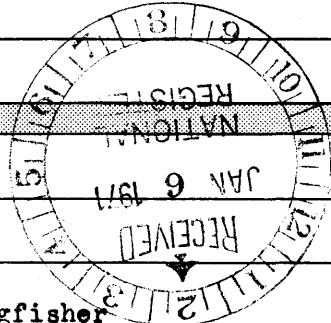


**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Oklahoma	
COUNTY: Kingfisher	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 71.3.40.0002	DATE 3/24/71



1. NAME

COMMON:
Seay (Gov.) Mansion

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Seay Home

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
11th Street and Zellers Avenue

CITY OR TOWN:
Kingfisher

STATE: **Oklahoma** CODE: **40** COUNTY: **Kingfisher** CODE: **073**

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input 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 type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input checked="" 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:
State of Oklahoma

STREET AND NUMBER:
State Capitol

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

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
County Clerk

STREET AND NUMBER:
Kingfisher County Courthouse

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

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Zellers Hilltop Addition

DATE OF SURVEY: **1965** Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
County Clerk

STREET AND NUMBER:
Kingfisher Court House

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: **Oklahoma**

COUNTY: **Kingfisher**

ENTRY NUMBER: **71.3.40.0002**

DATE: **3/24/71**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)

Excellent
 Good
 Fair
 Deteriorated
 Ruins
 Unexposed

But restored ^(Check One) to original condition.

Altered
 Unaltered

(Check One)

Moved
 Original Site

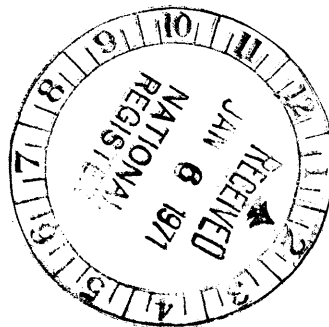
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Seay House, according to Isa Seay Collins, the bachelor governor's sister who served him as hostess, "is a massive structure and elegantly furnished. The furniture, carpets, lace curtains, silk draperies are superb." As for the amenities, there was a bathroom "where you can have a bath with hot and cold water."

The three-story red brick structure, built in 1892, was indeed impressive, especially for a new town on the frontier. A local showplace, it boasted a reception hall, formal parlor, library, a third-floor ballroom, and a peculiar dome-roofed tower room that served the judge and governor as a retreat. Interior features included seven fireplaces faced with imported tile, parquet floors, oak paneling and other fine woodwork, two-pane windows (then a prized innovation), high ceilings and transomed doorways. The furnishings, as Mrs. Collins indicated, were appropriately genteel.

After Governor Seay's death, however, the house fell on relatively hard times. Later owners removed the ballroom and the unique (if not particularly handsome) tower, rented the second floor as apartments. But these features have now been restored, along with enough authentic furnishings to re-establish the 1890s decor and atmosphere. Meanwhile, the Chisholm Trail Museum has been established across Zellers Avenue to the south. Together they give the visitor a dramatic picture of what Oklahoma was like both before and after the April 22, 1889, land "run" that transformed a grassy wilderness into a rich agricultural area of rippling grain fields and bustling towns.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



SIGNIFICANCE

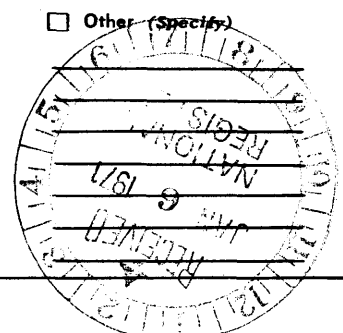
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | Early |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

But for the action of a single man, Kingfisher's Seay Home might possibly be the Oklahoma Governor's Mansion--today as it was, briefly, in 1892 when it was built. In 1890 a bill passed by the Oklahoma Territorial Legislature would have removed the capital from Guthrie to Kingfisher. But George Steele, the Territory's first governor, vetoed the bill. Then on February 1, 1892, Judge Abraham J. Seay of Kingfisher was sworn in as Steele's successor and hopes of residents of the ambitious little town were again aroused. These hopes were further bolstered when Seay, a bachelor, proceeded to put up a three-story "mansion" eminently suited for a chief executive. A turn of the political wheel, however, removed the one-time Missouri and Oklahoma lawyer/judge from the state's highest office (appointive at the time) and Kingfisher thus lost her last chance to become the Territory's number one city.

