



Project 5: multiple sites

Current Projects and Partners 2013

1. **Historic Structures Report for the Stone Barracks at Fort Gibson National Historic Landmark** – Oklahoma Historical Society
2. **Interpretive Panels for the Smokehouse and Spring House at the Murrell Home National Historic Landmark** – Oklahoma Historical Society
3. **Pawnee Bill Ranch National Historic Landmark Study** – Colorado State University
4. **Revised Fort Sill National Historic Landmark Nomination** – U.S. Army
5. **African American Soldiers in the West, 1866-1891, Multiple Property Documentation** – Organization of American Historians

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The Honey Springs Battlefield retains a high degree of integrity of location, association, setting, and feeling, which are the most important aspects for historic battlefields. Photo courtesy: Lynda Schwan, Honey Springs Battlefield National Historic Landmark nomination

RECENT SUCCESSES

Honey Springs Battlefield Designated as a National Historic Landmark

The Civil War Battle of Honey Springs, fought in Indian Territory on July 17, 1863, had a far-reaching impact on the “Five Civilized Tribes” (Cherokee, Creek (or Muskogee), Seminole, Choctaw, and Chickasaw) as well as on other Indian people in the nineteenth century development of the United States. The battle, in which Indian men fought on both sides – as members of Union and Confederate regiments in the formalized style of Anglo-American warfare – was the climax of a devastating concurrent civil war within the Cherokee and Creek nations. To restore peace after the Civil War, all five nations were forced to sign Reconstruction Treaties that radically changed their sovereignty, land base, social structure, and relationship with the United States. In addition, the battle was among the first engagements in which former African-American slaves of Indians participated in Union uniform.

On February 27, 2013, Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar designated the Honey Springs Battlefield as a National Historic Landmark. The new NHL covers approximately 1.3 square miles of gently rolling upland prairie in McIntosh and Muskogee counties. Changes on the land since Civil War times have been minimal so the battlefield retains a high

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Honey Springs Battlefield Designated as a National Historic Landmark (cont. from page 1)

degree of integrity of location, association, setting, and feeling, which are the most important aspects for historic battlefields. The Oklahoma Historical Society owns the majority of the land within the NHL and manages the property as the Honey Springs Battlefield Historic Site.

While the battlefield was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1970, the Oklahoma Historical Society has performed additional archival research and archeological surveys upon which the NHL designation is based. Using metal detectors, surveyors turned up numerous artifacts including minie bullets and lead balls, uniform buttons, gun parts, and camp equipment. Electronic surveying instruments noted exact artifact locations, and the resulting information allowed the production of computer-generated maps. The NHL boundary includes the locations of the decisive actions: the opening of the engagement, the main battle and the turning point of the battle; the Texas Road crossing at Dirty Creek, which the Confederates had tried to control; the general route of retreat; and the site of the Confederate depot, which was burned in an effort to prevent Union troops from capturing the supplies.

ABOUT US

The Heritage Partnerships Program of the NPS Intermountain Region includes several programs that provide technical and financial assistance to partner organizations to encourage the preservation of our Nation's most significant places. These programs, which are funded through the National Recreation and Preservation (NR&P) Program, work collaboratively with partners to extend the core mission of the NPS beyond the boundaries of our national parks and into communities across the region. Heritage Partnerships Programs include: National Historic Landmarks, Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS), Historic American Engineering Record (HAER), and Historic American Landscapes Survey (HALS) documentation programs, the National Heritage Areas Program, Historic Surplus Property Program, and the Japanese American Confinement Sites Grant Program.

WE'RE HERE FOR YOU

Could your project benefit from assistance from the Heritage Partnerships Program staff?

Contact us to find out

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EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA™

NPS Assists with Stabilization of Ruins at Fort Washita National Historic Landmark

Fort Washita was established in 1842 at the mouth of the Washita River to honor treaty commitments and to protect the Chickasaws and Choctaws from Plains tribes. The fort, an impressive mix of buildings constructed of logs and limestone, also served as a way-station for travelers on the Southern Overland Trail. In April 1861, with the outbreak of the Civil War, Fort Washita was abandoned by U.S. forces and occupied on May 1, 1861, by Confederate troops from Texas. Southern soldiers used the post as a headquarters during the remainder of the Civil War, abandoning it in 1865. Left to the ravages of time, the fort deteriorated, although several stone foundations, including the native, stone walls of the West Barracks, remained.

A prominent Chickasaw family owned the property when it was purchased, in 1962, by the Oklahoma Historical Society, which restored the South Barracks and supported the ruins of the two-story West Barracks by placing buttresses inside the stone walls. Fort Washita was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1965.

In recent years the West Barracks ruins began to show rapid and accelerating deterioration, making immediate action necessary to preserve the resource, which is an important part of the site's educational and historic interpretation. Working with the Oklahoma Historical Society, the Heritage Partnerships Program provided funding and technical support in the development and implementation of a structural bracing system to stabilize and preserve the West Barracks ruins. The work involved bracing the west wall with a steel tube strut and bracing the north and south walls with steel ties and through-bolts.

The Heritage Partnerships Program provided funding and technical support in the development and implementation of the structural bracing system to stabilize and preserve the West Barracks ruins.



A steel tube strut braces a wall at Fort Washita's West Barracks. Photo courtesy: Oklahoma Historical Society



The entrance to Fort Washita. Photo courtesy: Oklahoma Historical Society



The Boley Library, constructed in 1934, is part of the Boley National Historic Landmark District. Photo courtesy: National Park Service

NPS Provides Assistance for Historic Structures Report and Rehabilitation Plan for Boley Public Library

Established in 1903 during a time of African-American oppression and segregation, the Town of Boley became the largest of the exclusively black towns in Oklahoma, counting many businesses and a population of more than one thousand in the 1910 census. In 1934, with help from the Works Progress Administration, the Ladies Industrial Club of Boley succeeded in constructing the Boley Public Library, a modest, single-story masonry building built in the style of the WPA and faced with rough-cut sandstone.

For decades, even as Boley's population – and membership in the Ladies Industrial Club – declined, the club managed to raise enough money to keep the library open. In 1975 it was included in the boundary of the Boley Historic District, designated a National Historic Landmark. In the early 1990s, however, the library closed and has remained shuttered, although the Town of Boley has desired to rehabilitate the building and place it back in service.

To that end, the Heritage Partnerships Program provided financial and technical assistance and worked with the Town of Boley and the Coltrane Group to complete a Historic Structures Report for the library. The Coltrane Group is a nonprofit organization committed to the revitalization and economic development of historically black towns in Oklahoma.

Mike Kertok, a Norman, Oklahoma architect, was hired to complete a historic structures report, which found the library to be in generally good condition because repairs and maintenance had been performed over the years by the Ladies Industrial Club and the Town of Boley. Rehabilitation recommendations focused on bringing the building up to code, making needed repairs, and improving its functionality. The report will serve as a reference document for the Coltrane Group as it seeks to secure the necessary funding to complete the recommended work. The goal is for the library to re-open in 2014.

In 1975, the library was included in the boundary of the Boley Historic District, designated a National Historic Landmark.



Archway and iron gate, with interpretive signs, erected at the Monument Hill pull-out, which is within the 101 Ranch National Historic Landmark. Photo courtesy: 101 Ranch Old Timers Association

National Park Foundation Provides Funding for Interpretive Pull-Out and New Gate at the 101 Ranch National Historic Landmark

In partnership with the 101 Ranch Old Timers Association, the Heritage Partnerships Program provided technical assistance and monitored the construction of a paved interpretive pull-out on Monument Hill, within the boundary of the 101 Ranch National Historic Landmark near Ponca City. The project, funded in part by a \$7,500 National Park Foundation Impact Grant, improved public access to the grassy hilltop where famed African-American cowboy Bill Pickett is buried. Previously, visitors had to park on the shoulder of State Highway 156 and scale a barbed-wire fence to visit the gravesite and a 14-foot stone monument topped with a white eagle of painted concrete. The cairn was built in 1923 to honor the friendship of Ponca Chief White Eagle with the 101 Ranch. The grant also funded the design and construction of an archway gate and two podium-style interpretive signs, one of which identifies those buried on the hill. Fencing also was installed to protect the site from cattle.

Named for its cattle brand, the 101 Ranch was established by Colonel George Washington Miller in 1879. The 101 Ranch once sprawled across 110,000 acres, employed 200 cowhands, and became famous as an early twentieth century hub of “wild West” entertainment and movie westerns of the silent-film era. The ranch’s crew included African-American cowboys, the most famous of whom was Pickett, who invented the rodeo sport of steer wrestling (originally known as bulldogging) and also starred in the ranch’s renowned 101 Ranch Wild West Show, which performed in London in 1914. The ranch was designed a National Historic Landmark in 1975.



A new interpretive sign names those buried on Monument Hill. Photo courtesy: 101 Ranch Old Timers Association

The 101 Ranch Wild West Show introduced the rodeo sport of bulldogging (steer wrestling), invented by Bill Pickett, one of the show’s stars.

