

KETCH RANCH
(Fort Sill Military Reservation, Building 7775)
Medicine Park
Comanche County
Oklahoma

HABS OK-66
OK-66

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
FIELD RECORDS

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240-0001

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Location:

Medicine Park, Oklahoma, vicinity. The Ketch Ranch House is located on the U.S. Army's Fort Sill Military Reservation. It is situated in the eastern half of the southeast quarter of the northwest quarter of Section 28, Township 3N, Range 13W on the Mount Scott 7.5-minute U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) quadrangle. The Universal Transverse Mercator (UTM) coordinates are Zone 14, 3839280N; 540080E. The Ketch Ranch House rests on the second stream bank terrace immediately east of Blue Beaver Creek at approximately 1470' above mean sea level. Major landforms near the ranch house include Thompson Hill one and a quarter miles to the northeast, Mount Sherman two miles to the southwest, and Ketch Lake one mile to the west. Medicine Park is located approximately six miles to the northeast.

The Ketch Ranch House is designated Building 7775, Fort Sill Military Reservation. The building and the subject of this study and its site have been incorporated by update into the site record for archaeological site 34-Cm-358. The updated site record form is available at the Oklahoma Archaeological Survey and is not provided here because of site confidentiality concerns. As updated in 2008, site 34-Cm-358 comprises three activity loci in Sections 27, 28, and 29 of Township 3 North, Range 13 West. Locus 2 is the Ketch Ranch House that served as the main house for Frank and Ada May Ketch and is the subject of this documentation study. It is in the eastern half of the southeast quarter of the northwest quarter of Section 28, Township 3 North, Range 13 West, and was designated as Ketch Dwelling 2 by the U.S. Army in 1941. Locus 1 is in the southwest quarter of the southwest quarter of Section 27, Township 3 North, Range 13 West. It is the originally recorded archaeological site that had a barn, house, smokehouse, springhouse, cellar and other features. It was identified as Ketch Dwelling 1 by the U.S. Army in 1941. Stone foundations of some of these buildings are extant. Locus 3 is the dam constructed by Frank Ketch and the resulting Ketch Lake. As updated in 2008, locus 3 of archaeological site 34-Cm-358 is in Section 29, Township 3 North, Range 13 West. All three loci of site 34-Cm-358 are associated historically with Frank and Ada May Ketch.

Present Owner/
Occupant: U.S. Army, Fort Sill Military Reservation.

Present Use: The Ketch Ranch House is designated as Building 7775 of the Fort Sill Military Reservation. It is currently unoccupied.

Significance: The Ketch Ranch House is significant as the main house and only standing structure associated with the Ketch Ranch, a locally prominent ranch during the 1920s–1941 in Comanche County, Oklahoma. It also is significant as an example of the Wichita Mountains building tradition applied to a rustic Craftsmen bungalow working ranch residence/vacation home during the 1920s. The use of the Wichita Mountains cobblestone tradition for the working ranch and vacation home of Frank and Ada May Ketch is significant for the association that it lent its owners to the social elite who frequented the nearby popular resort community of Medicine Park and the Wichita Mountains and refuge, both popular vacation locations of the period.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

- 1. Date of erection:** 1924. The year 1924 is based on U.S. War Department real property accountability records that list 1924 as the year of construction for the house.¹ May 1923 is the date of purchase of the ranch property by Ada May Ketch.²
- 2. Architect:** Not known.
- 3. Original and Subsequent Owners, Occupants, Uses:** The Ketch Ranch was the working ranch and vacation home of Frank and Ada Ketch from 1923 to 1941. The Ketch Ranch House documented here was the main house where Mr. and Mrs. Ketch resided during their ranch visits.³ In 1941, the U.S. government acquired the acreage and buildings of the Ketch Ranch via court order and eminent domain for a western expansion of the Fort Sill Military Reservation. Upon acquisition by the U.S. government, the building became Building 765. The house was renumbered at some point to become Building 7775. Following acquisition, the house was used as a non-commissioned officer's (NCO) club for several years. From approximately the 1960s to the late 1970s, the Ketch Ranch House was used by the Girl Scouts of America as part of a summer campsite. Since the Girl Scout tenure, the house has been vacant.

¹ "Ketch Ranch Building Cards," Fort Sill Museum, various dates.

² "Land Record 181-301," Comanche County Land Records, Comanche County Clerk's Office, County Courthouse, Lawton, OK, 1923.

³ Dr. Lawrence L. Ketch (grandson of Frank Ketch), in discussion with Marjorie Nowick, September 6, 2006.

