

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

56-1865

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.



1. Name of Property

Historic name: 101 Rodeo Arena

Other names/site number: N/A

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

N/A

2. Location

Street & number: 2600 N. Ash Street

City or town: Ponca City State: OK County: Kay

Not For Publication: N/A

Vicinity: N/A

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,



I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

national statewide local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

A B C D

 Signature of certifying official/Title:	 Date
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	
In my opinion, the property <input type="checkbox"/> meets <input type="checkbox"/> does not meet the National Register criteria.	
Signature of commenting official:	Date
Title :	State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

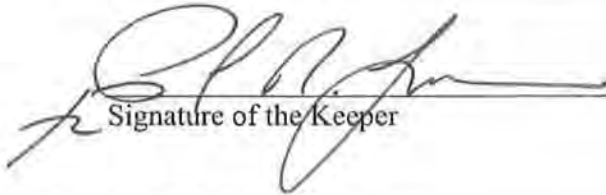
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4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:)


Signature of the Keeper

12/4/2017
Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private:
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

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Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>5</u>	<u>3</u>	buildings
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>3</u>	<u>5</u>	structures
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>10</u>	<u>8</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

RECREATION AND CULTURE / fair

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

RECREATION AND CULTURE / fair

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

No Style

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: Metal / Wood

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary

The 101 Rodeo Arena is centered in a 22.4-acre site two and a half miles north of Ponca City's central business district.¹ The outdoor exhibition space hosts rodeo events that center around livestock performance shows in a spectator arena. The arena is surrounded by open space used for trailer parking during the 3-day annual events. A perimeter fence encloses a rectangular space accessed by gravel roads with entries on the southeast and northwest portions of the rectangular site. A rectangular perimeter fence encloses the event space. The arena is a pentagonal shaped graded dirt area enclosed with aluminum pipe railing. Grandstands on the east and west sides of the arena are metal frame structure supporting raised wood bench seating. Two smaller sets of grandstands are oriented on a rotated axis to follow the angles of the pentagonal shaped arena on the north side. A series of animal pens with aluminum pipe railing in a triangular shape connects to the arena at the north end. The south end of the arena contains a larger network of animal pens and runs that feed into seven chutes. The chutes front the arena and consist of metal slab and aluminum pipe barriers with wood platforms for the riders to mount. Raised spectator platforms and an announcer's booth occupy the south end of the arena. Lighting and speakers are raised on wood poles around the arena and grandstands. Small outbuildings within the perimeter fence serve as storage and concession booths including two corrugated metal buildings, a concrete masonry unit

¹ Per the 101 Wild West Rodeo website, the 101 Rodeo Arena refers to the entire complex including the grounds. The "arena" is the enclosed performance area and is a contributing structure.

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building, and a portable trailer building. Two metal ticket booths are outside the perimeter fence on the east and west sides.

Narrative Description

Setting

The 22.4 acre 101 Rodeo Arena grounds is a roughly rectangular site bounded by W. Prospect Avenue on the north, N. Ash Street on the east, W. Darr Road on the south and N. Darr Park Road on the west. The site is two and a half miles north of Ponca City's central business district on the outskirts of urban development (*Figure 01*). It abuts the Municipal Airport and other land uses requiring less density such as industrial parks (*Figure 02*). The 22.4-acre site is part of a larger city-owned sixty nine-acre parcel that is also the location of a municipal fire station and unassociated industrial buildings.² The 101 Rodeo Arena's 22.4-acre site is delineated by road barriers and is the only property historically and currently associated with the rodeo. The 22.4-acre site includes an electrical substation on the northeast corner and the Ponca City Humane Society Animal Shelter in the northwest corner of the property (*Figure 03*). Graded open space surrounds and serves as parking during events. Mature trees line the west perimeter fence and smaller trees line gravel vehicle paths. Grass covers the remainder of the site. The current main entry is in the southeast corner from W. Darr Road. Driveways from W. Prospect Avenue on the north and from N. Ash Street on the east also access the site. A gravel vehicular path surrounds the arena area.

Grandstands

The grandstands at the 101 Rodeo Arena are permanent structures for spectator seating. Two metal structures supporting raised wood bench seating have five sections each on the east and west side of the arena. Smaller sets of metal structures with three sections supporting tiered wood bench seating are angled to front the north part of the arena (*Figure 03, Photos 03 and 05*). Each of the four grandstands have sixteen tiers of wood bench seating and stairs separating each section. The grandstands are not covered. They accommodate 8,000 spectators and were installed in 1962 during the initial construction of the arena. They retain their original design and materials. In 1968, the northern two smaller sections were angled to provide better viewing of rodeo events. They remain in that same configuration and are contributing structures.

Perimeter Fence

An approximately seven-foot high woven metal fence is stretched between wood posts around the perimeter in a rectangular shape (*Photo 17*). The fence was part of the original 1962 construction. It serves to enclose animals during rodeo events and to provide security to the facilities during periods when the site is not used. It is also a barrier to enforce ticketed entry. Raised aluminum pipe entries on the east north, west and south sides have hinged gates for vehicle access. The fence retains its historic materials and configuration and is a contributing object.

Arena

The arena is a pentagonal-shaped enclosed area with a graded dirt surface and an aluminum pipe fence with six horizontal rungs surrounding it (*Photos 02 and 03*). The arena is the focal point of the complex and is the space dedicated to rodeo events such as calf roping, saddle bronc riding, bareback bronc riding, steer wrestling and Brahma bull riding. The arena retains its historic materials and configuration. It is a contributing structure.

² *Property Assessment Information 2600 N Ash Ponca City, Oklahoma*. Kay County Assessor office, Newkirk, Oklahoma.

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South Animal Pens

A series of animal pens on the south side of the arena connect to chutes. The holding pens contain animals that are performing in the rodeo until their introduction into the main arena. Aluminum pipe fencing with gates surround and divide the spaces into six smaller pens for animals performing in a pending event and seven larger pens for animals to be contained for longer periods of time. Shared corridors allow animals to move within the pens and between the arena and the holding pens (*Figure 03, Photo 07*). Grass covers the ground in the pens. A section of the south pen extends beyond the perimeter fence to the south. Holding pens south of the chutes were part of the complex's original design, but a 1991 reconstruction of the pens replaced all historic material with new aluminum pipe fencing. The original configuration of the pens is unknown and the loss of historic material makes the structure non-contributing.

North Catch Pens

The animal pens that connect to the north point of the arena are a triangular-shaped area planted with grass. An aluminum pipe fence with square wire encloses the area and divides it into four sections. A corrugated shed roof covers a portion of the north section (*Figure 03, Photo 04*). The catch pens are the destination for animals that come from the south chutes into the arena and are corralled into the catch pens on the north side when their performance is complete. Catch pens in the same location were likely part of the original design, but the current pens are a 1992 reconstruction. The loss of historic material makes them a non-contributing structure.

