NPS Form 10-900 OMB No. 1024-0018

**United States Department of the Interior**
National Park Service

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# 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.

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APR 24 2014
NAT. REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

## 1. Name of Property

Historic name: Blue Hawk Peak Ranch Boundary Increase
Other names/site number: Pawnee Bill Ranch
Name of related multiple property listing:
N/A
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing

New DR: 6-6-14

## 2. Location

Street & number: 1141 Pawnee Bill Road
City or town: Pawnee State: Oklahoma County: Pawnee
Not For Publication: ☐ Vicinity: ☐

## 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

___ **national** X **statewide** X **local**

Applicable National Register Criteria:

X **A** X **B** X **C** ___ **D**

Bob Blackburn April 23, 2014

**Signature of certifying official/Title:** **Date**

**State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government**

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

**Signature of commenting official:** **Date**

**Title :** **State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government**

## 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:) _____

for Edson W. Beall 7.18.14

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

## 5. Classification

**Ownership of Property**

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

Private: ☐

Public – Local ☐

Public – State X

Public – Federal ☐

**Category of Property**

(Check only **one** box.)

Building(s) ☐

District X

Site ☐

Structure ☐

Object ☐

**Number of Resources within Property**
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

| Contributing | Noncontributing | |
|---|---|---|
| 5 | 6 | buildings |
| 1 | 0 | sites |
| 8 | 10 | structures |
| 2 | 1 | objects |
| 16 | 17 | Total |

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register _previous nomination does not clarify_____

**6. Function or Use**
**Historic Functions**
(Enter categories from instructions.)
_Landscape: conservation area_____
_Recreation and Culture: museum, arena_____
_Agriculture: animal facility, agricultural field, storage_
_Domestic: single dwelling, secondary structure _____
_____

**Current Functions**
(Enter categories from instructions.)
_Landscape: conservation area_____
_Recreation and Culture: museum, arena_____
_Agriculture: animal facility, agricultural field, storage_
_Domestic: single dwelling, secondary structure _____
_____

## 7. Description

**Architectural Classification**
(Enter categories from instructions.)
Late 19th/Early 20th Century American Movement: Craftsman
Modern Movement

**Materials:** (enter categories from instructions.)
Principal exterior materials of the property: Stone

**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 Paragraph**

Blue Hawk Peak Ranch is located southeast of State Highway 64 and is west of downtown Pawnee. The Ranch is situated on the high ground of the property overlooking the Black Bear Creek but also includes undulating terrain with both high points and low valleys. Gordon W. Lillie (Pawnee Bill) purchased the ranch land in 1902 and it eventually became not only his home but also the headquarters for his Wild West Show, conservation area and entertainment venue. The Ranch includes thirty-three individually identifiable resources including the mansion and caretakers house designed in the Craftsman style, the Picnic Area designed in the modern movement, and various other ranch related facilities in the vernacular tradition.

This large Ranch is divided into use areas that staff and visitors can frequent. Resources are described and mapped by these areas: Entry, Housing Area, Museum, Barn and Pastures, Brenneman House, Arena and Picnic Area and the Black Bear Flood Control. Included in the Ranch district are man-made ranch roads.

In 1961, the State of Oklahoma purchased the Ranch where it became part of the State Park system. Today the Oklahoma State Historical Society maintains the historic property. The Ranch is the home to native American species such as buffalo and longhorn cattle.

Blue Hawk Peak Ranch was originally listed in the National Register of Historic Places on October 10, 1975, under Criterion A for its association with Commerce and Conservation at the state level. The purpose of this additional documentation is to amend the nomination for the following reasons:

1) Adding additional information for Criterion A regarding commerce and conservation.
2) Adding information for Criterion C to address the landscape and architectural significance of the property.
3) Adding narrative descriptions for all of the resources associated with the Ranch.

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**Narrative Description**

**Ranch Resources**

All resources are listed below and note whether they are a site, object, building or structure. Contributing resources are highlighted in bold.

**Entry**

**1)** Entry Gate, c. 1962. Non-contributing (object) The entry gate extends across the main drive into the ranch. On either side of the road is a stone structure that has a main column which is crenellated at the top and an exaggerated buttress. Located at ground level in the buttress is a Gothic arch opening intended as a pedestrian passage onto the property. Between the columns, above the road, is a wooden sign indicating the "PAWNEE BILL RANCH" in large white wood letters. (photograph 0001)

**2)** Picnic Area, c. 1962. Non-contributing (structure) These are concrete pads with concrete picnic tables and grills. These were installed when the Ranch became part of the State Park system.

**Housing Area**

**3) Mansion, 1910. Contributing** (building) Constructed in 1910 and designed by James Hamilton, the Craftsman style house faces north. The gable front roof is clad with terra cotta tile and the walls are clad with stone and stucco. Unless otherwise noted, all windows are twelve-over-one wood hung units.