4. **Builder, Contractor, Suppliers:** Not known.
5. **Original Plans and Construction:** No construction or design documents for any of the Ketch Ranch buildings exist. Historic photographs during the period of occupation by Frank Ketch show the house as it is today. There have been no substantial changes to the building or its landscaping. The historic photographs show the cobblestone house with wraparound porch, lawns, and cobblestone landscape features.
6. **Alterations and Additions:**
There have been no substantial alterations or additions to the Ketch Ranch House. The U.S. Army accountability records document the building condition in 1941. The Army performed repairs and renovations in 1942, and the electrical generator was upgraded in 1943.

B. Historical Context:

The Wichita Mountains

Ketch Ranch is situated in the Wichita Mountain Range in southwestern Oklahoma. The range covers approximately 1,500 square miles and includes parts of Caddo, Comanche, Kiowa, Jackson, Greer, and Tillman counties. The mountains get their name from the Wichita tribe that inhabited the area until the late eighteenth century, but humans have inhabited the mountains for many millennia.

The Wichita Indians came to be closely associated with the Wichita Mountains. In their creation myths, the Wichita people believe their ancestors were born from the mountains, which were given to them as part of their heritage by the Great Spirit. Over time, the mountains have become sacred to the Wichitas and other Plains Indian tribes.⁴

The U.S. government recognized the Wichita Mountains as a unique resource in the early twentieth century. In 1901, President McKinley established a forest reserve in the southeastern mountains by excluding 59,020 acres of land from settlement during the opening of the Kiowa-Comanche-Apache reservation for homesteading. In 1905, President Theodore Roosevelt redesignated the forest reserve, converting it to a national game preserve by executive order. The Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge supports a variety of native plant and animal species, including pronghorn, bison, wild turkeys, elk, and white-tailed deer. Currently, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service administers the refuge to showcase the natural habitat and fauna of the Wichita Mountains and southern Great Plains. The Ketch Ranch bordered the wildlife refuge, but subsequent agreements blurred that border for the benefit of wildlife. In 1928, one year after Frank Ketch received one-half interest in Ada Ketch's 5,000-plus acre ranch, the Ketches leased all of the land in five sections and three partial sections to the Oklahoma Fish and Game Commission for use by the game refuge. The killing of animals was prohibited on Ketch land, and the Ketches were supposed to provide water and cultivate grain crops appropriate for wildlife.⁵

⁴ Edward Charles Ellenbrook, *Outdoor and Trail Guide to the Wichita Mountains*, In-The-Valley-of-the-Wichitas House [publisher], 2003.

⁵“Extension Agreement 238-53,” Comanche County Land Records, Comanche County Clerk’s Office, County Courthouse, Lawton, OK, 1937.

As the U.S. became more urban and industrialized in the late nineteenth century, upper class Americans began to appreciate nature and recognized the need for outdoor recreation. As the century drew to a close, social movements focused on the benefits of physical well-being and the natural environment. An emerging middle class and an increase in travel for pleasure contributed to the construction of grand hotels and resort destinations across the country.⁶ Areas noted for their therapeutic climates or natural resources, such as mineral springs, grew from sleepy settlements to health resorts and attracted visitors from across the nation. By 1900, more than 600 resort spas, lodges, and hotels had opened in the United States, many in the arid southwestern United States.⁷

It is in this context that southwestern Oklahoma became a regional destination for travelers seeking wilderness and therapeutic waters. The Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge, with its abundance of wildlife and arid climate, became a popular destination for rustic leisure. The Medicine Park Resort Hotel opened in 1908 as a health resort and by the 1920s had evolved into a summer vacation resort drawing an elite clientele from nearby states. Medicine Park was particularly popular with residents of Texas and Oklahoma. The nearby Ketch Ranch served as a private getaway for Frank and Ada Ketch and their business associates, much the same way Medicine Park served its elite clientele. Ketch Ranch, then, was essentially an extension of the Wichita Mountain resorts, particularly Medicine Park, showcasing Ketch's collection of horses and outdoor leisure shared with other members of the social elite.