101 Ranch National Historic Landmark Interpretive Signage Project Completed

The Heritage Partnerships Program provided funding and technical assistance to the 101 Ranch Old Timers Association to design, construct and install four interpretive, podium-style signs at the 101 Ranch National Historic Landmark near Ponca City. The new signs are topical, providing information on various aspects of the historic ranch, which was established in 1879 by Colonel George Washington Miller and once sprawled across 110,000 acres in north-central Oklahoma. One sign details the physical layout of the ranch headquarters in about 1915, while two others showcase the 101 Ranch Company Store and the history of three extant structures (two silos and the headquarters power house). The fourth sign offers information on the exotic animals that once lived at the 101 Ranch and features a restored bear den and alligator pit.

The four new signs were placed near similar signage erected by the 101 Ranch Old Timers Association at the site of the ranch's former headquarters, which the association maintains and operates as a roadside picnic area off State Highway 156, about five miles southwest of Ponca City. The earlier signs focused on the Miller Brothers 101 Ranch White House, the 101 Ranch Wild West Show and Native American involvement in the ranch and its shows.

At one time, the 101 Ranch was the largest diversified farm and cattle ranch in the United States. The 200 cowhands working the ranch developed a reputation for excellence; whenever they competed in the local round-up competitions, they usually won. The crew of cowhands comprised black and white cowboys, most notably the famed African-American cowboy Bill Pickett, who invented the rodeo sport of steer wrestling (originally known as bulldogging). The crew eventually began putting on shows called the 101 Ranch Wild West Show, which performed in London in 1914. The ranch, designated a National Historic Landmark in 1975, is of historical significance because of its place in western history and American popular entertainment.



One of the new podium-style interpretive signs placed at the former headquarters site at the 101 Ranch National Historic Landmark. Photo courtesy: 101 Ranch Old Timers Association

CURRENT PROJECTS



The Stone Barracks at Fort Gibson National Historic Landmark. Photo courtesy: National Park Service.

1. Historic Structures Report for the Stone Barracks at Fort Gibson National Historic Landmark

Project Partner: Oklahoma Historical Society
HPP Contact: Tom Keohan
Location: Fort Gibson

Project Goal: Complete a Historic Structures Report assessment and plans for the preservation of the historic Stone Barracks.

HPP Role: Provide partial funding and technical assistance.



The Murrell Home was built in 1845 by Virginian George Murrell. Photo courtesy: Library of Congress

2. Interpretive Panels for the Smokehouse and Spring House at the Murrell Home National Historic Landmark

Project Partner: Oklahoma Historical Society
HPP Contact: Tom Keohan
Location: Park Hill

Project Goal: Develop design plans and cost estimates for interpretive panels for the historic smokehouse and spring house.

HPP Role: Provide funding and technical assistance.



Interior of the Pawnee Bill Ranch house. Photo courtesy: Oklahoma Historical Society

3. Buffalo Bill Cody and Wild West Shows Theme Study and National Historic Landmark Nomination

Project Partner: Colorado State University
HPP Contact: Shirl Kasper
Location: Pawnee

Project Goal: Conclude a study to determine the national significance of sites associated with Buffalo Bill Cody and the Wild West Shows, including the Pawnee Bill Ranch in Oklahoma.

HPP Role: Provide funding and technical assistance.

4. Revised Fort Sill National Historic Landmark Nomination

Project Partner: U.S. Army
HPP Contact: Christy Dickinson
Location: Lawton

Project Goal: To clarify the existing boundary and update the National Historic Landmark nomination.

HPP Role: Provide technical assistance, as well as advice and guidance for the project.



Bird's Eye View of Fort Sill, date unknown. Photo courtesy: Library of Congress

5. African American Soldiers in the West, 1866-1891, Multiple Property Documentation

Project Partner: Organization of American Historians
HPP Contact: Charles Haecker and Shirl Kasper
Location: Western United States, including Oklahoma

Project Goal: Complete a National Register Multiple Property Documentation Form that will document the history and significance of the men known popularly as the Buffalo Soldiers, and identify properties associated with that history, including sites in Utah.

