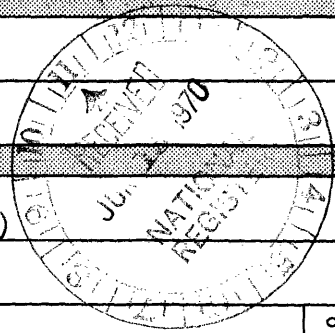


NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

STATE: <b>Oklahoma</b>	
COUNTY: <b>Comanche</b>	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER <b>70.10.35.0011</b>	DATE <b>9/29/70</b>

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)



1. NAME

COMMON:  
**Quanah Parker's Star House**

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
**Quanah Parker Home**

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**Eagle Park (near center N/2 Sec. 23, T 2 N, R 14 W)**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Cache vicinity**

STATE: **Oklahoma**      CODE: **35**      COUNTY: **Comanche**      CODE: **031**

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 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 type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input checked="" 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) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____ _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:  
**Herbert Woesner**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**Eagle Park**

CITY OR TOWN: **Cache**      STATE: **Oklahoma**      CODE: **35**

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

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

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**Comanche County Courthouse**

CITY OR TOWN: **Lawton**      STATE: **Oklahoma**      CODE: **35**

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: **35**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: **Oklahoma**

COUNTY: **Comanche**

ENTRY NUMBER: **70.10.35.0011**

DATE: **9/29/70**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Star House consists of a main two-story section, approximately 50 x 50 feet square, with an attic reached by a crawl hole, and a two-room extension containing a kitchen and dining room. Two-story galleries ring it on two sides. The frame house has at least 12 rooms (varying estimates, dependent upon the definition of "room," boost the count to 22 rooms), eight of which were considered as bedrooms. They were needed, as Quanah had five wives, rooms for each of whom were reportedly furnished alike so none could complain of his partiality.

*interior altered*

The inside walls were papered. After Quanah's death the heirs lathed and plastered some of the rooms. An expansion of nearby Fort Sill in 1956 took in the Parker homestead. The Star House was moved to Cache, sold to Herbert Woesner of Eagle Park in 1958. When he removed some of this plaster, he found underneath it parts of the first paper, which he has since attempted to match so as to restore the rooms to something resembling their original condition. A picket fence surrounded the old house when it still housed Quanah and his family. Neighbors said (probably in jest) the fence was to help him keep his wives at home. More than likely it was intended to keep the curious out, for the old chief was a well-known object of interest and curiosity well before his death.

How did the house acquire the name "Star House"? According to oldtimers, because a rather pompous brigadier general from nearby Fort Sill once asked Quanah for permission to cross the chief's land for some troop maneuvers. "This man," Quanah said, "have on many-stars-like-at-night-in-the-sky, on wagon, on flag, on shoulders . . ." When his audience -- some Texans with still strong Confederate loyalties -- laughed appreciatively, hinted the officer wanted to impress Quanah with the number of warriors he commanded, the Comanche chief retorted; "Quanah bigger leader -- have more warriors. Maybe-so tomorrow he will have many white stars painted on roof to show this." And he did - fourteen white stars appeared on the "Star House" - including two on a smoke-house and two on a summer house.

A word would seem to be in order, too, on Eagle Park itself. While containing rides, skating rink, and other attributes of a family-oriented amusement park, the privately-owned, 250-acre preserve also has one quality in common with the more prestigious Greenfield Village creation of the late Henry Ford. The Star House is not the only building of genuine historic interest on the grounds. To Eagle Park Herbert Woesner has brought a "picket house" erected at nearby Fort Sill in 1872 by troopers of the 10th Cavalry; the Saddle Mountain Mission school (1896) and church (1903); the Frisco railroad depot (1902) from Cache;

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) c. 1890 to the present

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

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

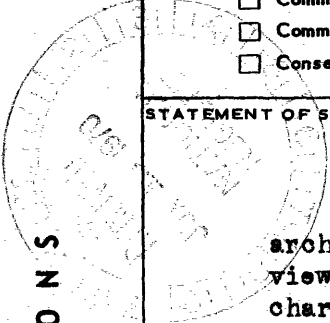
The star-bedecked "Star House" of Quanah Parker is curious architecturally and fascinating from a human-interest point of view. But it is significant primarily because of the strong character of its owner and his influence on his fellow Comanches, first in leading them in resistance to white encroachment on their culture, and then, when that was obviously futile, in urging them to adopt the white man's way.