Ranching in Southwestern Oklahoma

The end of the Civil War marked an upsurge in industrial growth in the northeastern United States and an accompanying need for agricultural output to support the increasing number of urban dwellers. Texas cattlemen took advantage of the wild herds of cattle in Texas and the southern plains and drove cattle north through Oklahoma to railheads in Kansas. Both the Western Trail and the Chisholm Trail passed through western Oklahoma, not far from what became Comanche County, Oklahoma. The federal government established Fort Sill in 1869 to protect interests in the region. The open range lasted only a couple of decades, and by the 1880s, ranching required only short cattle drives to railheads. Settlement had been restricted in Indian Territory, but with the passage of the Dawes Act in 1887, the federal government converted tribal lands into private allotments, opening up Indian Territory to settlement. After the chaotic land runs of the late 1880s and early 1890s, the territorial governor attempted a new method of settling Kiowa-Comanche-Apache lands. The land was divided into two districts and in the summer of 1901 officials held a lottery drawing for lands. The El Reno and Fort Sill land offices each drew 6,500 names. Winners then claimed the land of their choice and filed the claim.⁸ The lottery spurred immediate development in southwestern Oklahoma and a dramatic growth of population in the Lawton area.

⁶ *Encyclopedia of Oklahoma History and Culture*, s.v. "Ardmore" (by Maxine Bamberg), <http://digital.library.okstate.edu/encyclopedia> (accessed 29 April 2008).

⁷ Peter J. McCormick, "River Rock Resort: Medicine Park's Landscape and Wichita Mountain Vernacular Architecture," *The Chronicles of Oklahoma* 75, no. 3 (Fall 1997): 244–261.

⁸ W. David Baird and Danney Goble, *Oklahoma: A History*, University of Oklahoma Press, 2008.

Lawton was established as the seat of Comanche County in 1901. Settlement in Comanche County remained sparse for years. By 1912, Oklahoma split Comanche County, naming the southern half “Cotton” County.

U.S. agricultural census records give only a limited view of Comanche County’s ranch history. During the 1920s, although the agricultural economy declined, the number of farms operated by managers increased. For the Ketch property, this trend manifested in acquiring a ranch and hiring a manager to run it. By 1940, the number of farms with managers was half the 1930 number—perhaps reflecting the economic decline of the 1930s. The number of owner-operated farms also drastically declined, perhaps reflecting a consolidation of landholdings. This situation is demonstrated by the Ketch acquisition of several parcels, thus creating a large landholding.^{9,10}

Although originally grazed by cattle, Ketch Ranch served another purpose during the Ketch family tenure. The use by the wildlife refuge and personal preference may have limited the ranch’s use for cattle grazing. During the 1920s and 1930s, cattle prices declined, and the Ketch family chose to use the ranch for recreation and entertainment. Several earthen tanks, visible on historic quad maps (see figure 5), reflect the ranch’s use for cattle grazing; however, there are no records that show how extensively cattle grazed Ketch ranch during the 1920s and 1930s. Other wealthy businessmen of that era had ranches primarily for recreational purposes, including Frank Phillips of Bartlesville, Oklahoma.¹¹ Charles Bassett of El Paso, similarly acquired a ranch in the Tularosa Basin for recreational purposes, but was similarly forced out by the U.S. military for an expansion of Fort Bliss.¹² One southwestern Oklahoma ranch family, J.B. and C.G. Cronkhite of Watonga, similarly decided that their ranch offered much in the way of recreational opportunities and consequently turned their ranch into a resort, created a lake, and built cabins.¹³ Although not common, the purchase and development of recreational ranches reflected an interest in recreation and the natural environment.

Wichita Mountains Vernacular Style

The Wichita Mountains Vernacular Style, alternatively known as Cannonball or River Rock Style by Meredith and others, originated in the early twentieth century in the vicinity of the Wichita Mountains just northwest of Lawton, Oklahoma.^{14,15} The building tradition is characterized by the architectural use of naturally eroded cobblestones of pink or reddish granite from the nearby Wichita range that are arranged predominantly in stack or grid courses.¹⁶ The cobblestones are generally 6 to 9 inches in diameter and rounded by natural

⁹ U.S. Bureau of the Census, *Fifteenth Census of the United States*, Washington, D.C.: United States Census Office.

¹⁰ U.S. Bureau of the Census, *Sixteenth Census of the United States*, Washington, D.C.: United States Census Office.

¹¹ Gale Morgan Kane, *Franks’s Fancy: Frank Phillips’ Woolaroc*, Oklahoma Heritage Association, 2001.

¹² Sally Victor et al., *Re-Evaluation of Selected Ranching Sites, Fort Bliss*. Prepared for U.S. Army, Fort Bliss, TX.

¹³ Williamsen Horse and Cattle Company 2008, *Bitter Creek Ranch History*.

<http://www.bittercreekranch.com/history.html>. (accessed 10 October 2008).

¹⁴ Howard L. Meredith et al., *Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge: An Historic Conservation Survey*, Oklahoma Historical Society, Summer 1978.