The façade, north elevation, has a recessed first floor. Located at either corner of the facade are two windows with flat stone lintels and a single stone sill. In the center of the first floor is a wood pane and panel door. The sidelights and transom are diamond pane wood windows. A series of three stone arches are supported by squat stone piers which serve to support the second floor overhang. Located in the center of each arch is a

Craftsman style light fixture. The floor of the porch has decorative tile representing the buffalo on the prairie. The second floor is stuccoed with decorative half-timbering and brackets. Located in the center of the second floor is a recessed porch. There are three openings in the porch area. The center opening is a window. On either side of the window is a wood door with the upper portion of the door mimicking the upper sash of the window types used on the Mansion. On either side of the recessed porch is a one-over-one wood window. (photograph 0002)

The west elevation has an elaborate patio that extends from the basement level (the house is built on a hill) to the first floor. The walls of the patio are stone which are crenellated at the top. The top of the wall has a built-in bench with "look-outs" at the north and south end; the south end is adjacent to the Caretakers House. A staircase extends from the ground level to the patio. Located in the center of the first floor is a bow window with five multi-pane-over-two wood windows. Located on either side of the bow window are two additional windows. At the southwest corner of the basement level are two eight-over-eight wood windows. The sill creates a bench. The lintel is a stone arch. Also at this corner is a wood panel door. Located in the side gable roof are two dormers. The dormer at the northwest corner is a gable front with three nine-over-one double hung windows. The chimney extends through this dormer. The dormer at the southwest corner is a shed roof with two, nine-over-one double hung windows. Each dormer is clad with stucco and has decorative half-timbering.

The first floor of the south elevation is sheltered by a shed roof supported by four square stone columns. The first floor has three windows and two wood pane and panel doors. The second floor is stuccoed with decorative half-timbering and brackets. Located in the center of the second floor are four nine-over-one hung wood windows. Located at each corner of the second floor is an additional nine-over-one hung wood window. (photograph 0004, photograph 0015)

The east elevation has four windows with flat stone lintels and a single stone sill. Located in the side gable roof is a gable front dormer. The dormer has four nine-over-one hung wood windows. The dormer is clad with stucco and has decorative half-timbering. A stone chimney is located on this elevation. (photograph 0003)

Interior: The interior has the finer details expected of the period in which the house was designed. Upon entering the house, a grand staircase leads to the second floor. On either side of the foyer is a room with an elaborate fireplace. Both fireplaces have the same tile detail from the front porch, representations of buffalo on the prairie. (photograph 0005) Door openings between rooms on the first floor have elaborate open wood screen where transoms would be located. The ceiling in the dining room, with the bow window, is coffered. There is a bathroom on both the first and second floor. The doors on the second floor have glass transom windows to allow for ventilation.

4) **Caretaker House, c. 1910. Contributing** (building) Designed in the Craftsman style, the Caretakers House is located south of the Mansion. The gable front house is clad with stone and stucco. The roof is clad with asphalt shingles. The façade, east elevation, has a

recessed first floor. The wood pane and panel entry is located at the southeast corner. Adjacent to the entry are three one-over-one double hung wood windows. Located at the northeast corner is a small one-over-one wood window. Four stone piers support the second floor overhang. The second floor is stuccoed with decorative half-timbering and brackets. Located in the center of the second floor is a large one-over-one wood window flanked by smaller one-over-one wood windows. (photograph 0006, photograph 0007)

The south elevation has two one-over-one double hung windows. Each has a stone sill and lintel. Located in the side gable are two gable front dormers. Each dormer is clad with wood siding, has decorative brackets and a one-over-one double hung window. The west elevation has six square window openings that are covered with wood. They each have a stone sill and an arched stone lintel. The second floor is stuccoed with decorative half-timbering and brackets. Located in the center of the second floor are two one-over-one double hung windows. The north elevation has a pane and panel door in the center of the elevation and a one-over-one double hung window at the northwest corner. Located in the side gable roof is a large gable front dormer. The dormer is clad with wood siding, has decorative brackets and two one-over-one double hung windows.

5) **Coy Pond, c. 1910. Contributing** (object) Located southwest of the Mansion is a two-part coy pond. The southern section is round; a narrow trough connects the southern portion to the northern rectangular portion. Each portion has a concrete lined “bowl” that is faced with stone. (photograph 0007)
6) **Wind mill, c. 1910, Contributing** (structure) Adjacent to the coy pond, the windmill has the metal structure in place to support the paddles (non-extant) and is set on a concrete pad.
7) **Garden, c. 1910. Contributing** (structure) Between the Mansion and the Caretakers House is a garden. The garden has a stone wall surrounding it. Located in the center of the garden is a large stone “WELCOME TO OKLAHOMA” sign.
8) **Fire pit, c. 1910. Contributing** (structure) Located west of the Mansion, is a stone fire pit. It is square and has a small opening on the east elevation for ash removal. The top is crenellated and a grill fits inside the square opening for cooking.
9) Comfort Station, c. 1962. Non-Contributing (building) Located adjacent to the Caretaker House is the side gable comfort station. Constructed when the Ranch became part of the State park system, this one-story building is constructed of stone and has an asphalt shingle roof. The two entry doors are located on the east elevation and are sheltered by a shed roof. There are no other openings on this building.
10) **Blacksmith Building, c. 1910. Contributing** (building) Facing east, this one-story building is constructed of stone and has a metal roof that simulated terra cotta. Located in the center of the roof is a metal ventilator. The stone building has a larger, double door entry and one small entry on the east elevation. Both openings have stone arch lintels. A shed roof extends from this elevation and is supported by three stone columns. The south elevation has two four-over-four vertical pane wood windows set in a single opening. The opening has a solid stone sill and an arched stone lintel. Located in the gable peak is wood siding. The west elevation has three, four-over-one wood windows. Each has a solid stone sill and an arched stone lintel. The north elevation has a four-over-one wood

window with a solid stone sill and an arched stone lintel. (photograph 0007, photograph 0008, photograph 0012, photograph 0015)

11) **Cabin, c. 1910. Contributing** (building) This is a one-story side gable log cabin. The logs are saddle notched. The roof is clad with wood shingles and has exposed rafter ends. The façade, east elevation, has a central entry. On either side of the entry are two four-over-four wood windows. Between the windows, on both the north and south ends, are exposed log ends. This indicates that the rooms on either end were added at a later date. Over the central entry and one window on either side of the entry is a shed roof supported with wood columns. The north elevation has one four-over-four wood window. The west elevation has a central exterior stone chimney. The north room has an entry door while the south room has a four-over-four wood window. The south elevation has a four-over-four wood window. (photograph 0009, photograph 0012)

    The interior of the cabin is divided into three rooms. The central room has the large fireplace on the west wall. The lintel of the fireplaces is composed of vertically laid stones. There are no further decorative details on the interior.

12) **Outdoor Kitchen, c. 1903. Contributing** (structure) Located immediately south of the cabin is the outdoor kitchen. This structure has a stone hearth and a stone chimney. Located on the east elevation is the large cooking area that has a large heavy stone lintel. (photograph 0010)

**Museum**

13) **Indian Flower Shrine, c. 1910. Contributing** (structure) Located between the Mansion and the Museum is the Tower. The entire tower is constructed of stone. The main body of the two-story tower is a pentagon. Off of each wall of the tower is a triangular planter terminating in a circular planter. From above, the tower resembles a flower. The planters are crenellated. The entrance is located on the west elevation. The second floor of the tower is open. The louvered roof is supported by five stone columns. From the top of the tower, the entire Ranch can be viewed. The main floor of the tower is very much like a cave with only narrow steps ascending to the second floor. The walls of the second floor are also crenellated. (photograph 0012)

14) Museum, c. 1965. Non-contributing (building) The Museum exhibits Craftsman style details. The cross gable roof of the Museum is clad with asphalt shingles. The walls are clad with stone. It has applied cross timbering and brackets at the eaves. The façade, northwest elevation, has a recessed entry in the cross gable wing. This entry includes a large plate glass doors, single pane sidelights and a large display window on either side of the entry. The cross gable wing has two large arches on the first floor created with the same stone use for the wall cladding. The gable end is stuccoed with decorative half-timbering and brackets. The side gable wings each have three narrow windows. The southwest elevation has no openings but does have stucco and decorative half-timbering in the gable end. (photograph 0011, photograph 0015)

    The cross gable section of the southeast elevation has stucco and half-timbering in the gable end. The only opening in the southeast elevation is located in the side gable section

that opens onto the patio with stone knee walls. It is a plate glass door flanked with side lights. The northeast elevation has two metal doors on the first floor. The gable end has stucco and decorative half-timbering in the gable peak.

**15)** Museum outbuilding, c. 1965. Non-contributing (building) This is a one-story rock building. The side gable roof is clad with asphalt shingles. Located in the gable ends is wood siding. The only opening is the panel door on the southeast elevation.

**16)** Planter, c. 1962. Non-contributing (structure) This is a round stone planter.

**Barn and Pastures**

**17)** **Barn, 1926. Contributing** (building) The gambrel roof barn faces east towards the pasture. The metal roof is clad in simulated terra cotta panels. The walls are clad with stone. The east elevation has a large overhang supported by six stone columns. Astride the columns is a heavy wood beam. Five wood columns support the roof over the beam and have decorative brackets at the eaves. The first floor has a large wooden door for wagons with a smaller wood panel door. On either side of the door is a six pane wood window. Located in the gambrel peak is a six pane window. (photograph 0013, photograph 0015)

The north and south elevations are identical. Each has seven window openings, each with two, four pane wood windows. The south elevation also has a stable on the exterior. The west elevation has a large wagon door that divides in the center. On either side of the door is a window opening with two, four pane wood windows. Located in the gambrel peak is a six pane window.

The barn has a central aisle. On the south side of the aisle is a large room that extends two-thirds of the length of the barn. In this room is an original advertisement for the Pawnee Bill Wild West Show. At the northeast corner is a large room presumably used for tack. The remainder of the first floor is open. The second floor reveals the heavy metal truss system used to support the expansive roof.

**18)** **Trough, c. 1926. Contributing** (structure) Near the barn, the trough is a four sided stone constructed rectangle used for watering livestock.

**19)** **Windmill, c. 1930. Contributing** (structure) Adjacent to the trough, the windmill has the metal structure in place to support the paddles (non-extant) and the metal pumping mechanism set on a concrete pad.

**20)** Maintenance, c. 1970. Non-contributing (building) This is a one-story, side gable metal building. The east elevation has a garage door and a panel door. The remaining elevations have no openings. (photograph 0014)

**21)** Hay Storage, c. 1970. Non-contributing (structure) This is a two story, metal shed. The west and north elevations are clad with corrugated metal. The south elevation is open. The east elevation has corrugated metal one-third of the way down the elevation from the roof. The rest of the elevation is open to allow for air circulation. Located at the northeast corner is a floor to roof opening to allow for tractor access. (photograph 0014)

22) **Pasture, c. 1910. Contributing** (site) This is pasture land for the buffalos, longhorns and horses. The area is mostly native blue stem, crabgrass and Johnson grass and Bermuda growing in sandy loam soil. (photograph 0015)

23) Fences, c. 1965. Non-Contributing (structure) The fencing surrounds the barn, water trough and small areas adjacent to the barn to protect specific animals from the larger herd. An opening exist on the south side to allow the animals out into the larger pasture.

**Brenneman House**

24) House, c. 1925. Non-contributing (building) The façade of this simple one-story stone building faces east towards the pastures. Every elevation but the east has had significant alterations through additions. The east elevation has a central stone chimney. On either side of the chimney is a long narrow one-over-one double hung window. At the northeast corner is the historic main entry. It has a pane and panel wood door with a narrow one-over-one double hung window on either side. The entry is sheltered by a shed roof porch supported by two stone columns. Shed roof additions obscure the north and south elevations and a long gable addition obscures the west elevation.

25) **Garage, c. 1925. Contributing** (building) This is a one-story gable front building. The roof is clad with asphalt shingles. Located in the gable peak is vertical wood siding. The walls are clad with large stones. The east elevation has two large vertical board garage doors. The north elevation has a door at the northwest corner and has a stone knee wall running north of the elevation. The openings on the west elevation are boarded shut. The south elevation has no openings.

26) **Well, c. 1925. Contributing** (structure) This is a small circular rock clad well.

**Arena and Picnic Area**

27) Picnic Tables, c. 1962. Non-contributing (structure) These are round concrete pads with round concrete picnic tables. Three metal poles connect to form a teepee-like structure with a concrete canopy approximately two-thirds off of the ground.

28) Pond, c. 1962. Non-contributing. (structure) This is a small fishing pond constructed at the time the Ranch became a State Park. (photograph 0016)

29) Comfort Station, c. 1962. Non-contributing (structure) The side gable one story building faces northwest. The roof is clad with asphalt shingles, has wood soffits and vertical wood siding in the gable peaks. The remainder of the structure is clad with rough faced rock. The northwest elevation has a Native American embossed in cast stone in the center of the elevation. Doors are located in recessed alcoves on the northeast and southwest elevations. (photograph 0016)

30) Picnic Shelters, c. 1962. Non-contributing (structure) The two picnic shelters are identical and are separated by a stone cooking area. The entire patio area is surrounded by a stone knee wall. The picnic shelters have a side gable roof supported by metal poles. Located between the two picnic shelters is a stone structure that is crenellated at the top. The west facing wall has a Native American symbol embossed in cast stone in the center. The east elevation has a shed roof supported by wood posts and charcoal grills. The east elevation

of the knee wall at this point is considerably higher than the rest as it is built into a hill. Metal steps provide access to ground level at the east elevation. (photograph 0016)

**31)** Playground, c. 1962. Non-contributing (object) The playground includes a swing set, teeter totters and a merry-go-round. They are all constructed of metal and date to the conversion to the State Park.

**32)** Arena/Grandstand, c. 1990. Non-contributing. (structure) This is the current location of the Wild West Show re-enactment. Located at the north and south ends of the west side are grand stands. Also located at the north end is a tower. The area itself is open with grass. The east elevation is the re-created "boomtown" front. (photograph 0017)

**Black Bear Flood Control**

**33)** Floodwater Retarding Dam No. 17, 1980. Non-contributing. (structure) Southeast of the house and arena/picnic area is the earthen dam. One wall of the dam runs north/south while the longer leg of the dam runs east/west and then southeast; similar to the configuration of a "J." Directly south of the dam is a large lake. It was constructed by the Pawnee County Conservation District and the Black Bear Conservation District.

Integrity:

There are thirty-three resources in the Blue Hawk Peak Ranch Historic District, consisting of resources utilized by Pawnee Bill and his ranch operations. The seventeen non-contributing resources lack historic integrity or date to the period when the Ranch existed as a State Park.

Blue Hawk Peak Ranch contains areas where non-contributing attributes occur, however, some are work areas not open to the public, such as the non-historic work area southwest of the barn which makes them less intrusive in the rest of the historic landscape. Some later changes to the ranch to enhance public use such as the picnic areas and museum are not historic and are non-contributing. The picnic shelters blend in well as they are hidden by trees or on the opposite side of a slope and cannot be seen. The Museum is southeast of the housing area and is modern in design so as not to give false representation of its date of construction. These non-contributing areas are small when compared to the integrity of the whole ranch. Overall, the ranch maintains a integrity in its public historic use areas, buildings, and in the landscape as designed. None of the ranch's viewscapes have been compromised with visual impediments so that visitors can sense the pristine landscape in the ranch's rustic setting. The volume of intact historic resources outweighs newer, non-historic, resources, and the ranch strongly conveys a sense of how Pawnee Bill defined it, used it, and as the State of Oklahoma has maintained it.

## 8. Statement of Significance

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

- [x] A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- [x] B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- [x] 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

**Areas of Significance**
(Enter categories from instructions.)
_Landscape Architecture__
_Architecture _____
_Conservation_____
_Commerce_____
_____
_____
_____

**Period of Significance**
_1902-1961_____
_____
_____

**Significant Dates**
_1902, 1910, 1926_ __
_1942, 1961 _____
_____

**Significant Person**
(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)
_Gordon Lillie, a.k.a. Pawnee Bill__

**Cultural Affiliation**
_N/A_____
_____
_____

**Architect/Builder**
_Hamilton, James____
_____
_____

**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.)

Blue Hawk Peak Ranch in the vicinity of Pawnee, Oklahoma was originally listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1975 under Criterion A for its role in Commerce and Conservation at the State level of significance. However, the property is also significant at the State level for its association with Gordon Lillie and locally significant for its architecture. The period of significance begins with the construction of the first building on the property in 1910 and ends in 1961 when the Oklahoma State Parks system acquires the property.

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**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

Gordon Lillie lived in Kansas, after his family relocated there, but made his way into Indian Territory by the late 1870's. While in Kansas, Gordon befriended Blue Hawk, a Pawnee. Through working in a stone quarry and as a trapper with "Trapper Tom" McClain's outfit, waiting tables, and working as a cowboy, Gordon interacted with the Pawnee in Indian Territory. Based on his education in Illinois and Kansas, Gordon was hired as a teacher for the Pawnee agency in the Indian Territory. Gordon was also appointed as interpreter and secretary to Major Edward Bowman, a U.S. Indian agent. It was during this time that he became known as "Pawnee Bill;" he had a life-long relationship with the Pawnee people.

Pawnee Bill moved to Oklahoma when it was still Indian Territory; a time when there was still frontier life. This was one of Oklahoma's most colorful periods with cowboys and Indians, cattle trails and outlaws. Residents of the Territory held a laissez-faire attitude and exhibited individual self-reliance, which suited Pawnee Bill's personality and ambitions.

In 1883, he was recruited to help coordinate the efforts of the Pawnee troupe in the first-ever Buffalo Bill Cody's Wild West show. While traveling with the show in Philadelphia, Gordon met May Manning, a fifteen-year-old Quaker girl who was watching the parade. Gordon courted her for two years, and they married on August 31, 1886. Manning's family urged Lillie to create his own Wild West show, and in 1888 he began touring the country with "Pawnee Bill's Wild West." That season the show proved to be a financial failure.

In that same year, Pawnee Bill was named leader of the Boomer Movement, a group dedicated to the opening of Oklahoma's Unassigned Lands to white settlement. He led a group of four thousand in the Land Run of April 22, 1889, into the center of present Kingfisher County. His involvement in the opening of the Unassigned Lands brought Pawnee Bill into the national spotlight, and he reestablished a successful Wild West show called "Pawnee Bill's Historical Wild West, Indian Museum and Encampment," which traveled the United States and Europe. In 1908 he joined forces with Buffalo Bill Cody, forming "Buffalo Bill's Wild West and Pawnee Bill's Great Far East," a Wild West show that had no equal at that time.

During this time, Pawnee Bill purchased from Blue Hawk, a Pawnee chief and medicine man, 180 acres of ranch land (Blue Hawk's allotment) where his buffalo herd grew, where he managed his wild-west show, and built his home. The ranch was not only his wilderness sanctuary and homage to his roots, but

also a place to entertain, court investors and conduct company frivolity. Over time, he acquired surrounding lands that brought his landholding to 2000 acres.

From the beginning, Blue Hawk Peak Ranch was as important to Pawnee Bill in his business as it was in his private life. Pawnee Bill ran the wild-west shows from his ranch while May managed the daily affairs of the property. While May and Pawnee Bill worked closely, it was his ambition and willingness to take risks that spurred the success of the ranch. Gordon W. Lillie, popularly known as Pawnee Bill, pioneered the role of Oklahoma's Wild West showmen. He presented himself as proud Oklahoman, friend of the Indians, adventurer, rancher, and businessman. His association with the Pawnees allowed him to recruit Indian performers for Buffalo Bill's newly formed Wild West show in 1883. Lillie remained involved with other shows until he formed his own in 1888. His Wild West show connections, the dime novel-sounding moniker "Pawnee Bill," and his own tales promoting himself as "Boomer" leader, foe of outlaws, and pioneer businessman par excellence added to his persona the images of frontier adventurer and forerunner of civilization.