The drama of Quanah Parker begins with his mother, Cynthia Ann Parker. A white girl, captured by Quahada Comanches in 1836 at the age of nine, she grew up among the Indians in West Texas, became the wife of Peta Nokoni, who later became a Comanche chief. In 1861, when Quanah, her eldest son, was 12, she was recaptured by a party of Texas Rangers, with her infant daughter Prairie Flower, and turned over to an uncle in the more settled part of Texas.

Her marriage with Peta Nokoni (he was killed not too long after she was captured) was apparently a happy one. He seems to have treated her kindly and, though his tribe practiced polygamy, he never took another wife. Following her recapture and return to her people, she made several unsuccessful attempts to escape and rejoin her husband and her adopted people. She died, perhaps in part from sorrow, with her daughter, in 1864.

Quanah was too young to earn the rank of chief when Nokoni, his father, was killed. He eventually worked up to it, however, through the force of his courage and ability. For some years he strongly resisted the white man. His last battle was fought in 1874 at Adobe Walls in the Texas Panhandle. But resistance soon proved futile and on June 24, 1875, at Fort Sill, he and his Quahadi band gave themselves up, the last Comanches to surrender. Following a visit with his mother's white relatives in Texas he tried to adjust to the white man's civilization and to persuade his people to do likewise. He took the last name of his mother, became the first recognized chief of all the Comanches. From then until he died in 1911 he served with the Indian police, a tribal delegate to Washington on several occasions,

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

-----, "Comanche Civilization with History of Quanah Parker," The Chronicles of Oklahoma, Vol. I (1922), pp. 243-252.  
 Lawrence, Arthur R., Personal Letter dated April 22, 1970.  
 Wellman, Paul I., "Cunthia Ann Parker," The Chronicles of Oklahoma, Vol. XII (Spring 1912), pp. 163-170.  
 Wright, Muriel H., A Guide to the Indian Tribes of Oklahoma (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press), 1951, pp. 118-127.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		34° 37' 42"	98° 38' 34"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

NO UTM  
HL

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **c. o. 5 acre**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

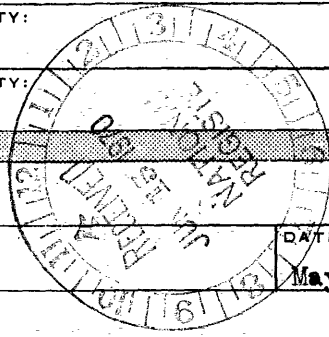
11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: **Kent Ruth**

ORGANIZATION: **Oklahoma Historical Society** DATE: **May 1970**

STREET AND NUMBER: **Historical Building**

CITY OR TOWN: **Oklahoma City** STATE: **Oklahoma** CODE: **35**



12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

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 *Dean N. Shrie*

Title *Liaison Officer to Oklahoma*

Date *10 . VI . 70*

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

*Arrest Allen Connally*  
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

SEP 29 1970

Date \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:

*William J. Huntley*  
 Keeper of The National Register

SEP 20 1970

Date \_\_\_\_\_

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

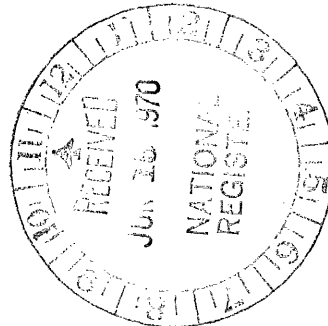
STATE Oklahoma	
COUNTY Comanche	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 70,10,35,001A	DATE 9/29/70

(Number all entries)

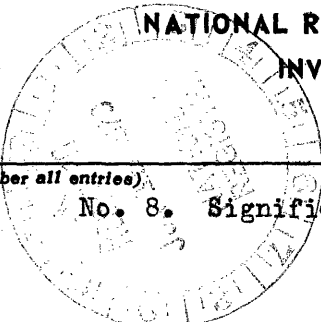
No. 7. Description

Quannah Parker's Star House

and a representative country schoolhouse (Sunny Side, built in 1896 some eight miles south of Cache). In addition he has constructed authentic replicas (clearly labeled as such) of several other structures of strong historic interest to the area. These include the original Red Store (built in 1886 and torn down in 1912); one of the early trading posts in this region that served as site of the 1892 Jerome Council at which the Kiowas and Comanches agreed to open their reservation to settlement; the Violett livery stable (built in 1901, destroyed by fire in 1914); and the newspaper office (from 1902 to 1936) of the Cache Journal.