Chutes

Six chutes line the south boundary of the arena. Metal slabs and aluminum pipes create individual holding chutes with hinged front gates on the front that release animals and riders into the main arena (*Photo 06*). Raised wood platforms on the rear of the chutes provide a space for riders to mount animals while the narrow chutes contain them (*Photo 18*). The chutes were installed during the initial 1962 construction of the rodeo arena and are a contributing structure.

Bandstand

The bandstand is an approximately 50-foot by 40-foot rectangular concrete pad northeast of the grandstands (*Photo 09*). The bandstand is a circa 1982 addition and is a non-contributing structure because it is not fifty years old and was added outside of the period of significance.

Chute Heavens

The chute heavens are a series raised wood platforms on steel frame above the animal chutes. The platforms are premium seating areas accessed by metal stairs adjacent to the announcer's booth. The steel pipe structure is painted red and extends above the platforms to divide spaces and serve as handrails. Textured metal plating and synthetic tread top the platforms (*Photos 06 and 08*). Three of the seven chute heavens were 1982 additions. Another addition in 1997 altered the chute heavens. There is no evidence the chute heavens are part of the original 1962 design and the age of four of them are undetermined. The structures are non-contributing.

Announcer's booth

A one-story rectangular plan building at the southwest corner of the arena serves as the announcer's booth. Corrugated metal clads the exterior with removable partial wood panels on the north and north east elevations (*Photos 10 and 11*). The building is on a raised concrete masonry unit block foundation and has a corrugated metal shed roof. Concrete steps with a metal railing access the raised building. A wood slab door pierces the south elevation. A horizontal sliding aluminum window pierces the east elevation.

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Plywood clads the interior walls. A photo showing the building under construction indicates a circa 1997 construction date. The building is not historic in age and is non-contributing.

Ticket Booths

Two circa 1962 portable round metal buildings with metal grates are outside the perimeter fence on the east and west sides to serve as ticket booths. The buildings are hexagonal and have metal doors and open metal grating (*Photos 14 and 15*). These buildings were safety smoking areas at the Conoco refinery before they were moved to the current site.³ Criterion Consideration B applies to these auxiliary buildings since they were moved to the site, however, they are contemporaneous with the construction of the rodeo arena and are contributing buildings.

Storage Building

A one-story, rectangular concrete masonry unit building with a corrugated metal shed roof is at the southeast corner of the east grandstand. Three metal slab doors provide access on the north, east, and south elevations (*Photos 12*). The circa 1962 building is contributing.

Concession Buildings

Two corrugated metal buildings with a shed roofs, concrete aprons, and removable partial panels are behind the grandstands on the east and west sides. The small utilitarian buildings are circa 1962 concession stands and are contributing buildings (*Photo 13*).

Trailer

A portable trailer building along the north fence line has a metal exterior, a slab door, metal entry stairs, and concrete masonry unit pier foundation (*Photo 16*). According to aerial photos, the trailer was placed on the rodeo grounds circa 2011 and is not a historic element, therefore it is non-contributing.

Site / grounds

The 101 Rodeo grounds is the area outside the perimeter fence that provides flat open ground for event parking. Gravel vehicle paths surround the perimeter fence. The site is level and planted with native grass and some trees mostly lining the vehicle paths. The large open space isolates the arena from surrounding development. The grounds area is surrounded by W. Prospect Avenue on the north, N Ash Street on the east, W Darr Road on the south and N Darr Park Road on the west (*Figure 03*). The space contains a non-historic animal shelter in the northwest corner and a non-historic substation in the northeast corner. Both of those elements occupy a small portion of the space and do not detract from the overall sense of an expansive field. The site retains its original size, configuration, and relationship to the arena and is a contributing site.

Electrical sub-station

A circa 2000 electrical sub-station consists of electrical equipment on a graded gravel pad surrounded by a brick fence with a metal entry gate. The structure is not historic-age and though it occupies a small corner of the rodeo grounds, is not historically associated with the 101 Ranch Rodeo Arena. The structure is non-contributing (*Figure 03*).

Animal Shelter

A one-story masonry unit animal shelter has a hipped roof with asphalt shingles. The building and associated fenced outdoor pens occupies the northwest corner of the 101 Rodeo Arena property. The

³ Interview with Larry Goodno, Chairman of the Ponca City Rodeo Foundation. January 25th, 2017.

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building has a low profile and is isolated from the main rodeo complex and is not visually prominent on the property. The circa 1980 building does not appear on a 1979 topographic map, but is visible on a 1995 aerial photograph. The building is not historic in age and is non-contributing (*Figure 03*).

Integrity

The 101 Rodeo Arena retains its original design, materials, setting, location, feeling, association, and workmanship. The property retains its setting in a light industrial, semi-rural area accessed by two-lane roads on the outskirts of Ponca City. The property is recognizable as a dedicated outdoor recreational space and was designed to accommodate spectators, animals, and performers (*Photo 01*). The arena retains its historic pentagonal form. The property's primary elements and their relationship to each other remain intact. Large-scale seating, open space for parking, fencing and metal animal pens were all part of the original design. The grandstands are the original structures with bench seating that were installed in 1962. The addition of several chute heavens platform seating above the animal chutes and the announcer's booth occurred outside the period of significance, but all additions are sympathetic in scale and material to the original design. Two ticket booths were moved to the site during original construction to serve as ticket booths. Criterion Consideration B applies to these support buildings, but they were part of the initial construction of the complex and are contributing elements. An electrical substation northeast of the arena and a one-story animal shelter northwest of the arena are removed from the immediate site and do not detract from the facility's feeling of an outdoor rodeo arena. The sub-station and the animal shelter do not compromise the ability of the contributing resources to communicate their historic function.

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Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B. Removed from its original location
- C. A birthplace or grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

ENTERTAINMENT / RECREATION

Period of Significance

1962-1968

Significant Dates

1962; 1968

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

N/A

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

Summary:

The 101 Rodeo Arena serves as the exhibition space for a local Ponca City rodeo event, the 101 Wild West Rodeo.⁴ The Ponca City Rodeo Foundation, a corporation of the Ponca City Chamber of Commerce, constructed the arena on Ponca City-owned land in 1962 as a custom event space for the newly formed Ponca City annual rodeo event. The first 1960 rodeo during with Ponca City's Cherokee Strip Celebration began the local rodeo as a city-sponsored local event. By 1962, the rodeo acquired the rights to use the 101 Ranch name from descendants of that famous historic institution and constructed the 101 Rodeo Arena on the outskirts of Ponca City. The space is specifically designed and constructed for rodeo performances and has hosted the event annually since its completion in 1962. Local volunteers organize the rodeo and maintain the arena space. The annual rodeo draws large crowds and has garnered regional recognition within the three-state Prairie Circuit consisting of Nebraska, Kansas and Oklahoma.⁵ The 101 Rodeo Arena is a permanent part of Ponca City's built environment and is locally significant under Criterion A in the area of ENTERTAINMENT / RECREATION for its association with the locally-produced rodeo event. The 101 Rodeo Arena retains sufficient integrity to convey its associative significance as an entertainment venue. It achieved its current configuration in 1968 when a minor alteration to the configuration of the grandstands defined the current shape and size of the arena space. Its period of significance is its 1962 construction date to the 1968 date it achieved its current configuration.