From 1888 to 1913 Lillie had his own extravaganzas, billed as "Pawnee Bill's Historic Wild West" and "Pawnee Bill's Great Far East." An astute and sometimes sensational showman, he filled his arena with war-painted Indians, daring rescues, horsemanship, and marksmanship, including that of his wife, sharpshooter May Manning Lillie. Annie Oakley joined his troupe for the 1888 season. Like Buffalo Bill, Lillie took his entourage to Europe. Sometimes he prospered, and sometimes he flirted with financial disaster, but he always survived financial crises. He and Buffalo Bill combined their shows in 1908 as "Buffalo Bill's Wild West and Pawnee Bill's Great Far East," an arrangement that lasted until 1913.

The distinction between Pawnee Bill himself and the wild-west shows were somewhat blurred for many years because of the strength of his character and his identity was as one with the wild-west shows. In fact, the ranch was always Pawnee Bill's. The land, while used for the wild-west show commercial enterprise always belonged to him but as Blue Hawk Peak Ranch developed, it became a place where Pawnee Bill wanted to preserve a large component of the real west. Pawnee Bill created, through landscape and animal management, the west as he saw it when he came to Indian Territory. Pawnee Bill became devoted to the preservation/conservation of the bison (American bison), an animal he felt most characteristic of Oklahoma and the American West. He established a herd on his ranch near Pawnee and lobbied Congress to pass legislation to protect the animal. His efforts eventually led to the opening of the Wichita Mountains National Wildlife Refuge. Historically, estimates of the total number of bison roaming across the United States vary widely. By 1890, there were only 500 or so bison left in the United Sates.[1] At that time, a few private ranchers started small herds from remnant survivors of the hide trade. Pawnee Bill raised bison and also published articles on the restoration of the bison. He got his start in management as an extension of his role in Wild West shows. He wrote an article in 1905 calling for the government's intervention. He argued that the job was too big for a single individual and went so far as to draft a bill for the federal government to purchase land and bison somewhere on the Great Plains.[2]

Pawnee Bill's involvement in show business also led to the development of a motion picture company, as well as successful endeavors in oil, real estate, and banking. He dedicated his life to preserving the perceived traditions of the West, but he also envisioned the progress that automobiles and modern highways could bring. He was president of the Highway 64 Association, and U.S. Highway 64 through Oklahoma was originally called "The Pawnee Bill Route." Regardless of his motives, be it commercial or conservation, Pawnee Bill was a conservator and promoter of native western species.

[1] William T. Hornaday, *The Extermination of the American Bison* (Washington DC: Smithsonian Institution Press, 2002), 464.
[2] Gordon W. Lillie, "Restoring the Bison to the Western Plains," *Cosmopolitan Magazine* 37, no. 6 (1905).

While Blue Hawk Peak Ranch is significant for its role in commerce and conservation it is also significant for its landscape architecture and its building environment. The historic landscape captures distinctive characteristics of rustic landscape design that are also communicated through the built environment. The natural features of the property including the streams and rock outcroppings enhanced the design for the buildings on the ranch. The ranch today has maintained its early 1900's design features with original viewscapes and historic buildings in place. With the native landscape of trees and grasses, the ranch has a high degree of integrity in almost all of these aspects. The ranch itself is a blend of picturesque wilderness, wilderness as a sanctuary, and wilderness for an individual's freedom. It is not one type of property, but served many purposes for Pawnee Bill. He created the ranch as a get-away from business, a conservation area for the preservation of endangered bison and as an area to promote and conclude business deals. The ranch is able to capture the picturesque nature of the land and represent the western landscape of opportunity that Pawnee Bill encountered when he arrived in Indian Territory.

While there is no master plan for the ranch, the design follows the natural features of the land. The buildings on the ranch range from early log cabin, blacksmithing facility, and outdoor kitchen to an elaborate stone barn and Craftsman style houses. Each resource exhibits specific styling and details associated with is period of significance from the dirt floors of the cabin and blacksmith facility, to the brackets and porches of the craftsman housing and the Modern design of the museum. The district's components, whether natural or man-made, work together to create a historic designed landscape and built environment with distinction. The ranch honors the legacy of Pawnee Bill and yet remains a working ranch, intended for the pleasure, use and education of each visitor.

Blue Hawk Peak Ranch is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A. It is significant for its association with Commerce and Conservation in relation to the wild-west shows and bison herd preservation as spearheaded by Pawnee Bill. The ranch was not only his wilderness sanctuary and homage to his roots but also the source of economic success. Blue Hawk Peak Ranch is also significant under Criteria B as it is the only extant property associated with Gordon Lillie in Oklahoma. Gordon Lillie was important to the State of Oklahoma as a showman, conservationist and developer. This property reflects this significant time for Oklahoma. It is also significant under Criterion C for it landscape and built environment. The ranch today has maintained its historic design features in its boundaries, layout, patterns of roads, fences, buildings and viewscapes. With the native landscape intact, the ranch maintains a high degree of integrity. The ranch still represents the western landscape of opportunity that Pawnee Bill encountered when he arrived in the Indian Territory. Blue Hawk Peak Ranch is exceptional in its mixed-use purpose: conservation of Bison, commercial success of the wild-west shows and the architecture and landscape of the western frontier.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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

Baratay, Eric and Elisabeth Hardouin-Fugier. A History of Zoological Gardens in the West. London, UK: Reaktion Books, 1998.