¹⁵ *Encyclopedia of Oklahoma History and Culture*, s. v. “Cannonball (River Rock) Architecture” (by Peter J. McCormick), <http://digital.library.okstate.edu/encyclopedia> (accessed 29 April 2008).

¹⁶ Meredith et al., *Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge*.

weathering. The cobblestone is used for load-bearing masonry exterior walls as well as for landscape features. Buildings in this style made use of resort-inspired cottage forms and functions and multi-story commercial functions, as well outbuildings. The style was limited geographically to the Wichita Mountains region, including Medicine Park, the wildlife refuge, Meer, and surrounding rural areas. This style is not found in Fort Sill or nearby Lawton despite their proximity, perhaps due to the problem of transporting the stones.¹⁷ The U.S. military architectural traditions of the U.S. Quartermaster Corps largely dictated Fort Sill's architectural traditions. Limestone was used as a building material at Fort Sill, but generally not the granite cobblestone used in Wichita Mountains Vernacular architecture.

Meredith applied the terms "vernacular" and "vernacular style" to the Wichita Mountains cobblestone tradition.¹⁸ He noted that he was borrowing the term from cultural geographers and folklorists to designate the "*adaptation, or innovation of styles and the use of proximate materials by cultural groups.*" No connotations about social status of the users of the style were intended by Meredith's use of the terms. Rather, the style sprang from the dictates of the local environment, where timber was expensive and scarce, and the stones distinctive and plentiful. No information could be found on the evolution of the cobblestone stack or grid course. Possible reasons for the grid arrangement are the striking aesthetic and possible reduction in the weathering of stones and mortar in a built wall.¹⁹ Transport of cobblestones over distances seems to have posed a key limitation in the geographical extent of the style.

The general architectural use of cobblestone during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries spread across the nation, but was limited to small areas where the weathered stones occur naturally, including near San Diego, California, parts of Wisconsin, New York, and Oklahoma.²⁰ The first use of the cobblestones as a building material in southwestern Oklahoma occurred at more than one location in the Wichita Mountain region at roughly the same time.²¹ In 1911, a marker using the cobblestones was erected at Fort Sill, and the Boulder Cabin was constructed in the Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge with pink cobblestones.²² Buffalo Lodge was constructed in the Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge in 1913 using structural cobblestone walls.²³ The style remained popular at the refuge during the 1920s, specifically for the Ferguson House which was constructed in 1927 and the Ingram House which was constructed in 1928. During the 1930s, the Civilian Conservation Corps constructed nearly a dozen buildings in the Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge using the native stone and a standardized cottage form and style.²⁴

Local farmers and ranchers used cobblestones on a limited basis, constructing outbuildings and residences. In a few instances, builders used cobblestones for community structures, such

¹⁷ McCormick, "River Rock Resort."

¹⁸ Meredith et al., *Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge*, p. 261.

¹⁹ Meredith et al., *Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge*.

²⁰ Barbara E. Friedrich, "The Cobblestone Connection in San Diego's Architectural History," *The Journal of San Diego History* 35, no.1. (Winter 1989).

²¹ McCormick, "River Rock Resort."

²² Ibid.

²³ "Buffalo Lodge," National Park Service National Register of Historic Places nomination (prepared by Bill Peavler), 10 January 1979.

²⁴ McCormick, "River Rock Resort."

as churches and schools. Early buildings in the style were small, simple and had flat roofs. Later structures of the style were larger forms with gabled roofs and porches. The style drew design cues from the cottage form popular at the end of the nineteenth century and the dawn of the twentieth century.^{25, 26, 27} The prevailing cottage form had a simple floor plan, was relatively small, and featured large wraparound porches on two or three sides that often rivaled the interiors in terms of square footage.²⁸

Prominent Oklahoma Senator Elmer Thomas and his partner Hal Lloyd, owners of the nearby resort town of Medicine Park, made use of the stacked cobblestone in their enlargement and renovation of the Medicine Park Resort Hotel in 1914, a year after the construction of Buffalo Lodge in the refuge. They also used the stacked cobblestone in resort buildings, private cabins, and extensive landscaping of Medicine Park's Bath Lake and midway. With spas, casinos, and other tourist attractions, the town became known as a colorful magnet for celebrities such as Will Rogers, Wiley Post, Frank Phillips, Bob Wills, Al Capone, Bonnie and Clyde, Pretty Boy Floyd, Lil Hardin, Colonel Jack Abernathy, Les Brown, Roy Rogers, and Dale Evans, particularly during Prohibition.

