miles west of the Wichita Agency it was intended to protect. (The site is about one mile east of the present town of Fort Cobb, Oklahoma.) Outbreak of the Civil War and the withdrawal of Union troops from Indian Territory led to a brief occupation by Confederate forces from Texas. However, Confederate occupation was only nominal and sporadic. The absence of any authority contributed to the area's most vicious battle which, ironically, did not involve whites at all. In October 1862 a band of Tonkawas, widely believed by other Indians to be cannibalistic, were set upon near the fort and slaughtered almost to the last woman and child. (The nearby agency was burned for good measure.)

The end of the war brought troops back briefly to Fort Cobb and the re-establishment of Indian agencies for the Kiowas/Comanches and for the Wichitas. A few war-minded bands were raiding south and west into Texas, causing trouble for all the tribes, but most of the Indians were gradually reconciling themselves to peaceful co-existence with the whites. Treaties in Kansas -- on the Little Arkansas River in 1865 and on Medicine Lodge Creek in 1867 -- were establishing the pattern of things to come. By June 1868 three-fourths of the Kiowas and most of the Comanches had separated themselves from the war bands and gone to Fort Larned, Kansas, to demonstrate their peaceful intentions.

General Sheridan nevertheless ordered the punitive expedition of General Custer for late 1868, resulting in Custer's Battle of the Washita with the Cheyennes. It was bitter medicine indeed for the Indians to swallow, particularly those already inclined toward peace. But they had no real alternative. The December assemblage merely sealed their fate. The abandonment of Fort Cobb in favor of Fort Sill thus represented something of a symbolic page-turning, the closing of a chapter of hostility and the opening of a new chapter of at least grudging accommodation and adaptation.

## SIGNIFICANCE

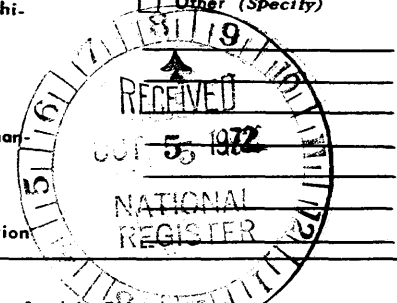
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1859-1869

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           | <input checked="" 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

Promptly at 2 o'clock we formed in battalions of three companies each on the parade ground and rode in front of the officers - Gens. Sheridan, Custer, Hazen and our regimental officers. About fifty feet to their right stood the Indian chiefs, Satanta, Lone Wolf of the Kiowas and Ten Bears, a Comanche chief. A son of Satanta was also with them. The Indians were on horseback and wore the chiefs headdress of beads and feathers.

Satanta's son had on pants and shirt and a red and black blanket over his shoulders. He is his father's messenger and a fine looking boy, straight as an arrow and appears about 20 years old. Satanta is quite large and very strongly built, much more noble looking than the others who are darker and just ordinary looking Indians, only finely dressed.

Thus did an army private, D. L. Spots, in his Journal for Saturday, December 19, 1868, describe a final day of glory in the brief, but exciting--and not insignificant--life of Fort Cobb. It was an impressive assemblage. In and about the post parade ground were some 3,000 Kiowas and Comanches, hundreds of Wichitas, Cheyennes, Arapahoes and other tribes, some nominally friendly, other fiercely resentful because of the devastating early morning attack a few weeks before by General Custer on the sleeping Cheyennes camp of Chief Black Kettle a hundred miles to the northwest. Facing them were some 2,000 troops led by Generals Philip H. Sheridan, George A. Custer and William B. Hazen.

The hostiles had been cowed and peace on the Southern Plains had been, for all practical purposes, achieved. Ironically, however, Fort Cobb itself had outlived its usefulness. In the last week of December the rains came and the post became a sea of mud. Shortly General Sheridan was to follow the advice of earlier military men on the scene and establish a permanent base near Medicine Bluff in the Wichita Mountains about 30 miles to the south. Stakes for Camp Wichita (present Fort Sill) were driven January 8, 1869. On March 13, Fort Cobb was abandoned.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Lackey, Vinson, The Forts of Oklahoma (Tulsa, 1963), pp. 23-25  
 Nye, Colonel W. S., Carbine & Lance (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1937), pp. 26-31, 84ff  
 Wright, Muriel H., "A History of Fort Cobb," The Chronicles of Oklahoma (Vol. 32, Spring 1956), pp. 53-71

**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	° ' "	° ' "		35° 05' 49"	98° 25' 21"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

NO 507  
1

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: c. 5 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: September 1972

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 SLO      Date 3-X-72

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

[Signature]  
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 3/1/73

ATTEST: [Signature]  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date 2-27-73

STATE

Oklahoma

COUNTY

Caddo

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

1973

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY MAP FORM**

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**1. NAME**

COMMON: Fort Cobb

AND/OR HISTORIC:

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:

c. 1 m. E of

CITY OR TOWN:

Fort Cobb (NW/4 Sec. 12, T 7 N, R 12 W)

STATE:

Oklahoma

CODE

40

COUNTY:

Caddo

CODE

015

**3. MAP REFERENCE**

SOURCE:

U. S. G. S. - Fort Cobb Quadrangle

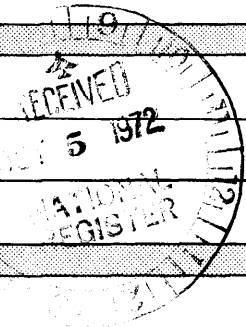
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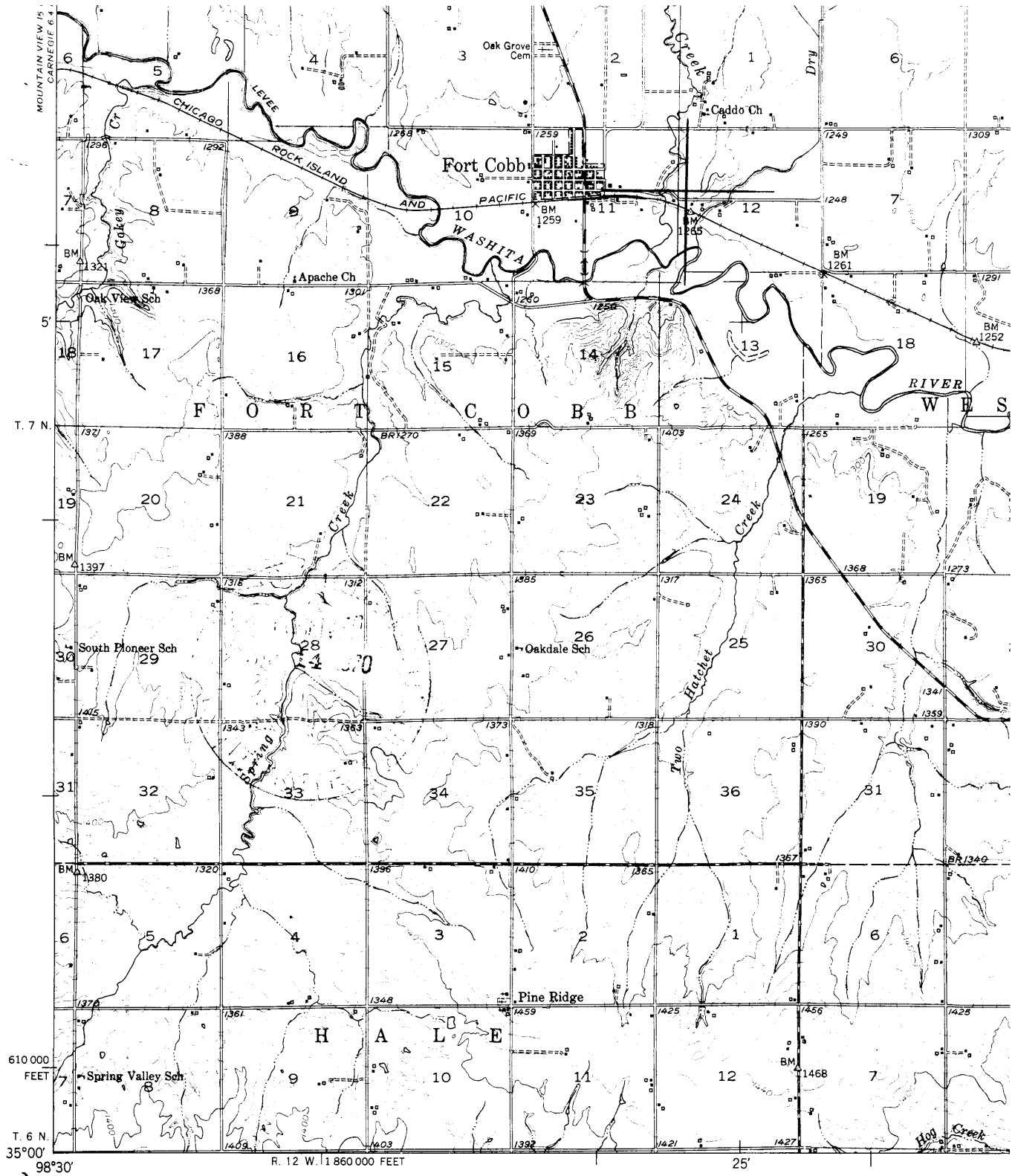
DATE: 1951

**4. REQUIREMENTS**

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

1. Property boundaries where required.
2. North arrow.
3. Latitude and longitude reference.

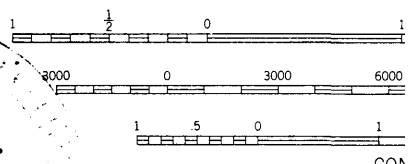
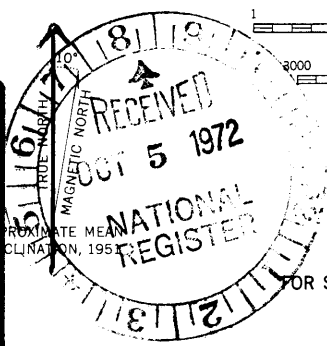




(SADDLE MTN) 98°30'

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey  
 Control by USGS, USC&GS, and Oklahoma Geological Survey  
 Topography from aerial photographs by multiplex methods and by  
 plane-table surveys 1950-1951. Aerial photographs taken 1947.

Oklahoma	Caddo
Fort Cobb	
Latitude:	35° 05' 49"
Longitude	98° 25' 21"



1162500

THIS COMPL...  
 FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, F  
 A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPO