

PH 0667617

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED APR 25 1978
DATE ENTERED DE 1978

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Antelope Hills
AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

of Durham

NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Durham/Crawford
STATE

X VICINITY OF
CODE

COUNTY 6

CODE

Oklahoma

Roger Mills

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

ACCESSIBLE

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERCIAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Wayne R. McColgin
STREET & NUMBER

1733 Red Fox Road
CITY, TOWN

Edmond,

VICINITY OF

STATE
Oklahoma

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Roger Mills County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Cheyenne

STATE
Oklahoma

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Oklahoma Survey Inventory

1976 DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

Oklahoma Historical Society

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Antelope Hills are situated within the region known as the Great Plains which extends from the base of the Rocky Mountains through Colorado, Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, Nebraska, and the Dakotas. Elevations generally over 2,000 feet, limited rainfall, sand soils, and granna-buffalo grass as the most common vegetation are characteristics of this region

The Antelope Hills, rising sharply from the plains and visible for miles, are located in extreme western Oklahoma in northern Roger Mills County. This region of the State is a part of the High Plains-Redbed Plains area. Geologic formations of this area consist of sandstone and shale primarily. Most or all of Oklahoma was covered by water during the Cambian, Mississippian, and Cretaceous periods. The great thicknesses of rock were deposited to form the Redbed Plains during the Permian period, and Tertiary materials, eroded from the Rocky Mountains during the Cenezoic period, were deposited in northwestern Oklahoma. Over the centuries the rising and subsiding seas, wind, and rainfall have resulted in the formation of the Antelope Hills. This area of the State receives approximately twenty-two inches of rainfall per year and has a mean annual temperature of fifty-three degrees with a mean January temperature of thirty-five and July temperature of eighty degrees. These climatic conditions limit the intensity of agriculture in the region. Primarily the area is grazing land, with some production of small grain crops. Short grasses and shinn oak are the principle vegetative cover. The area is drained by the Canadian and Washita Rivers. Gas and oil are the main mineral resources, and the only nonpetroleum mineral is salt which underlies much of the area. The Antelope Hills are located in the least populus portion of Oklahoma.

The Antelope Hills have been of importance to the Indians, explorers, traders, pioneers crossing the frontier, farmers, ranchers, and the most recent group, oil and gas producers.

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Form 10-300a
(July 1969)

APR 1970
NATIONAL
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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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(Continuation Sheet)

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ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
1378	

(Number all entries)

1849, Marcy reported in his journal that "From a high ridge near our camp we can see the Antelope, or Boundary mounds, far to the west." By May 31 the California-bound expedition reached the Antelope Hills. Marcy describes them as ". . . about one hundred and fifty feet high, of porous sandstone, and appear to be the result of volcanic action. They rise almost perpendicularly from the smooth prairie, are flat upon the top, and present every indication of having been raised out of the earth by volcanic agency. They are near the 100th degree of longitude, and are sometimes called the Boundary mounds, as being near the line formerly claimed by Texas as her eastern boundary."

The promise of wealth also attracted "gold seekers" to the Antelope Hills. In 1859 a party of Mexicans returning from Spanish Peaks in Colorado reportedly were attacked by a band of Cheyenne. The gold and silver the Mexicans were supposed to have been carrying was believed to have been buried somewhere in the Antelope Hills. Only two of the group escaped and reached Mexico. In 1902 a Mexican, claiming to be a decendent of one of the survivors, returned to the Antelope Hills with a map showing the location of the buried treasure. However, he found no gold or silver. But, people in the area continued to search for the Mexican treasure as late as the 1920's. One settler did find an iron pot which contained traces of gold, but nothing else was ever found.