Frank and Ada May Ketch and the Ketch Ranch

The Ketch Ranch served as the working ranch/vacation home of Frank and Ada May Ketch from 1924 to 1941, at which time the U.S. government acquired the property for an expansion of Fort Sill. The Ketch ranch location only six miles from the resort town of Medicine Park and the Ketches choice of the same Wichita Mountains cobblestone style as Medicine Park link the Ketch ranch to the social and historical context of the Wichita Mountains leisure resort frequented by the middle class and social elite. At a time when both business associates and social peers sought recreation at nearby Medicine Park, Frank and Ada Ketch entertained at their own ranch in similar style, but with more privacy. Dr. Lawrence L. Ketch, M.D., grandson of Frank and Ada Ketch, recalled that the ranch had cattle, but Ada Ketch's collection of prized horses were more significant and memorable.²⁹ Although Medicine Park offered proximity to the Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge, the Ketch Ranch itself served as a wildlife refuge. The resort and Ketch Ranch focused on the healthful benefits of a rustic outdoor experience.

When Ada May Ketch purchased the land that became Ketch Ranch, it had been owned by a number of different individuals or organizations for a variety of activities including grazing and land speculation. Different quarter sections of the land were bought and sold at different times, and the ranch as a whole did not exist until Frank and Ada Ketch consolidated the many sections. As a result, accounts of the buying and selling of Ketch Ranch may only indicate that parts of the larger ranch were bought and sold, not the entirety of the future Ketch Ranch. This leads to multiple concurrent owners of the Ketch Ranch property and an uneven progression of who may have owned, bought, and sold lands later held by Ketch.

²⁵ Meredith et al., *Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge*.

²⁶ McCormick, "River Rock Resort."

²⁷ *Encyclopedia of Oklahoma History and Culture*, s. v. "Cannonball (River Rock) Architecture."

²⁸ McCormick, "River Rock Resort."

²⁹ Dr. Lawrence L. Ketch (grandson of Frank Ketch), in discussion with Marjorie Nowick, September 6, 2006.

The earliest private owner of land to become the Ketch Ranch was James W. Hadley, four-term congressman and owner of the Lawton Grocery (also known as the Hadley Mercantile). He owned the property beginning in 1901, according to homestead records of Comanche County.³⁰ He built a two-story frame house on the land that burned in 1902 and apparently was not rebuilt.³¹ At that point, Hadley sold the land to his brother-in-law, J.W. Nelson, according to the recollection of Lura Hadley, daughter of James Hadley.³² It was at this time that James A. Adams leased some of the land for farming corn and raising cattle and hogs, according to the recollection of his daughter Juanita Adams.³³

At this time, Frank and Ada Ketch were living at her parents' house in Kingfisher, Oklahoma, and Frank was working as a salesman.³⁴ By 1902, Frank and Ada had moved to 422 Third Street in Lawton, Oklahoma, where he was listed as being in real estate.³⁵ On January 19, 1904, daughter Virginia was born to Frank and Ada Ketch.³⁶ Also in 1904, Frank became a councilman for the First Ward in Lawton.³⁷

By November 1904, part of the land that would be Ketch Ranch was sold to William D. and Hattie A. Wesson. However they did not retain ownership long, and by January 1905 the Wessons sold the land to James M. Powers. Powers was president of the National Park Cattle Company and associated with a real estate and farm brokerage owned in part by Frank Ketch, who was still a city councilman at the time. Fulbright, Kennedy, and Fisher leased the mineral rights of the parcels.³⁸ This is the first association of Frank and Ada Ketch with the Ketch Ranch land and probably the method by which they first became familiar with the land they would later buy and build on. The full chain of title can be found at the end of this report, as figure 57 in the supplemental materials.

By 1909, Frank and Ada Ketch had moved with their daughter to 212 Gore Avenue in Lawton, where Frank worked as a cashier at the Lawton State Bank.³⁹ That same year, the U.S. General Land Office granted William F. Wesson a patent of some parcels within Section 28, including the area where the Ketch Ranch home would be situated.⁴⁰

In 1910, tragedy struck the Ketch family. Virginia, the first child of Frank and Ada Ketch, contracted measles, and on May 9th she fell unconscious and died at the age of six. She was

³⁰ "Kiowa-Comanche-Apache Land Opening: Homestead Entry Listing," Comanche County Land Records, Comanche County Clerk's Office, County Courthouse, Lawton, OK, 1901.

³¹ Mrs. George Crane, "The Crane Story." *The Chronicles of Comanche County*. Volume II, No. 1. Spring 1956.

³² Ibid.