Statement of Significance (continued):

101 Ranch and history of rodeo events

George Washington Miller arrived in the Cherokee Outlet in 1879 and began ranching. He moved his operation to the eastern edge of current Ponca City in 1892, leasing 100,000 acres from the Ponca tribe.⁶ At that site along the banks of the Salt Fork River, George Miller and his three sons built and operated the largest diversified farm and cattle ranch in the United States. The Ranch is credited with livestock cross-breeding and progressive agricultural practices based on scientific research. Its sheer scale made it remarkable. The 101 Ranch site included a power plant, canning factory, cider and alfalfa mills and a cotton gin. The size of the land parcel and the scale of operations required two hundred employees to operate.⁷ The grouping of buildings and large number of employees took on the setting of a small town.

George Miller had a strong relationship with the Ponca tribe and employed members in Wild West Shows staged on his ranch and in nearby Kansas towns beginning in the 1880s.⁸ The Wild West shows featured

⁴ The title of this event is from the current website. Historic materials also list the name of the event as the "101 Ranch Rodeo." Collector's Edition and Official Souvenir Program 101 Ranch Rodeo, 1968. Vertical File Historic Oklahoma Cherokee Strip Opening. Oklahoma Historical Society, Oklahoma City.

⁵ The Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association named the 101 Wild West Rodeo the number one rodeo in the Prairie Circuit in 1990.

⁶ Marcia M. Greenlee, *National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form 101 Ranch Historic District, Bill Pickett's Grave, and White Eagle Monument*. (National Parks Service, 1975).

⁷ Collector's Edition and Official Souvenir Program 101 Ranch Rodeo, 1968. Vertical File Historic Oklahoma Cherokee Strip Opening. Oklahoma Historical Society, Oklahoma City.

⁸ Dr. Mary Jane Warde. *National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form White Eagle Park*. (National Parks Service, 2007), p. 8-16.

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cowboys and Indian characters and romanticized the wild west image for Anglo crowds. At the time Miller was developing his entertainment show, the skilled cowhands on the 101 Ranch established a reputation competing in regional round-up competitions and hosting competitions at the 101 Ranch. Round-up is a ranching term describing collecting animals into a specific area by driving them from horseback mounts.

The equestrian and roping skills associated with the professional activity became recreational for the cowboys in their leisure time. The term rodeo is a Hispanic word meaning round-up and came to be used to describe occasional gatherings of regional ranch workers for competitive riding and roping contests.⁹ Rodeos in the 1880s in Texas and Arizona began offering cash prizes and charging admission to become a public recreational activity separate from the ranch function of round-up.¹⁰ By incorporating round-up or rodeo events in the Wild West Show, George Miller made the round-up competitions into a spectator entertainment.

In 1905, the Ranch, which was already a famous destination for statesmen and entertainers, hosted the “biggest round-up on earth.”¹¹ The Miller brothers, George Miller’s three sons, created a traveling version of the event called the Miller Brothers Real Wild West and Great Far East Show (Wild West Show) that included five acres of tents, forty railroad cars, one thousand four hundred employees, three hundred Native American performers, and six hundred horses.¹² The ranch property also included an arena for local performances. The touring show featured roping, riding acts, coach hold-ups and stars Will Rogers and Henry Clay. It was also notable for including African-American performers such as Bill Pickett.¹³ The show toured extensively from Oklahoma to Canada between 1905 and 1910 and toured Europe before the outbreak of World War I ended the show in 1916. The production briefly revived in 1925, but closed for good in the early 1930s when the Great Depression and family finances forced the sale and dismantling of the ranch property.¹⁴ During its intermittent tenure, the Miller Brother’s Wild West Show set the standard for rodeo entertainment as it introduced wild west characters, horse shows, and rodeo acts to large and small towns internationally.

Rodeos in Oklahoma

The late nineteenth-century rodeos in small towns in Oklahoma were groups of cowboys from regional ranches competing in sporadic events usually held in summer after professional ranching round-ups for branding or selling cattle. After statehood in 1907, established rodeos began holding regular events, many of which included wild west themed entertainment or stunts. By the 1930s, most Oklahoma towns had a local rodeo.¹⁵ Ponca City had recently lost the spectacular Miller Brothers Wild West Show during the Great Depression; the same time period when the popularity of Rodeo as a sport prompted the

⁹ Rodeo. Oklahoma Encyclopedia of History and Culture.

<http://www.okhistory.org/publications/enc/entry.php?entry=RO014>. Accessed April 7, 2017.

¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ 64,000 people including the National Editor’s Association attended the event. Marcia M. Greenlee, *National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form 101 Ranch Historic District, Bill Pickett’s Grave, and White Eagle Monument*. (National Parks Service, 1975).; Collector’s Edition and Official Souvenir Program 101 Ranch Rodeo, 1968. Vertical File Historic Oklahoma Cherokee Strip Opening. Oklahoma Historical Society, Oklahoma City.

¹² Ibid.

¹³ Marcia M. Greenlee, *National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form 101 Ranch Historic District, Bill Pickett’s Grave, and White Eagle Monument*. (National Parks Service, 1975).

¹⁴ Ibid.

¹⁵ Rodeo. Oklahoma Encyclopedia of History and Culture.

<http://www.okhistory.org/publications/enc/entry.php?entry=RO014>. Accessed April 7, 2017.

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establishment of round-up clubs. These clubs developed riding and roping contests and were a training ground for rodeo contestants.¹⁶ The Oklahoma equine business encouraged rodeo's popularity as a sport and recreational spectator entertainment in the rural and small town areas where horse ranching is a significant part of the economy.

Communities across Oklahoma established long-running rodeo events during the twentieth century. The Tulsa Stampede began in 1934 and ran until 1984. The Dewey Roundup operated from 1908 until the 1950s and the Roundup Calvacade in Pawhuska began in 1947.¹⁷ Oklahoma City was the site of the newly established National Finals Rodeo for twenty years beginning in the early 1960s. It was around this time of nationwide popularity that Ponca City established its own local event.