STATE	
Oklahoma	
COUNTY	
Comanche	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
70-10-35-001A	9/29/70



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

(Number all entries)

No. 8. Significance

Quanah Parker's Star House

and as one of three judges on the Court of Indian Offenses<sup>5</sup>. He was, says Muriel H. Wright, "the best-known Comanches of the reservation period, is one of the romantic Indian characters in the history of Oklahoma."

Under terms of the Jerome Commission in 1892 the Comanches (with the Kiowas and Apaches) took land allotments. Quanah took his 160 acres south of Eagle Mountain, several miles north of Cache. Shortly before this time -- perhaps in 1890 or 1891 -- he built the so-called Star House. "Now, me-- Quanah," he is supposed to have said, "move wives and children out of tepees -- live in house like whites . . ." Who helped him build the rather pretentious house is still not known precisely. Some Texas cattlemen assisted, probably to gain favor with him and his people; that much is known. It is also known that Uncle Sam did not help. The attitude of the government in this matter is succinctly outlined in a letter from Indian Commission T. J. Morgan to Charles E. Adams, Indian agent at Anadarko. Dated Dec. 18, 1890, it read as follows.

"In reply to your letter of the 8th ultimo, calling attention to a previous letter in reference to building a house for Quanah Parker, I invite your attention to the fact that while at your agency, I stated to you personally that I did not deem it wise for the government to contribute money to assist building a house for an Indian who has five wives. I do not think the proposition admits of discussion.

(signed) T. J. Morgan, Commissioner

The fact of those five wives - actually, he took seven wives in all, though he never had more than five at one time and marital attrition (he "threw away" several, to use the Indian term for divorce) left him with only two at the time of his death - gave rise to an oft-repeated story, perhaps in part apochryphal, deserving of at least footnote recognition in history. "Quanah," the Commissioner of Indian Affairs is supposed to have said to the chief in 1892, "you have agreed to take allotments and sell your surplus lands and let them be settled by white people. When the white people came to be your neighbors it will be the white man's law and the white man's law says one wife. You have too many wives. You will have to decide which one you want to keep and tell the rest of them to go

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

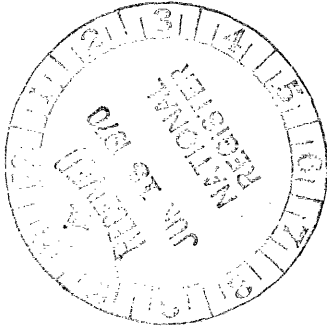
STATE Oklahoma	
COUNTY Comanche	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 70.10.35.0014	DATE 9/29/70

(Number all entries)

No. 8. Significance

Quanah Parker's Star House

somewhere else to live." Quanah listened attentively, then startled the commissioner with a shrewd: "You tell um!" After a moment he explained: "You tell me which wife I love most - you tell me which wife love me most - you tell me which wife cry most when I send her 'way - then I pick um." That apparently ended the matter.