In the mid-nineteenth century the question of a transcontinental railroad was being debated. The need for such a means of transportation was obvious, however, the route for the first railway was a point of contention. First Lieutenant A. W. Whipple was selected to survey the 34th parallel as a possible route. This route passed through Indian Territory and the Antelope Hills. The survey team of soldiers and scientists included such men as the German artist Molhausen and the noted botanist J. M. Bigelow. On September 4, 1853, the party camped near the present town of Crawford, Oklahoma in the vicinity of the Antelope Hills and spent their last night in the Indian Territory. Although this route was not selected for the transcontinental railroad, the information gained from the survey did help to disprove the theory of the Great American Desert and helped stimulate interest in the region as a place for settlement. Another railroad and wagon road survey was conducted through the Antelope Hills by Edward F. Beale in December 1858 from Fort Smith to the Colorado River. F. E. Engle, chronicler of the expedition, described the Antelope Hills as "high mesa or table-top hills of white rotten sandstone . . ." He believed the Canadian Riverbed held great promise for the location of a railroad.

The military also used the Antelope Hills as a landmark. In 1858 Captain John S. Ford in command of a troop of Texas Rangers led his men and a force of friendly Indians, mostly Tonkawas, in pursuit of hostile Comanches. From Texas the party passed through Tillman, Kiowa, and Beckham Counties of Oklahoma and crossed into present Roger Mills County. They forded

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the Washita River at Rush Creek and a scouting party found evidence of Comanches in the area. A small village, about five lodges, was located in the Antelope Hills. Old Placido, the Tonkawa chief, and his men attacked the village. A few braves escaped, and they were pursued by the entire force of Rangers and Indian allies. From a high bluff the larger winter camp of the Comanche Tribe, which contained about seventy lodges, was spotted on Little Robe Creek. Iron Jacket, so named for the coat of iron mail that he wore, rode out alone to taunt the Rangers, believing his coat would protect him from their bullets. After he was killed, another lone war chief rode out, but he too was shot. Then the Rangers attacked the camp. Many horses were captured and twenty-three captives were taken. Another party of Comanches soon appeared, and engaged the Rangers in a skirmish. But, Ford, having been warned by one of the captives that several other large villages were located nearby, led his force out of the Antelope Hills.

The Antelope Hills were a landmark for George A. Custer and his troops during the Washita Campaign. In 1863 certain Plains tribes had been assigned reservations in accordance with the Medicine Lodge Treaties. However, the Indians were soon forced to leave their reservations in order find food. Custer, in 1868, was in pursuit of a band of Cheyenne who were thus in violation of the treaties. His expedition traversed the Antelope Hills in their march toward the Washita River village of Chief Black Kettle.

In 1869 the Cheyenne and Arapaho were assigned a yet smaller reservation, which comprised six of the present western Oklahoma counties. The Antelope Hills are located in the northern portion of that area. In the 1870's the range cattle industry experienced tremendous growth, and ranchers looked to the Indian Territory for more grazing land. Although the Interior Department did not allow the lease of Indian lands, they did decide to make some exceptions in 1882 when seven signed leases were presented in Washington. It was decided that as long as the Indians were treated fairly and they did not complain, the ranchers could lease the land. The Cheyenne and Arapaho Cattle Company leased one million acres in the northern part of the Cheyenne and Arapaho reservation, which included the Antelope Hills, for \$20,000. The ranchers experienced the hardships of other cattlemen on the western frontier, including rustlers, disease, and adverse weather conditions. The large trail herds moving through the area to the markets in Kansas were a constant source of trouble for the company. These herds infected the cattle grazing on the range with disease and provided rustlers a convenient means of moving stolen cattle from the territory. Finally, in 1885, President Grover Cleveland ordered all of the ranchers out of the Indian Territory and required the destruction of all improvements constructed on the land.

A few years after the departure of the large ranchers from the Cheyenne and Arapaho Country, white settlers were granted permanent title to the

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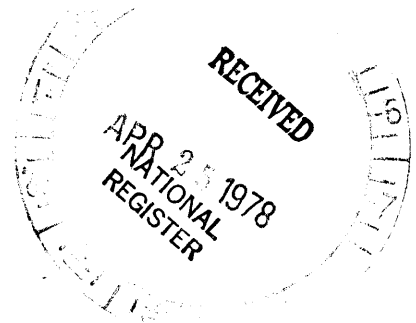
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(Number all entries)

land. On April 19, 1892, the area was opened to homesteaders by means of a land run, one of the methods used to distribute land in the territory. Farmers and ranchers made their claims and began building homes, planting crops, and raising stock in the Antelope Hills.