But the Seay Home, mansion or not, still has significance - both of itself and because of the early-day importance of Kingfisher. On the first score, it was one of the first really fine homes to be erected in what was until 1889 a raw frontier inhabited by Indians, a handful of white missionaries, agency personnel and a few white cattlemen, and an undetermined number of outlaws. The house with its parquet floor, oak paneling, and handsome fireplaces thus becomes something of a symbol of "imported gentility" that was soon to transform Indian Territory into a booming new state.

Kingfisher, too, reflected this ebullient transformation. Established in 1889, it profited from already existing communication lines. The Chisholm cattle trail in 1867 and the stage and wagon road that paralleled it from Fort Reno north to Kansas in the 1870s and 1880s both crossed the present townsite, as did the Rock Island railroad, building south from Kansas in 1889. In 1890 the town was to acquire an academy that soon grew into Kingfisher College (later merged with the University of Oklahoma). In 1892 the Oklahoma Territory (now Oklahoma) Press Association was formed at Kingfisher and a year later it apparently thought so highly of the future of this four-year-old wilderness-turned-territory that it organized the Oklahoma Historical Society.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Peeay, Don W. "Autobiography of Governor A. J. Seay." The Chronicles of Oklahoma, Vol. XVII, pp. 35-47.

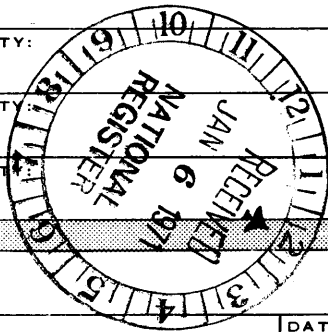
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

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° 51' 15"	97° 56' 08"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **C. one-half acre**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



TL
NO 47

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: **Kent Ruth**

ORGANIZATION: **Oklahoma Historical Society** DATE: **January 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: *Don W. Peeay*

Title: *Liaison officer for Oklahoma*

Date: _____

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

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

MAR 24 1971

Date: _____

ATTEST:

William J. Montez
Keeper of The National Register

MAR 3 1971

Date: _____

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Oklahoma	
COUNTY	
Kingfisher	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
71.3.40.000 2	3/34/71

(Number all entries)

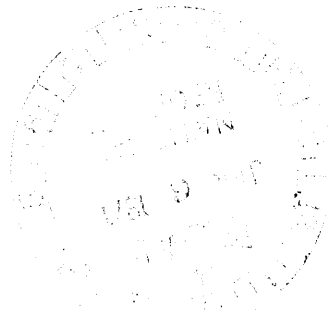
No. 8. Significance

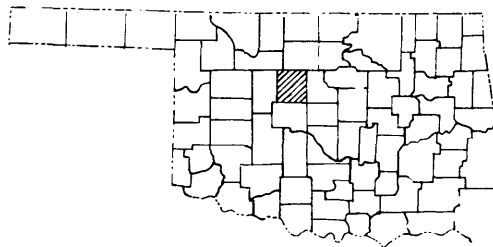
SEAY (GOV.) MANSION

In 1890, meanwhile, when Congress got around to organizing Oklahoma Territory, it vested judicial powers in a three-man supreme court, third district of which was headquartered at Kingfisher. Abraham J. Seay was named associate justice. His jurisdiction extended west and north to include most of what is now that corner of Oklahoma.