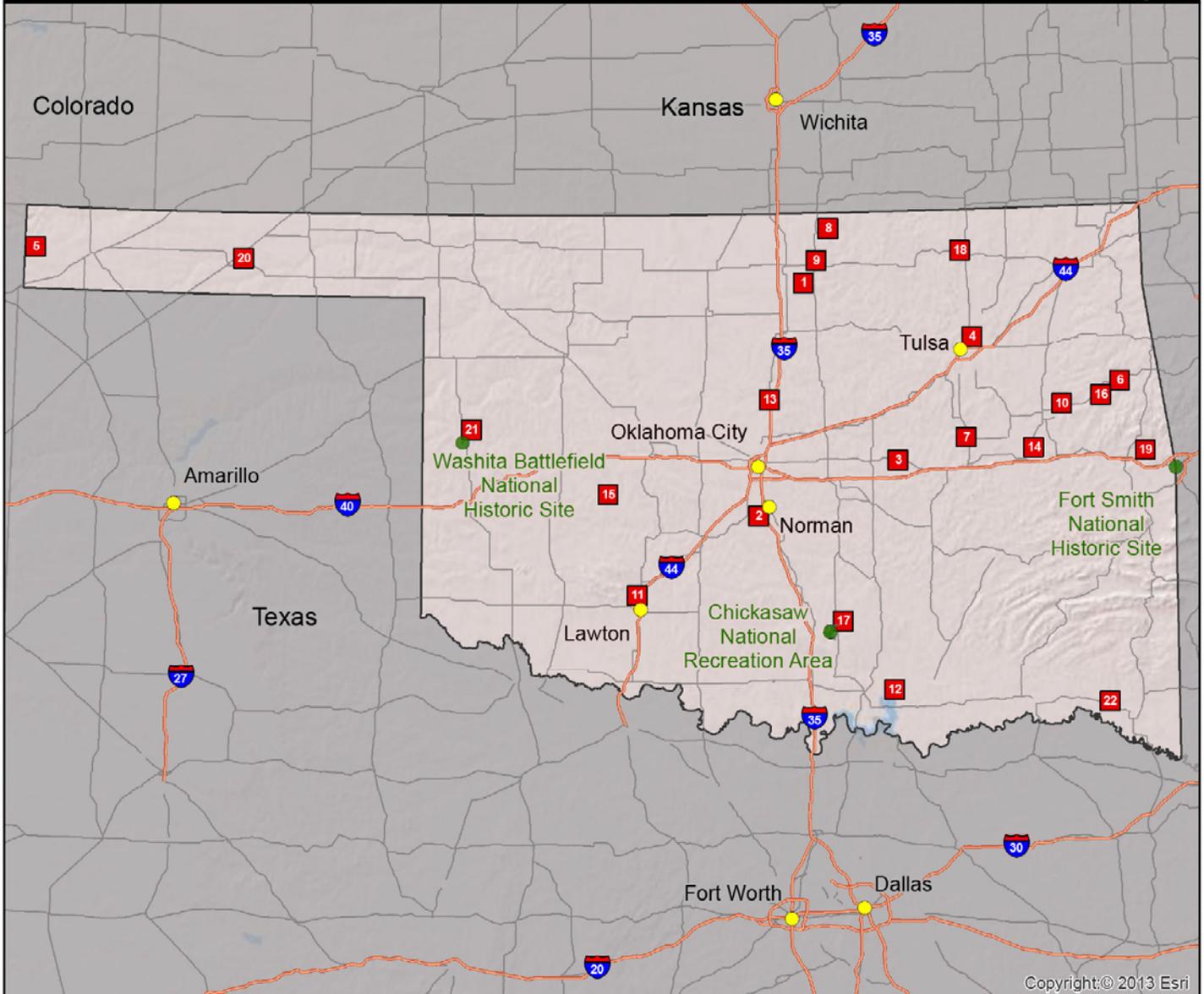
HPP Role: Provide funding for the project, as well as expertise, guidance and advice regarding National Register and National Historic Landmarks guidelines.



African American soldiers of the 25th Infantry, some wearing buffalo robes. Ft. Keogh, Montana, circa 1890. Photo by Christian Barthelme, courtesy: Library of Congress, Prints & Photographs Division, LC-DIG-ppmsca-11406

National Historic Landmarks (NHL) Intermountain Region Oklahoma

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



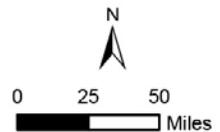
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Legend

- National Park Unit
- National Historic Landmarks

- Interstates
- Major Highways

Cities



Landmarks

- | | |
|---|------------------------------|
| 1 101 Ranch Historic District | 12 Fort Washita |
| 2 Bizzell Library | 13 Guthrie Historic District |
| 3 Boley Historic District | 14 Honey Springs Battlefield |
| 4 Boston Avenue Methodist Episcopal Church, South | 15 McLemore Site |
| 5 Camp Nichols | 16 Murrell Home |
| 6 Cherokee National Capitol | 17 Platt National Park |
| 7 Creek National Capitol | 18 Price Tower |
| 8 Deer Creek Site | 19 Sequoyah's Cabin |
| 9 Earnest Whitworth Marland Mansion | 20 Stamper Site |
| 10 Fort Gibson | 21 Washita Battlefield |
| 11 Fort Sill | 22 Wheelock Academy |