The Ponca City 101 Wild West Rodeo

Ponca City was an early town that developed beginning in the 1890s on land occupied by the Ponca Tribe. Originally a railroad center relying on surrounding agriculture and ranching, the town boomed after the discovery of oil, including wells on the famous nearby 101 Ranch, during the nineteen-teens. Oil production and refining dominated the local economy in the post-World War II period when demand leveled out and production and prices fluctuated. A significant local company, Conoco, maintained a refinery in Ponca City, but moved its headquarters to Houston in 1949.¹⁸

While Ponca City's economy and population stabilized in the postwar period, the town celebrated its history and culture with the annual Cherokee Strip Celebration. In 1960, the Ponca City Rodeo Foundation, a subsidiary of the Ponca City Chamber of Commerce, formed for the purpose of producing a rodeo in conjunction with the annual Cherokee Strip Celebration.¹⁹ The 1960 and the 1961 rodeos were called the Ponca City Cherokee Strip RCA Championship Rodeo. The 1960 event was held in a temporary facility one mile south of the current site north of the Agriculture building on West Hartford Avenue southeast of the municipal Airport.²⁰ The 1961 rodeo occurred at the current rodeo site prior to completion of the complex. Organizers rented bleachers for temporary seating before the construction of the grandstand. Construction of the current 101 Ranch Rodeo Arena was completed in 1962 in time to host the newly-branded 101 Wild West Show in that same year.

Property History

The current 101 Rodeo Arena site is part of a larger city-owned area west and northwest of Ponca City. The Ponca City Regional Airport opened in 1938 with a single 3,600-foot runway two miles northwest of downtown Ponca City.²¹ Braniff Airways, the Ponca City School of Aeronautics, and Continental Oil Company used the airport at the beginning of World War II when the City of Ponca City expanded the facility to 520 acres, leasing land north and east of the airport to accommodate a British pilot training

¹⁶ Ibid.

¹⁷ Ibid. The Pawhuska event is currently held at the Osage County Fairgrounds which contains an indoor rodeo space that is part of a larger complex with a round track and an outdoor arena.

¹⁸ Kelli E. Gaston. *National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form Downtown Ponca City Historic District*. (National Parks Service: 2010) p 8,-31.

¹⁹ 101 Wild West Rodeo History. http://www.101wildwestrodeo.com/history/1960_index.htm. Accessed April 7, 2017.

²⁰ 101 Wild West Rodeo website *History* <http://www.101wildwestrodeo.com/about.htm>. Accessed April 10, 2017.

²¹ Ponca City Regional Airport https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ponca_City_Regional_Airport. Accessed April 10, 2017.

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facility at Darr School of Aeronautics.²² The 101 Rodeo Arena is immediately northeast of the former Darr School of Aeronautics and is accessed by West Darr Road. The site was ideal for its available open space on the outskirts of urban development and its connection to transportation routes.

A local company, the Ponca Tank Company erected a permanent 8,000 seat grandstand surrounding an arena in time to host the 1962 rodeo (*Figure 04*).²³ The Ponca City Rodeo Foundation took on \$35,666.10 in debt to construct the grandstand and chutes.²⁴ Upon completion, the 101 Ranch Rodeo Arena included a fenced outdoor arena space surrounded by open land for parking. Tiered grandstand seating lined a rectangular, fenced graded earth arena where spectators could view competitive rodeo events often involving livestock. Corals, chutes and pens were located at each end of the arena. Pens on the south side confined animals in grassy fenced areas. Smaller pens abut chutes at the north end of the arena. Chutes are used to confine livestock immediately before release into the arena, often with a rider. The pens at the north end of the arena were intended as “catch” pens to confine animals after an arena performance.

The main events at the new arena were calf roping, saddle bronc riding, bareback bronc riding, steer wrestling and Brahma bull riding. These events featuring livestock and competitors on horseback required secure open space to separate the animals from spectators. Risers on the grandstands accommodated large crowds and provided unobstructed views into the main arena space. Seating flanked the east and west sides of the arena with box seating that is no longer extant at ground level between the grandstands and the arena fencing (*Figures 05 and 06*). Outbuildings within the perimeter fence served as concession stands and storage. Two portable metal buildings on either side of the perimeter fence were smoking sheds from the local Conoco refinery and were moved to the rodeo site to serve as ticketing booths.²⁵

Fifty-three merchants and business firms purchased advertisement for the first 101 Wild West Rodeo’s souvenir program. Pernel Roberts who starred on the contemporary popular television show *Bonanza* appeared at the 1962 event.²⁶ The annual event proved popular during the 1960s (*Figures 07 and 08*). Numerous local volunteers including Ponca City Rodeo Foundation members lent their time and labor for improvement and maintenance projects at the arena including sealing the wood seats of the grandstands a few years after they were installed to protect the outdoor wood bench seats. In addition to volunteering time and labor to produce rodeos and maintain the 101 Rodeo Arena, Ponca City citizens customized the rodeo event to incorporate local historical themes. A 1968 re-dedication ceremony for Ponca City’s famous 1938 Pioneer Woman statue celebrated a local historical legacy at a rodeo.²⁷ The 101 Wild West Rodeo began hosting 101 Ranch reunions for former employees of the 101 Ranch in 1969.²⁸ During the 1971 rodeo, sixty people came from 12 states for the 101 Ranch reunion.²⁹

²² Cynthia Savage. *National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form Darr School of Aeronautics Hanger No. 3* (National Parks Service: 2005) p 8,-22.

²³ 101 Wild West Rodeo History 1962 website *History* http://www.101wildwestrodeo.com/history/1962_index.htm. Accessed April 10, 2017.

²⁴ *Ibid.*

²⁵ The date these buildings were moved to the rodeo arena is unknown, but their design suggests they were constructed in the mid twentieth century or circa 1962. Interview with Larry Goodno, Chairman of the Ponca City Rodeo Foundation. January 25, 2017.

²⁶ *Ibid.*

²⁷ The 1938 statue was commissioned by local oilman E.W. Marland and was dedicated by Will Rogers. <http://www.101wildwestrodeo.com/history/1962.htm>. Accessed April 10, 2017.

²⁸ <http://www.101wildwestrodeo.com/history/1969.htm>. Accessed April 10, 2017.

²⁹ *Ibid.*

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The 101 Wild West Rodeo's success as a local and regional event allowed the Ponca City Rodeo Foundation to pay off their \$35,666.10 debt in 1972 and devote future funds toward improvements to the arena. In 1982, the Foundation added three more "chute heavens" or raised platform seating spaces above the chutes.³⁰ The Foundation also coordinated the construction of a concrete pad to serve as the Official Rodeo Band's bandstand. The community involvement at the volunteer and Foundation member level and the local participants such as the rodeo band and the annual rodeo queen made the event an inclusive experience for Ponca City residents. One hundred and nineteen ranch hands filed entries to compete in the 1965 101 Ranch Rodeo.³¹

A 1968 alteration re-oriented the north grandstands on either side of the arena to provide better views of the stock as it emerged from the chutes on the south side of the arena.³² This change shortened the arena by one-third and created the current pentagonal shape. The year 1968 marks the last major design change that altered the relationship of major structures and created the permeant configuration of the complex (*Figures 05 and 06*). The 101 Rodeo Arena has hosted the 101 Wild West Rodeo annually since its construction in 1962. Minor improvements such as replacing animal pens in the 1990s represents a local effort to maintain a permanent recreational facility for Ponca City's rodeo.