Bender, Thomas. Toward an Urban Vision: Ideas and Institution in Nineteenth Century America. Baltimore, MD: The John Hopkins University Press, 1975.

Cutler, Phoebe. The Public Landscape of the New Deal, New Haven, CT: 1985.

Doyle, Don Harrison. The Social Order of a Frontier Community: Jacksonville, Illinois, 1825-70, Chicago, IL: University of Illinois Press, 1978, 1983.

Hornaday, William T. The Extermination of the American Bison. Washington DC: Smithsonian Institution Press, 2002.

Lillie, Gordon W. "Restoring the Bison to the Western Plains." Cosmopolitan Magazine 37, no. 6, 1905.

Reddin, Paul. “Pawnee Bill (Gordon William Lillie, 1860-1942),” Encyclopedia of Oklahoma History and Culture, http://digital.library.okstate.edu/encyclopedia (accessed March 6, 2013).

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Shirley, Glenn. Pawnee Bill: a biography of Major Gordon W. Lillie. Albuquerque, University of New Mexico Press, 1958.

Strohmeier, Gerhard. “Wild West Imagery: Landscape Perception in Nineteenth-Century America,” Nature and Society in Historical Context, eds. Mikulas Teich, Roy Porter and Bo Gustafsson, Cambridge, UK: University Press of Cambridge, 1997.

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

____ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
__X_ 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:**

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

**Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____**

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**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** _430 acres M.O.L__

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

**Latitude/Longitude Coordinates**
Datum if other than WGS84:_____
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

A. Latitude: 36.333404 Longitude:-96.817032

B. Latitude: 36.333225 Longitude:-96.814887

C. Latitude: 36.332595 Longitude:-96.814913

D. Latitude: 36.332612 Longitude:-96.814163

E. Latitude: 36.332060 Longitude:-96.814166

F. Latitude: 36.331940 Longitude:-96.811799

G. Latitude: 36.329926 Longitude:-96.811444

H. Latitude: 36.329610 Longitude:-96.809102

I. Latitude: 36.320291 Longitude:-96.809253

J. Latitude: 36.318835 Longitude:-96.810499

K. Latitude: 36.318847 Longitude:-96.816992

L. Latitude: 36.319411 Longitude:-96.817015

M. Latitude: 36.391433 Longitude:-96.817706

N. Latitude: 36.322488 Longitude:-96.817877

O. Latitude: 36.322455 Longitude:-96.826789

P. Latitude: 36.325888 Longitude:-96.826851

**Verbal Boundary Description** (Describe the boundaries of the property.)
Starting at Point A traveling 637 feet east to Point B; from Point B south 221 feet to Point C; Point C east 234 feet to Point D; Point D south 233 feet to Point E; Point E east 697 feet to Point F; Point F south 719 feet to Point G; Point G southeast 712 feet to Point H; Point H 3400 feet south to Point I; Point I 615 southwest to Point J; Point J 1912 feet west to Point K; Point K 204 feet north to Point L; Point L220 feet west to Point M; Point M 1124 feet north to Point N; Point N 2634 feet west to Point O; Point O 1280 feet north to Point P; Point P following the eastern edge of I-64 northeast to originating Point A for a total of 430 acres more or less.

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)
The boundaries described above enclose the core area of Blue Hawk Peak Ranch, which was purchased by Pawnee Bill. The core area was identified through field surveys by the Oklahoma Historical Society in 2013. The key areas include Entry, Housing Area, Museum, Barn and Pastures, Brenneman House, Arena and Picnic Area and the Black Bear Flood Control. Included in the Ranch district are man-made ranch roads.

The boundaries enclose the locations with the greatest historical integrity. The exact locations of additional ranch lands have not been located with archeological investigations or field surveys and are still a subject of debate, so those areas have not been included in the boundaries at this time. It is recommended that those sites be investigated and evaluated in the future, if possible, and include them within the NRHP boundary if appropriate. Although those sites are important, even without them the NRHP successfully conveys the significance of the ranch and the boundary includes the most important portions of Blue Hawk Peak Ranch

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**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title: Lynda Ozan/NRHP Program Coordinator
organization: OK/SHPO
street & number: 800 Nazih Zudhi Drive
city or town: Oklahoma City state: OK zip code: 73105
e-mail: lozan@okhistory.org
telephone: 405-522-4478
date: 6/26/2013

**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.

- **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: Blue Hawk Peak Ranch

City or Vicinity: Pawnee

County: Pawnee State: Oklahoma

Photographer: Lynda S. Ozan

Date Photographed: 4 April 2013/January 22, 2014

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

| **Photograph Number** | **Subject** | **Direction** |
|---|---|---|
| 0001 | Entry Gate | South |
| 0002 | Mansion | South |
| 0003 | Mansion | North |
| 0004 | Mansion | West |
| 0005 | Mansion, interior | |
| 0006 | Caretaker House | West |
| 0007 | Coy Pond | West |
| 0008 | Blacksmith Building | West |
| 0009 | Cabin | West |