Today, farming and ranching remain the chief occupations of the residents of the Antelope Hills area. With the increasing demand for new energy sources, oil and gas producers are making intense investigations of western Oklahoma and moving rapidly into the Antelope Hills.



8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE: The Antelope Hills have been a significant landmark for the Indians, explorers, traders, military expeditions, and settlers. They were important for the Indian people centuries before the arrival of Europeans to this continent. Archeological evidence indicates that tribes from the Southwest, the Plains, and areas to the east all frequented this region. Because of the elevation, the Hills provided a vantage point for scouting, as well as providing a protected camping area. The abundance of wild game, including deer, antelope, buffalo, turkeys, and many small game animals, made this a favored hunting ground for the Wichita, Comanche, Cheyenne, Arapaho, and many other tribes. Wild fruits, especially grapes and plums, were plentiful and of excellent quality. As late as 1894, the Cheyenne came to hunt in the Antelope Hills; however, by that time game was not nearly so abundant.

Several American explorers and traders journeyed through the Antelope Hills. Major Stephen H. Long, after finding a location for a new military installation, Fort Smith, in 1819 took an expedition to trace the Arkansas and Red Rivers. John Bell and the famous botanist, Edwin James, were members of the party. After reaching the Rocky Mountains, Long began to descend what he assumed was the Red River. However, it was actually the wide bed of the Canadian River which passes through the Antelope Hills. The season was dry and hot, and water was obtainable only by digging in the riverbed. But, in the Antelope Hills it was not even available by this means. The men did find an abundance of wild fruits, especially grapes, of a quality equal to that anywhere. The Antelope Hills were also visited by traders on the way to Santa Fe, opened to trade after Mexico gained independence in 1821. Josiah Gregg, who had visited Santa Fe earlier for reasons of health, pioneered a more direct route to the market which followed the Canadian River. His party included men from seven different nations. Though this route was not used as extensively for trade as the Santa Fe Trail, it was an important road for many settlers who followed. The Antelope Hills provided an important landmark on this route.

The discovery of gold in California lured thousands of people to the West, and many of them looked for the Antelope Hills as a point of reference on the trail. In 1848 Captain Randolph B. Marcy was commissioned to survey a wagon road from Fort Smith to the West. In 1849 he led a party of "gold seekers" along this road known as the California Road. On May 29,

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Thoburn, Joseph B., "A Campaign of the Texas Rangers Against Comanches," Sturm's Oklahoma Magazine (vol. 10, nos. 5 and 6, vol. 11, no. 2).
 Gregg, Josiah, Commerce on the Prairie (Philadelphia, 1851).
 Foreman, Grant, ed., Marcy and the Gold Seekers (Norman, Okla., 1930).
 Harrel, Melvin, "Oklahoma's Million Acre Ranch," @ Chronicles of Oklahoma (vol. 29, no. 1).
 Selected material from the Indian Pioneer Papers, Archives Division, Okla. Hist. Society

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 270 acres
 UTM REFERENCES 11-28-78

Zone EASTING	A	114	420810	3974210	Zone EASTING	B	114	420240	3972910	Zone NORTHING
	C	114	4193910	397130510		D	114	420650	397431210	
	VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION									

The Antelope Hills include a series of five table-top hills. They are surrounded by gently rolling prairie, and most of the area is utilized for ranching.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
Oklahoma		Roger Mills	
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Melyena Thurman, Architectural Historian
 ORGANIZATION
Oklahoma Historical Society
 STREET & NUMBER
Historical Building
 CITY OR TOWN
Oklahoma City
 DATE
July 14, 1977
 TELEPHONE
(405) 521-2491
 STATE
Oklahoma

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL STATE LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE Harry L. Rousee M.D. DATE 7-20-78

FOR NPS USE ONLY
 I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER
 DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION
 ATTEST: William Woviel
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER
 DATE 12/14/78
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER
 DATE 12/14/78