Conclusion

The 101 Rodeo Arena is significant at the local level under Criterion A as a local Ponca City recreational facility. Organized and produced by local Ponca City citizens, the rodeo event pays homage to the historically significant 101 Ranch that defined the area at the turn of the twentieth century. Further, the rodeo event celebrates Ponca City's local civic pride, frontier heritage, and ranching and agricultural culture. The 101 Rodeo Arena has been the site of the annual event since 1961 and the current fairgrounds and features date to its custom design and construction in 1962 and modification in 1968, specifically for the newly-branded 101 Wild West Rodeo. It retains sufficient integrity of design, location, setting, feeling, materials, workmanship, and association to communicate its historic function through the arrangement of structures and objects.

³⁰ <http://www.101wildwestrodeo.com/history/1982.htm>. Accessed April 10, 2017.

³¹ <http://www.101wildwestrodeo.com/history/1965.htm>. Accessed April 10, 2017.

³² <http://www.101wildwestrodeo.com/history/1968.htm>. Accessed April 10, 2017.

101 Rodeo Arena
Name of Property

Kay County, OK
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8. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

101 Ranch Rodeo. Vertical File Ponca City Library Ponca City, Oklahoma.

101 Wild West Rodeo website *History*. Various years.
<http://www.101wildwestrodeo.com/history/1962.htm>. Accessed April 10, 2017.

Collector's Edition and Official Souvenir Program 101 Ranch Rodeo, 1968. Vertical File Historic Oklahoma Cherokee Strip Opening. Oklahoma Historical Society, Oklahoma City.

Gaston, Kelly E. *National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form Downtown Ponca City Historic District*. National Parks Service, 2010.

Google Maps, 2017.
<https://www.google.com/maps/dir/Ponca+City,+Oklahoma/2600+N+Ash+St,+Ponca+City,+OK+74601/@36.737634,-97.0928997,376m/data=!3m1!1e3!4m13!4m12!1m5!1m1!1s0x87b0f512d2a60285:0x4583da572c3ea508!2m2!1d-97.0855948!2d36.706981!1m5!1m1!1s0x87b0f555c36624ab:0x8ff5d19cb64be407!2m2!1d-97.091235!2d36.738384?hl=en>. Accessed April 10, 2017.

Greenlee, Marcia M. *National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form 101 Ranch Historic District, Bill Pickett's Grave, and White Eagle Monument*. National Parks Service, 1975.

Interview with Larry Goodno, Chairman of the Ponca City Rodeo Foundation. January 25th, 2017.¹

Ponca City. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ponca_City,_Oklahoma. Accessed April 10, 2017.

Ponca City Regional Airport https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ponca_City_Regional_Airport. Accessed April 10, 2017.

Property Assessment Information 2600 N Ash Ponca City, Oklahoma. Kay County Assessor office, Newkirk, Oklahoma.

Savage, Cynthia. *National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form Darr School of Aeronautics Hanger No. 3. Ponca City, Oklahoma*. National Parks Service, 2005.

Warde, Dr. Mary Jane. *National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form White Eagle Park. White Eagle, Oklahoma*. National Parks Service, 2007.

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Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other
- Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): N/A

9. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property 22 acres MOL

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Latitude: 36.738720 | Longitude: -97.094282 |
| 2. Latitude: 36.736755 | Longitude: -97.094195 |
| 3. Latitude: 36.736435 | Longitude: -97.093047 |
| 4. Latitude: 36.736479 | Longitude: -97.090063 |
| 5. Latitude: 36.738620 | Longitude: -97.090071 |

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Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

A 22.4-acre property bounded by W. Prospect Avenue on the north, N. Ash Street on the east, W. Darr Road on the south and N. Darr Park Road on the west.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The proposed boundaries include a portion of a larger 69.93-acre lot owned by the City of Ponca City. The 22 acres (MOL) contained within the verbal boundary description represents an isolated and defined property historically and currently associated with the 101 Rodeo Arena.

10. Form Prepared By

name/title: Rachel Nugent, National Register Coordinator and Sophie Roark, Historic Preservation Specialist
organization: Rosin Preservation
street & number: 1712 Holmes Street
city or town: Kansas City state: MO zip code: 64108
e-mail: Sophie@rosinpreservation.com
telephone: 816-472-4950
date: May 1, 2017

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A USGS map or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

101 Rodeo Arena

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- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.

- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: 101 Rodeo Arena

City or Vicinity: Ponca City

County: Kay County

State: Oklahoma

Photographer: Sophie Roark, Rosin Preservation

Date Photographed: January 25, 2017

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

- 1 of 18: 101 Rodeo Arena grandstands and animal pens. View south.
- 2 of 18: The fenced arena from the raise platform seating. View north.
- 3 of 18: The fenced arena from the northwest bleachers. View southeast.
- 4 of 18: North animal pens. View east.
- 5 of 18: Metal frame and wood bench bleacher seating and metal arena fence. View south
- 6 of 18: Metal and wood animal chutes, platform seating and the announcer's booth along the arena's south side. View southwest.
- 7 of 18: Animal holding pens south of the chutes. View south.
- 8 of 18: Metal frame platform seating above chutes. View east.
- 9 of 18: Concrete slab bandstand. View northeast.
- 10 of 18: Announcer's booth. View northeast.
- 11 of 18: Announcer's booth. View west.
- 12 of 18: Storage building. View northwest.
- 13 of 18: Concession stand. View northwest.
- 14 of 18: Ticket booth on east side of arena. View east.
- 15 of 18: Ticket booth on west side of arena. View east.
- 16 of 18: Trailer adjacent to north perimeter fence. View northwest.

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- 17 of 18: East side of perimeter fence. View north.
- 18 of 18: Chutes and rider platforms. View east.

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

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Figure Log:

Figure 1: Contextual Map. Source: Google Maps, 2017

Figure 2: Site Map. Source: Google Maps, 2017

Figure 3: Aerial photo. Source: Google Maps, 2017

Figure 4: Historic photograph of the 101 Rodeo Arena bleachers under construction in 1962. Source: Oklahoma Historical Society, Oklahoma City.

Figure 5: 1963 ticket showing arena seating and box seating. Source: 101 Ranch Rodeo Vertical File Ponca City Library Ponca City, Oklahoma.

Figure 6: 1968 re-orienting the north set of bleachers shortened the arena by a third and provided better viewing and more box seats. Source: 101 Ranch Rodeo Vertical File Ponca City Library Ponca City, Oklahoma.

Figure 7: 1968 Program for the 101 Wild West Rodeo. Source: Vertical File Historic Oklahoma Cherokee Strip Opening. Oklahoma Historical Society, Oklahoma City.