Travel over the district was difficult, the administration of justice - particularly in "No Man's Land" (the present Oklahoma Panhandle) - even more so. But Seay proved to be a courageous and forthright judge. "Mine was known as a 'shotgun court' on account of my bluntness in rulings and decisions," he wrote later in an informal autobiography, "and I would not resent the charge that it was 'double-barreled and breech-loading.' Having to shoot off-hand in the dark a shotgun was more likely to do execution, and less likely than a Winchester to do irreparable injury. I got small game, to be sure, but a good deal of it, though I did not always hit the mark."

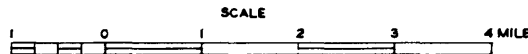
The Seay House, now handsomely restored by the State of Oklahoma, is thus a fitting memorial to both a capable judge and a progressive pioneer community. Judge Seay turned over the Territorial governorship to William C. Renfrow in 1893 and retired from politics. "I take pride and pleasure, however, in the fact that I was officially connected with Oklahoma from its birth 'till it had grown to be a bright, strong boy; and have ever since observed with interest its development into stalwart manhood." He died in 1915, in California. His body was returned to Kingfisher for burial in the city cemetery.



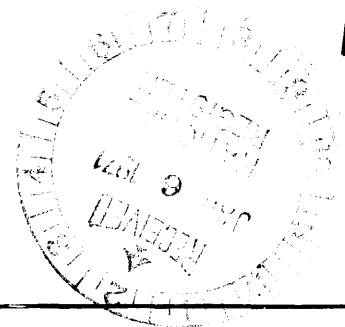


GENERAL HIGHWAY MAP
KINGFISHER COUNTY
OKLAHOMA

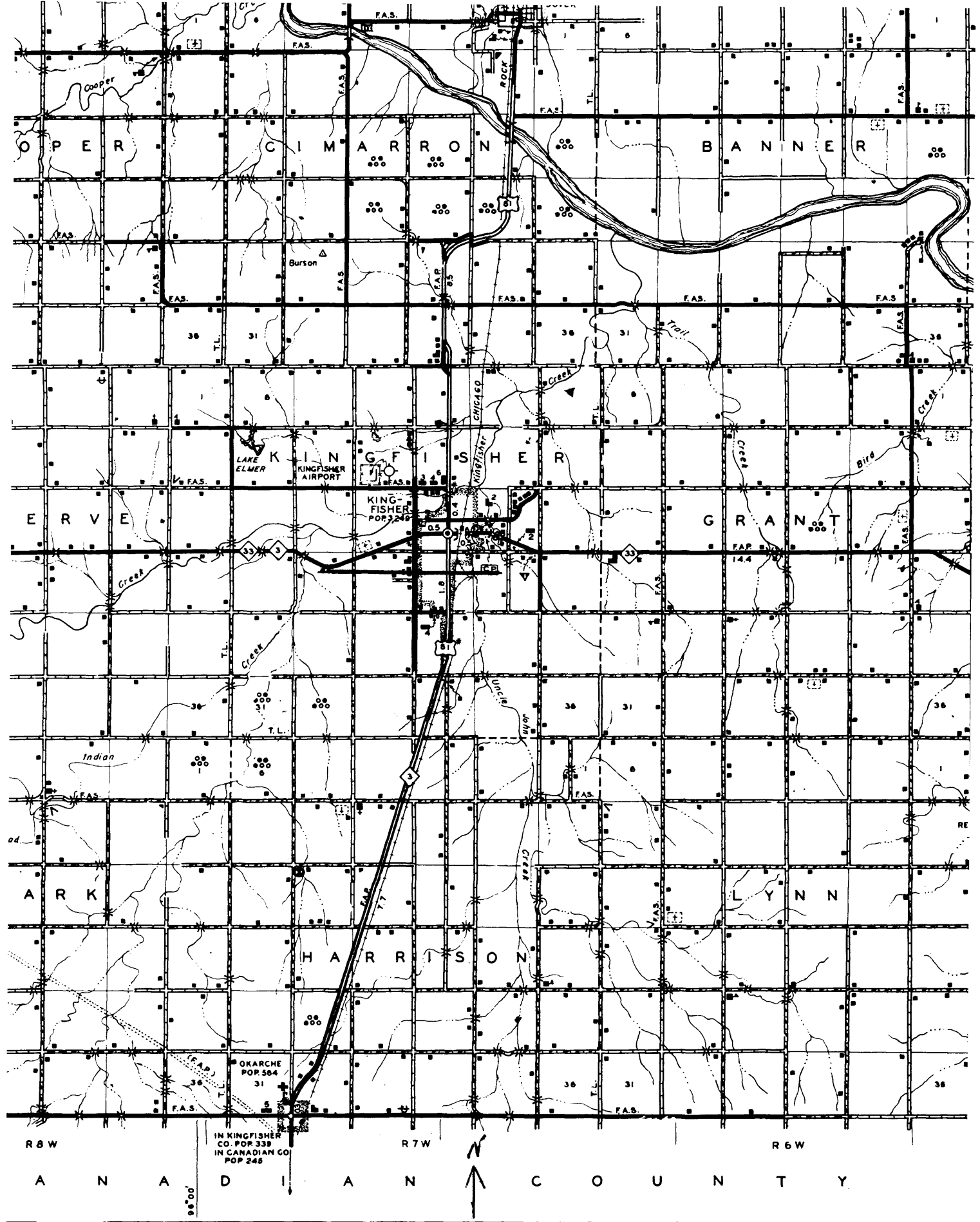
PREPARED BY THE
OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAYS
PLANNING DIVISION
IN COOPERATION WITH THE
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION
BUREAU OF PUBLIC ROADS