³³ "Pioneers of Comanche County, Juanita Adams Manuscript Collection." Oklahoma State Historical Society, Manuscripts Division, Undated Box 1, Folder 1 (85.12).

³⁴ U.S. Bureau of the Census, *Twelfth Census of the United States*, Washington, D.C: United States Census Office, 1901-02.

³⁵ *Lawton City Directory of 1902*, R.L. Polk and Company, 1902.

³⁶ Obituary of Virginia Ketch, *Lawton Daily News Republican* (Lawton, OK), May 10, 1910.

³⁷ *Lawton City Directory of 1905*, R.L. Polk and Company, 1905.

³⁸ "Warranty Deed 133-79," Comanche County Land Records, Comanche County Clerk's Office, County Courthouse, Lawton, OK, 1909.

³⁹ *Lawton City Directory of 1909*, R.L. Polk and Company, 1909.

⁴⁰ "Warranty Deed 133-79," Comanche County Land Records, Comanche County Clerk's Office, County Courthouse, Lawton, OK, 1909.

buried in Highland Cemetery in Lawton.⁴¹ Until at least 1913, Frank and Ada continued to live in the same residence in Lawton while Frank worked as a cashier at the bank.⁴²

In 1913, the National Park Cattle Company entered into a lease with Mr. Charles O. Farrington of Dallas, Texas, for oil, gas, artesian well water, and “other valuable mineral substances for 25 years...” in parts of Section 28 (Ketch Ranch) and Section 29.⁴³

Eventually, Frank Ketch left the Lawton State Bank and again became involved in real estate. By 1916, Frank had begun working as a sales manager selling town lots in Ringling, Oklahoma, for Jake Hamon, a well known oil tycoon.⁴⁴ Frank must have impressed Hamon with his adept business acumen because by 1918 his occupation listed on his World War I draft registration card was as Hamon’s oil superintendent, a position critical to Hamon’s wealth and business success.⁴⁵ Ketch remained a close associate of Jake Hamon until Hamon’s untimely and notorious death in 1919.

In August of 1919, the National Park Cattle Company sold 3,200 acres to S.P. Thornhill for \$39,360, including the quarter section where the Ketch Ranch House would be located.⁴⁶ Because of events in Europe, agricultural land prices remained high in the U.S. until 1919, but many farmers and ranchers lost land during the 1920s. The land remained the property of S.P. Thornhill until 1923 when it was taken into receivership by the First National Bank of Lawton on April 18 and acquired by Ada Ketch less than three weeks later on May 8, 1923, for \$2,000.⁴⁷ This initial transaction brought what would become Ketch Ranch land into the hands of the Ketch family.

Frank Ketch’s close association to Jake Hamon made national headlines in 1920 and 1921 because of the death of Jake Hamon and trial of the mistress who shot him. Historian Laton McCartney has written that Jake Hamon, chair of the Oklahoma Republican Party and a Republican National Committeeman, purchased delegate votes for Warren Harding as president during the 1920 Republican Convention.⁴⁸ In exchange, Jake Hamon was to be appointed Secretary of the Interior by Harding. Reportedly, the married Jake Hamon was breaking off his relationship with his young secretary and mistress Clara Smith Hamon (wife of Jake Hamon’s nephew) to acquire respectability for his new political career. Under disputed circumstances, Clara Smith Hamon shot Jake Hamon at his hotel suite in Ardmore, and he died six days later. As Jake Hamon’s spokesman and administrator of his estate,

⁴¹ Obituary of Virginia Ketch, *Lawton Daily News Republican* (Lawton, OK), May 10, 1910.

⁴² *Lawton City Directory of 1911*, R.L. Polk and Company, 1911.

⁴³ “Lease 148-38,” Comanche County Land Records, Comanche County Clerk’s Office, County Courthouse, Lawton, OK, 1916.

⁴⁴ “Real Estate, Basis of All Values, Most Productive Where Boom Has Not Damaged By Inflation,” *The Oklahoman* (Oklahoma City), May 20, 1916.

⁴⁵ Ancestry.com, “Frank L. Ketch WWI Draft Registration Card,” World War I Draft Registration Cards, 1917–1918 database, www.ancestry.com, accessed July 2006.

⁴⁶ “Warranty Deed 178-291,” Comanche County Land Records, Comanche County Clerk’s Office, County Courthouse, Lawton, OK, 1919.

⁴⁷ “Land Record 181-301,” Comanche County Land Records, Comanche County Clerk’s Office, County Courthouse, Lawton, OK, 1923.

⁴⁸ Laton McCartney, *Teapot Dome Scandal: How Big Oil Bought the Harding White House and Tried to Buy the Country*, Random House, 2008.