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Figure 1: Contextual Map. Source: Google Maps, 2017

101 Rodeo Arena, 2600 N. Ash Street Ponca City, OK 74601. 36.737544, -97.09235. WGS84 Datum.

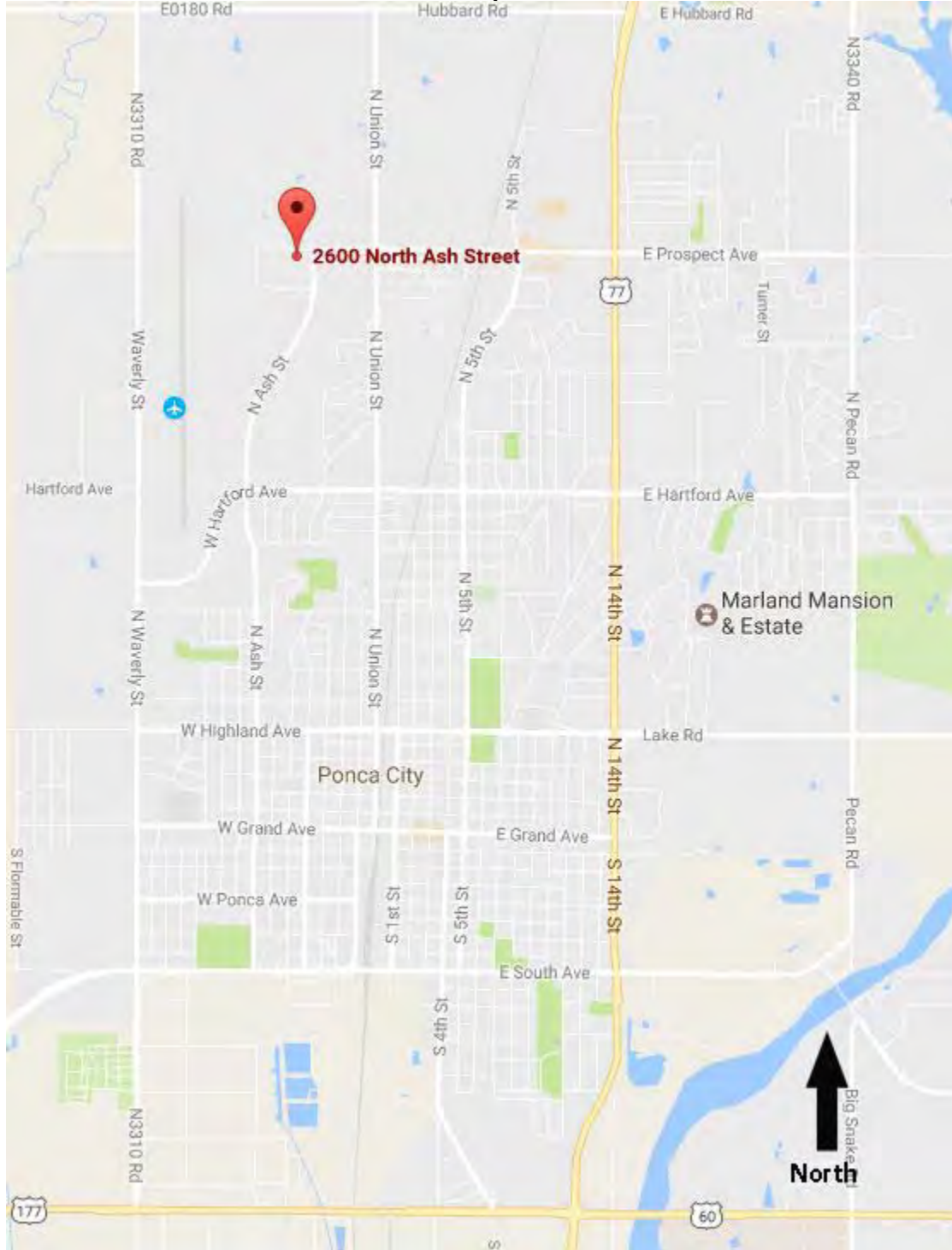


Figure 2: Site Map. Source: Google Maps, 2017

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101 Rodeo Arena, 2600 N. Ash Street Ponca City, OK 74601. 36.737544, -97.09235. WGS84 Datum.



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Kay County, OK
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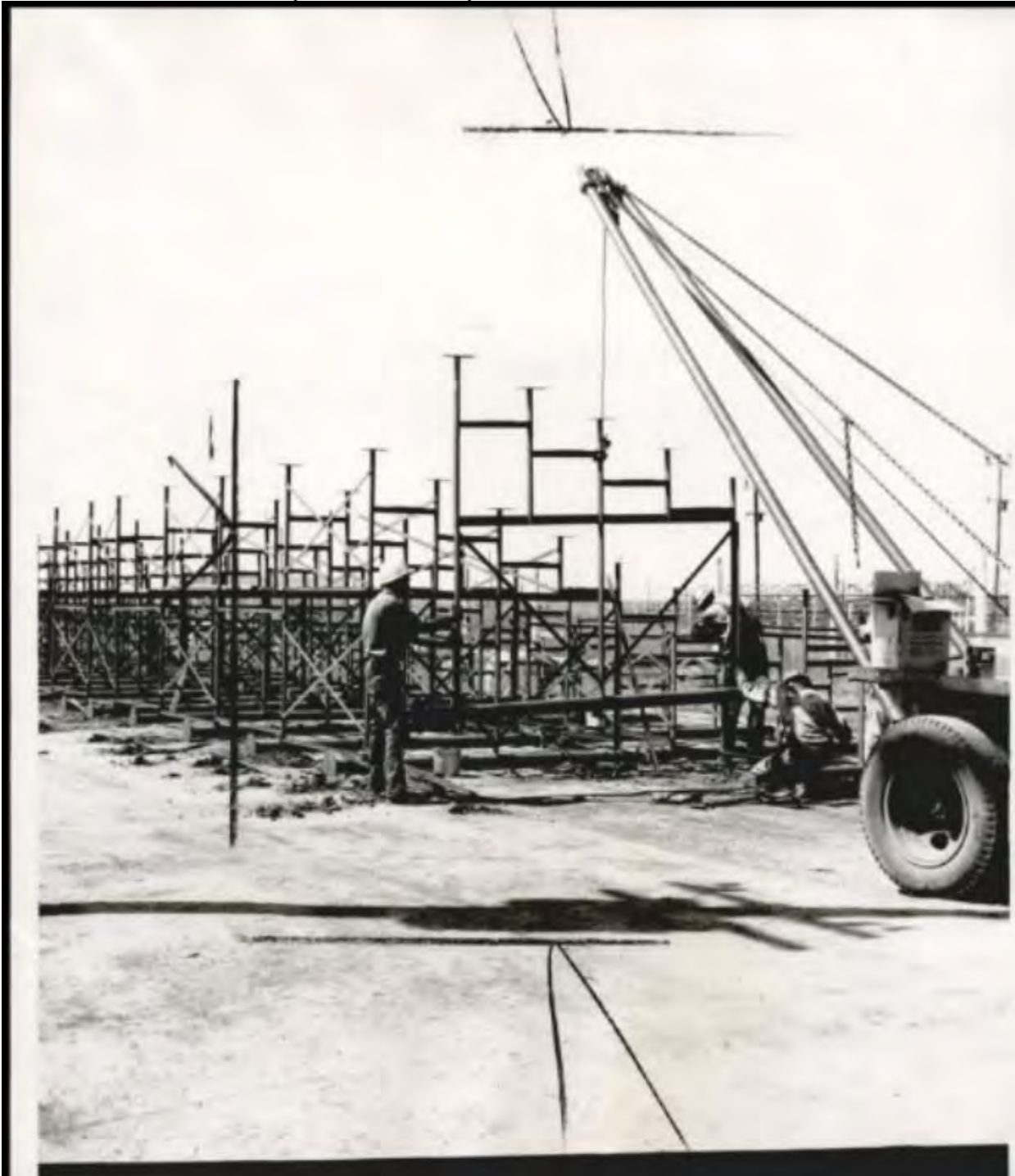
Figure 3: Aerial photo. Source: Google Maps, 2017
101 Rodeo Arena, 2600 N. Ash Street Ponca City, OK 74601. 36.737544, -97.09235. WGS84 Datum.