LAMBERT CONFORMAL CONIC PROJECTION U.S. COAST & GEODETIC SURVEY DATA 20,000 FOOT GRID BASED ON PLANE COORDINATE SYSTEM NORTH PROJECTION ZONE



ALL RIGHTS RESERVED



O P E R C I M A R R O N B A N N E R

E R V E K I N G F I S H E R G R A N T

A R K H A R R I S O N L Y N N

R 8 W R 7 W R 6 W
A N A D I A N C O U N T Y

OKARCHE
POP 564
31
IN KINGFISHER
CO. POP 339
IN CANADIAN CO.
POP 246

98°00'



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM

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

STATE Oklahoma	
COUNTY Kingfisher	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 76.03.4b.0002	DATE 3/24/71

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: Seay (Gov.) Mansion

AND/OR HISTORIC: Seay Home

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

11th Street and Zellers Avenue

CITY OR TOWN:

Kingfisher

STATE:

Oklahoma

CODE

40

COUNTY:

Kingfisher

CODE

073

3. MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE:

Oklahoma Department of Highways

SCALE: 1/2" equals 1 mile

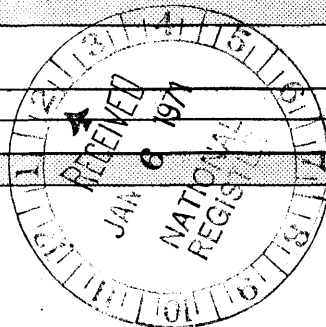
DATE:

1970

4. REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

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



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM

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

STATE	
Oklahoma	
COUNTY	
Kingfisher	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
413.48.0002	3/24/71

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME			
COMMON: Seay (Gov.) Mansion			
AND/OR HISTORIC: Seay Home			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
11th and Zeller Streets			
CITY OR TOWN:			
Kingfisher			
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Oklahoma	40	Kingfisher	073
3. MAP REFERENCE			
SOURCE:			
Plat for Zellers Hilltop Addition - Book 2, Page 100			
SCALE: Distances shown in feet, to scale.			
DATE: 1965			
4. REQUIREMENTS			
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS			
1. Property boundaries where required.			
2. North arrow.			
3. Latitude and longitude reference.			