Frank Ketch tried to provide respectable public explanations of the event to save Hamon's name, and assisted Clara Smith Hamon in her escape to Mexico. Ketch was charged as "accomplice after the fact" for his role and was called to testify against Clara Smith Hamon at the trial. Ketch's role was revealed. Ultimately the court acquitted Clara Smith Hamon. The circumstances of the shooting of Jake Hamon, Clara Smith Hamon's escape to Mexico, and the trial of both Ketch and Clara Smith Hamon were chronicled daily in the headlines of national newspapers, with Ketch as the public spokesman for the Hamon family. The event was the 1920-21 equivalent of the O.J. Simpson trial. In an ironic twist, not long after the trial Frank Ketch and Clara Smith Hamon invested in a Hollywood film based on the incident. Clara Smith Hamon moved to Hollywood and played herself in the film.

In his recent book on the history of the influence of the oil industry, McCartney⁴⁹ ties Hamon's dealings with Harding to both the wider influence on, if not purchase of, the Harding Presidency by the oil industry and the accompanying Teapot Dome scandal. Ketch's role as an associate of Jake Hamon can be seen as part of the overall national influence of the oil industry and Oklahoma's prominence in it. The oil boom began in northeastern Oklahoma in 1901, and in southern Oklahoma near Ardmore in 1905. By 1920, Oklahoma was producing a billion gallons per year.⁵⁰

Two years after the trial of Clara Smith Hamon, Ada Ketch, wife of Frank Ketch, acquired 3,200 acres of ranch land. Within a year in 1924, according to U.S. Army building records, Frank and Ada Ketch built a number of ranch buildings, including a cobblestone house, a cobblestone smokehouse, a springhouse, a cellar, a barn, and a two-car garage in Section 27, and a house and a two-car garage in Section 28. A few years later, in Section 27, Ketch constructed a water control feature (dam) that resulted in the Ketch Lake, which is still extant today.⁵¹

By 1926, the Ketch Ranch encompassed 4,020 acres, all in Ada's name. This was also the year that Frank Ketch reportedly moved to Oklahoma City to continue fostering business in the developing oil industry. Despite the move, the Ketches retained the ranch and continued to use it. On April 1, 1927, Ada Ketch sold half of her interest in the ranch to Frank. The ranch encompassed 5,060 acres, more than 1,000 acres larger than its 1926 size.⁵² About this time, Frank Ketch built Ketch Lake.⁵³ Although there were many earthen tanks on Ketch Ranch, built to contain water for livestock, the construction of the dam for the lake points to the recreational use of the land by the Ketch family.

During the 1920s—the booming years of the nearby Medicine Park resort area—the ranch was something of a social spot even though it wasn't the primary residence of the Ketch family. The Ketches spent leisure time there as a family and entertained other prominent

⁴⁹Laton McCartney, *Teapot Dome Scandal: How Big Oil Bought the Harding White House and Tried to Buy the Country*, Random House, 2008.

⁵⁰ Anne Hodges Morgan, and H. Wayne Morgan, eds, *Oklahoma: New Views of the Forty-Sixth State*. University of Oklahoma Press, 1982.

⁵¹ "Ketch Ranch Building Cards," Fort Sill Museum, various dates.

⁵² "Warranty Deed 192-492," Comanche County Land Records, Comanche County Clerk's Office, County Courthouse, Lawton, OK, 1927.

⁵³ Dr. Lawrence L. Ketch (grandson of Frank Ketch), in discussion with Marjorie Nowick, September 6, 2006.

people from around Oklahoma and Texas. Their social gatherings were reported in local newspapers as well as *The Oklahoman*. Entertainment at the ranch included horseback riding, fishing (probably at Ketch Lake), boating, and other outdoor activities. In one 1929 news account, the ranch was named the "Circle K Ranch," a name not seen elsewhere.⁵⁴ During the years of the 1920s, Frank and Ada Ketch purchased additional acreage and expanded the ranch.

Other more prominent oil men in Oklahoma similarly built ranch getaways during the 1920s. Frank Phillips, founder of Phillips Petroleum, purchased land southwest of Bartlesville, Oklahoma, and built a rustic lodge to entertain business associates, politicians, and other social elites. Phillips, one of the wealthiest men in Oklahoma, named his 4,000 acre recreational ranch "Woolaroc," after the woods, lake, and rocks on the property. Still extant, Woolaroc now houses museum facilities as well as the lodge, and is open to the public.