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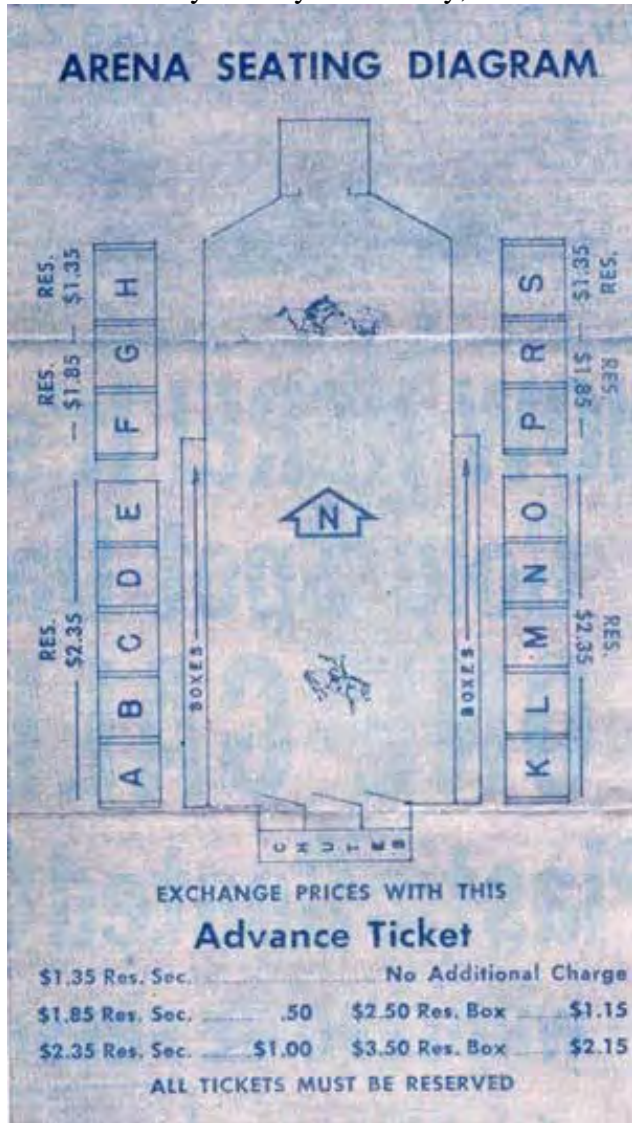
Figure 4: Historic photograph of the 101 Rodeo Arena grandstands under construction in 1962. Source: Oklahoma Historical Society, Oklahoma City.



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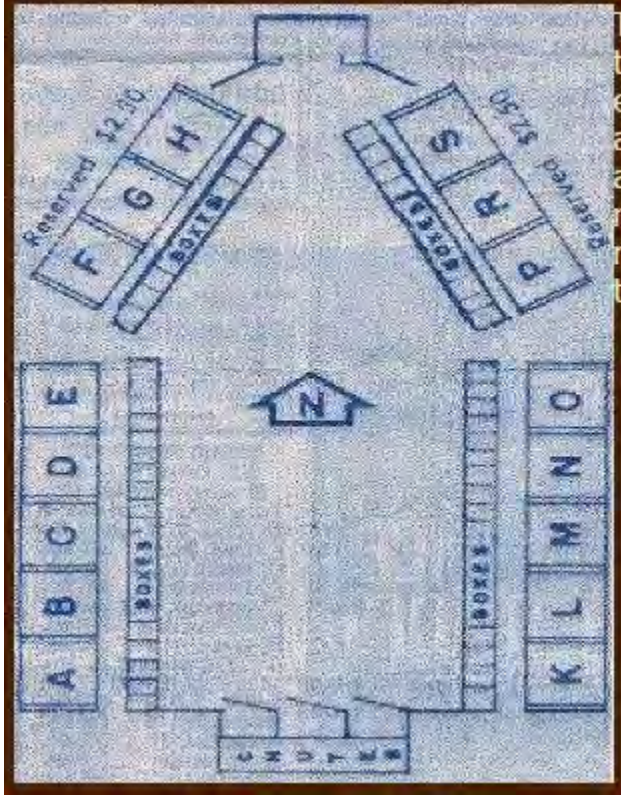
Figure 5: 1963 ticket showing arena seating and box seating. Source: 101 Ranch Rodeo Vertical File Ponca City Library Ponca City, Oklahoma.