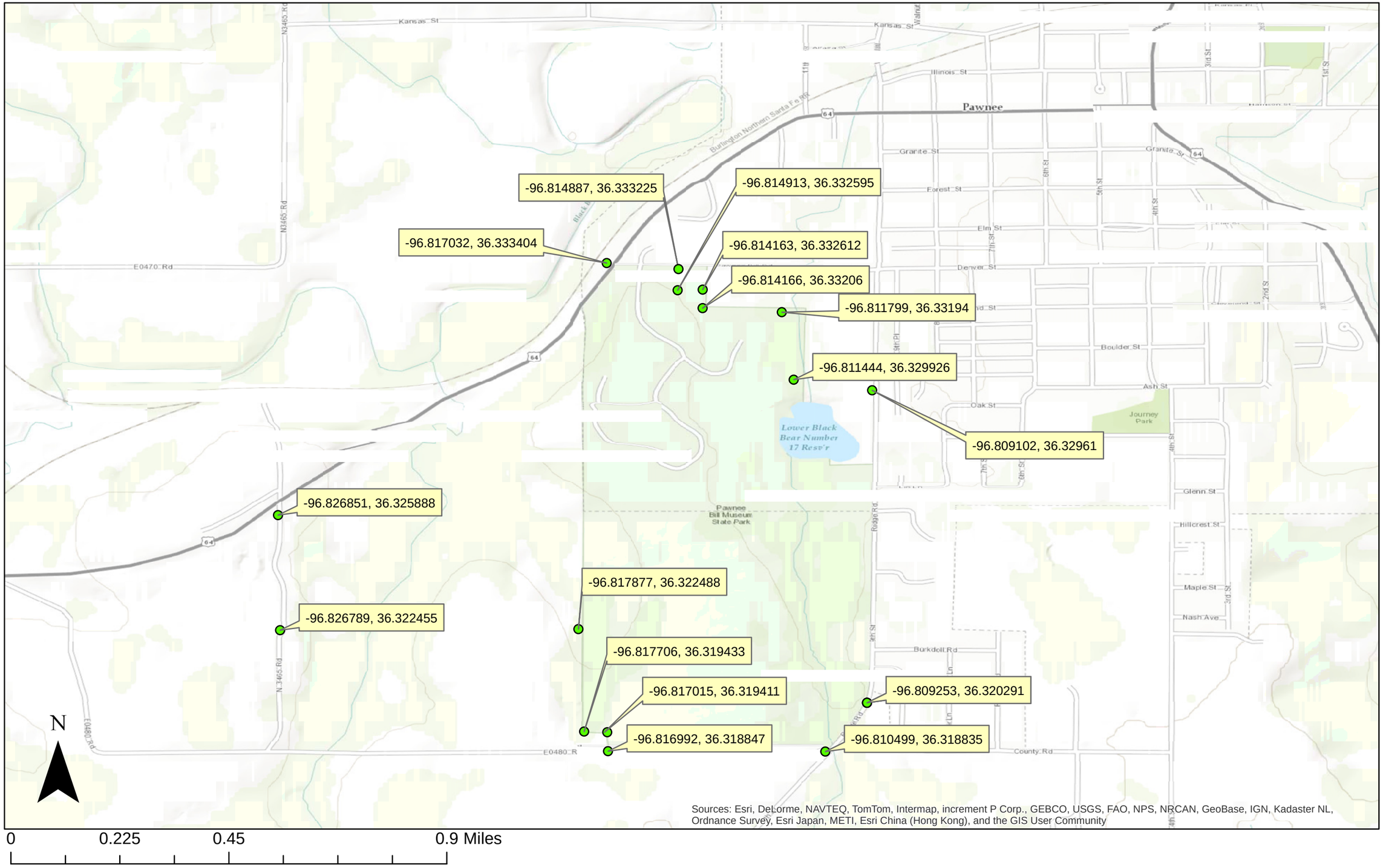
| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 0010 | Outdoor Kitchen | West |
| 0011 | Museum | South |
| 0012 | Yard Area | Northwest |
| 0013 | Barn | Southwest |
| 0014 | Maintenance/Hay Storage | West |
| 0015 | Pasture | North |
| 0016 | Picnic Area/Pond | North |
| 0017 | Arena/Grandstand | North |
| 0018 | Pasture | 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.

# Blue Hawk Peak Ranch Aerial Map

0 0.125 0.25 0.5 Miles

# Blue Hawk Peak Ranch
# 1141 Pawnee Bill Road, Pawnee, Pawnee County, Oklahoma
# Coordinates Map



PAWNEE BILL
RANCH
WELCOME
PAWNEE BILL
RANCH SITE - MUSEUM

PAWNEE BILL MANSION

MANAGER'S
PRIVATE RESIDENCE

BLACKSM

PAWNEE BILL MUSEUM

NO SWIMMING