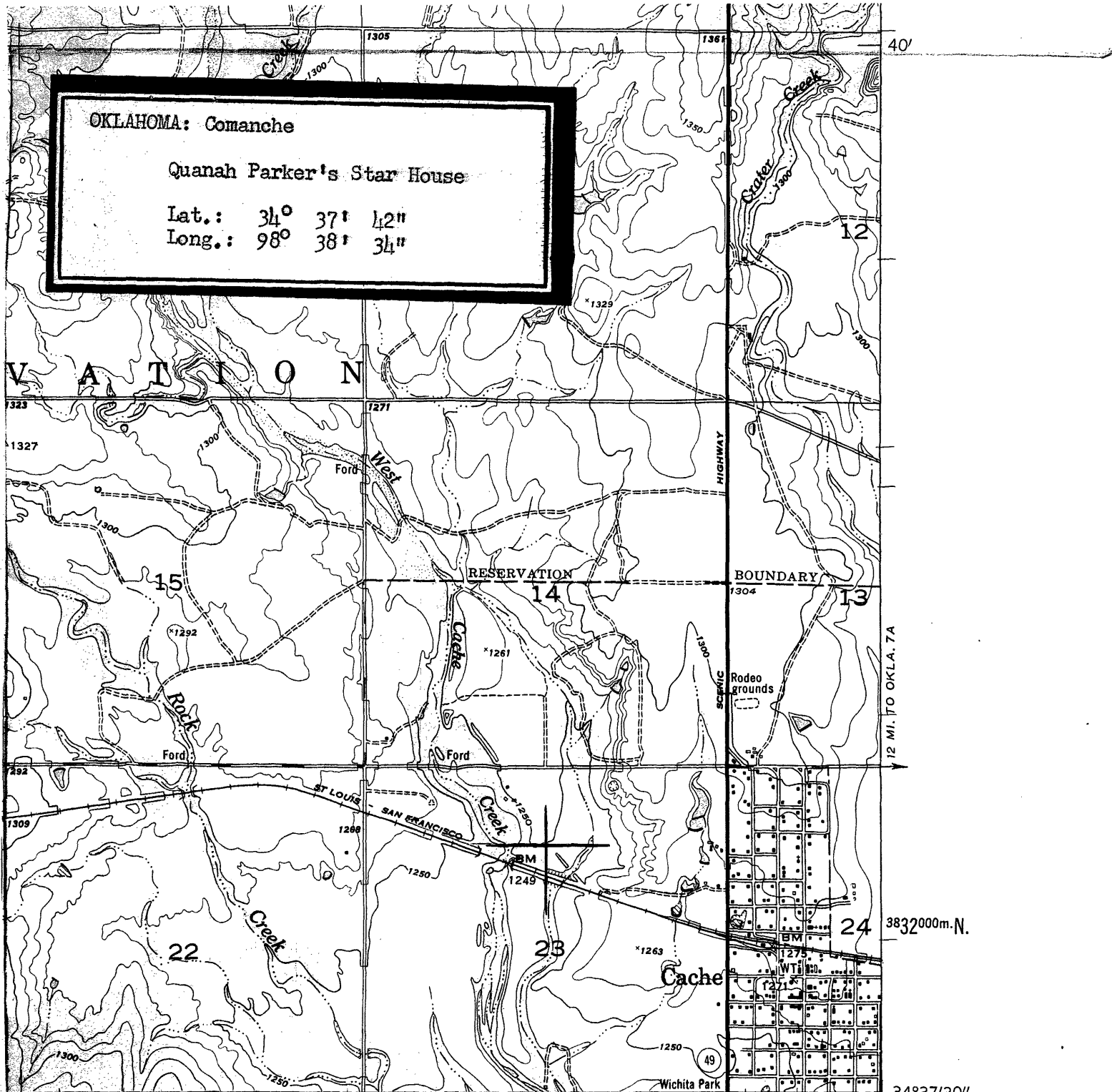


**OKLAHOMA: Comanche**

**Quanah Parker's Star House**

Lat.: 34° 37' 42"

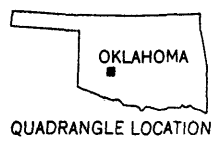
Long.: 98° 38' 34"



40' INTERIOR-GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D. C. 1959-NS MR 5901 532000m.E. 0.1 MI. TO U.S. 62 & OKLA. 7 LAWTON (CH.) VIA U.S. 62 & OKLA. 7 16 MI. 34°37'30" 98°37'30" 3832000m.N.

**ROAD CLASSIFICATION**

Heavy-duty ..... ——— Light-duty .....  
 Medium-duty ..... ——— Unimproved dirt .....  
 ○ State Route



**QUANAH MOUNTAIN, OKLA.**  
 NW/4 CACHE 15' QUADRANGLE  
 N 3437.5—W 9837.5/7.5