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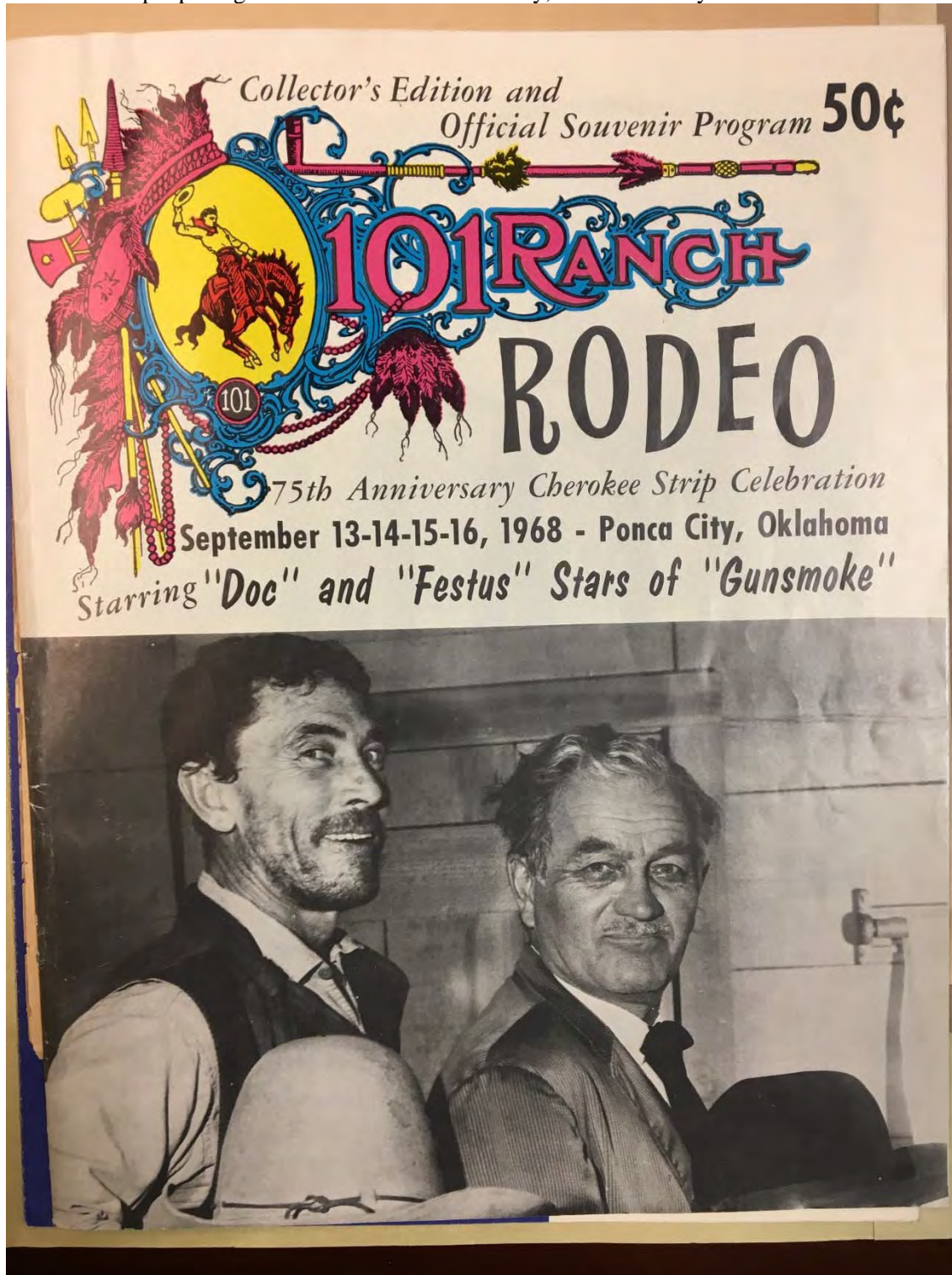
Figure 6: 1968 re-orienting the north set of grandstands shortened the arena by a third and provided better viewing and more box seats. Source: 101 Ranch Rodeo Vertical File Ponca City Library Ponca City, Oklahoma.



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Figure 7: 1968 Program for the 101 Wild West Rodeo. Source: Vertical File Historic Oklahoma Cherokee Strip Opening. Oklahoma Historical Society, Oklahoma City.



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Figure 8: Historic Photo of the 101 Wild West Rodeo 1968. Source: Vertical File Historic Oklahoma Cherokee Strip Opening. Oklahoma Historical Society, Oklahoma City.



ACTION – Fast horses, Perfect Timing, Alert Cowboys – All at the 101 Rodeo

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Figure 9: Photo map. Source: Google maps 2017.



101 Rodeo Arena
2600 N. Ash Street
Ponca City, Kay County, Oklahoma























WARNING

CAUTION: THIS EQUIPMENT IS NOT TO BE USED FOR ANY OTHER PURPOSES. THE USER SHALL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE PROPER USE OF THIS EQUIPMENT. THE USER SHALL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE PROPER MAINTENANCE OF THIS EQUIPMENT. THE USER SHALL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE PROPER SAFETY OF THIS EQUIPMENT.



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The Wild West Rodeo
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101



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LIGHT**
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LIGHT LIGHT LIGHT





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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action: Nomination

Property Name: 101 Rodeo Arena

Multiple Name: _____

State & County: OKLAHOMA, Kay

Date Received:- 10/19/2017 Date of Pending List:- 11/14/2017 Date of 16th Day:- 11/29/2017 Date of 45th Day:- 12/4/2017 Date of Weekly List:- _____

Reference number: SG100001865

Nominator: State

Reason For Review: _____

X Accept Return Reject 12/4/2017 Date

Abstract/Summary Comments: The 101 Rodeo Arena is locally significant under National Register Criterion A in the area of Recreation/Entertainment. Serving as the main exhibition space for the premier local Ponca City rodeo event--the 101 Wild West Rodeo--the 1962 Arena grounds represent a regionally important entertainment venue reflecting the Ponca area's rich ranching heritage.

Recommendation/ Criteria: Accept NR Criterion A

Reviewer Paul Lusignan

Discipline Historian

Telephone (202)354-2229

Date 12/4/2017

DOCUMENTATION: see attached comments ; No see attached SLR : No

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.



Oklahoma Historical Society

Founded May 27, 1893

State Historic Preservation Office

Oklahoma History Center • 800 Nazih Zuhdi Drive • Oklahoma City, OK 73105-7917
(405) 521-6249 • Fax (405) 522-0816 • www.okhistory.org/shpo/shpom.htm

October 17, 2017

OCT 19 2017

J. Paul Loether
Keeper and Chief National Register and
National Historic Landmark Programs
National Park Service
1849 C Street NW, Mail Stop 7228
Washington D.C. 20240

Dear Mr. Loether:

We are pleased to transmit eight National Register of Historic Places nominations for Oklahoma properties. The nominations are for the following properties:

Park Etude, 1028 Connelly Lane, Norman, Cleveland County
101 Rodeo Arena, 2600 N. Ash Street, Ponca City, Kay County
Attucks Community Center, 1001 S. 12th Street, Ponca City, Kay County
McGraw, James J., House, 400 North 4th Street, Ponca City, Kay County
Roosevelt Elementary School, 815 East Highland Avenue, Ponca City, Kay County
Benedictine Heights Hospital, 2000 West Warner Street, Guthrie, Logan County
Edward Richardson Building, 101 Main Street, Arcadia, Oklahoma County
First Congregational Church, 1887 Cecil Street, Waynoka, Woods County

The members of the Historic Preservation Review Committee (state review board), professionally qualified in the fields of historic architecture and history were absent from the public meeting at which each of these nominations was considered and the recommendation to the State Historic Preservation Officer was formulated. Therefore, the member possessing the requisite professional qualifications for evaluation of Attucks Community Center and 101 Rodeo Arena was not present for the HPRC's formulation of its recommendation on the nomination. However, substantive review of this nomination is not requested because the SHPO staff member possessing the requisite professional qualifications participated in the HPRC's deliberations on this noncontroversial nomination.

We look forward to the results of your review. If there any further questions regarding the nominations, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Lynda Ozan
Deputy State Historic
Preservation Officer

Enclosures