In 1928, Frank and Ada Ketch leased for one dollar several thousand acres of the ranch to the Oklahoma Fish and Game Commission for use by the nearby game refuge. Under the terms of the lease, if the refuge became overpopulated, the game commission could place overpopulated animals on Ketch land. The agreement prohibited hunting on the ranch and required Ketch to provide water, cover, and appropriate crops for animals.⁵⁵

The social extravagances of the 1920s were soon dampened by the Great Depression. The depression economy of the early 1930s appears to have affected Frank Ketch's fortunes. By 1932, the Ketches had organized another ranch company, called the Monte Vista Ranch, naming Frank as the president and son Lawrence as secretary. They sold Ketch Ranch to the Monte Vista Ranch enterprise, except for a \$21,000 mortgage held by the Business Men's Assurance Company of Kansas, a grazing lease, and a tax penalty of \$1,250 dollars that was two years past due. At this time, the ranch included an additional 440 acres, bringing the ranch total to 5,145 acres. In 1934, financial problems persisted for the Ketches. The Monte Vista Ranch and Ketch family entered into an extension agreement and jointly agreed to pay \$17,100 instead of the \$21,000 mortgage by 1937 to keep the ranch.⁵⁶

Despite financial problems, the Ketches retained the Monte Vista Ranch until the military buildup just before American entrance into World War II. In early 1941, Fort Sill expanded and the federal government acquired the Monte Vista Ranch through a Declaration of Taking on January 10, 1941. The government purchased 7,481.63 acres, including all of the 5,145 acres of the Monte Vista Ranch. It is not known how much money the Ketches received for their land, however, \$355,000 was eventually allotted to pay for expansion of the base.⁵⁷ From this point forward, there is no further record of Frank or Ada Ketch owning a ranch in Comanche County. Although Frank Ketch purchased and sold parcels of land (including city

⁵⁴ "Mr. and Mrs. Ketch Have Guests at Ranch," *The Oklahoman* (Oklahoma City), May 18, 1929.

⁵⁵ "Extension Agreement 238-53," Comanche County Land Records, Comanche County Clerk's Office, County Courthouse, Lawton, OK, 1937.

⁵⁶ Ibid.

⁵⁷ "7,481 Acres Sought Next to Fort Sill; Vaught Names Group to Appraise Land." *The Oklahoman* (Oklahoma City), January 11, 1941.

lots) throughout his career, it appears that Ketch Ranch served as the most significant Ketch landholding—and certainly the longest in duration.

Frank Ketch continued to make Oklahoma City his permanent residence, where he pursued the independent oil business and land speculation. Five months after selling Monte Vista Ranch, Ada and Frank Ketch divorced. In 1951, when Frank Ketch died of a heart attack in Oklahoma City at age 70, his survivors included his son, Lawrence B. Ketch, and second wife, Quintina, an American Indian woman.^{58, 59}

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement

The Ketch Ranch House is a rectangular, single-story residence constructed in an architectural form and style drawing on the Craftsman bungalow. It is constructed of structural masonry, specifically local red granite cobblestone using masonry techniques known as the Wichita Mountains Vernacular Style. Despite the relatively poor condition of the Ketch Ranch House, the historic integrity of its cobblestone exterior is intact and its building methods and materials remain readable.

The Ketch Ranch grew from approximately 3,200 acres when it was first acquired by the Ketches in 1923 to a 5,145-acre working ranch and second home for the Frank and Ada Ketch family during the years 1924 to 1941. The ranch included the main house and detached garage were located above Blue Beaver Creek in Section 28, and a second house, barn, root cellar, smokehouse, and springhouse located to the southeast in Section 27. Ketch Lake lies to the west in the northwest quarter of Section 29. A stone dam constructed by Frank Ketch restricts Blue Beaver Creek creating the Ketch Lake. The only standing structures remaining from the original Ketch Ranch are the Ketch Ranch House (described here) and the Ketch Lake dam (only discussed in general terms in the historical context); only the foundations of the other Ketch Ranch structures are extant and reported as archaeological features of site 34-Cm-368.

B. Description of Exterior

The Ketch Ranch House is a single-story structure that measures 38'-0" x 34'-0" of structural masonry in the Wichita Mountains cobblestone tradition of stacked course. The house has a side-gabled roof, and rests longitudinally on a terrace above the Blue Beaver Creek. It sits high overlooking the creek with a clear view of Mount Sherman and the rest of the Ketch Ranch property. A prominent feature of its exterior is its 10'-0"-wide screened porch wrapping around the eastern three-quarters of its south façade and the southern half of its east façade. The house rests on a poured concrete foundation with supporting piers through the middle of the house. The structural walls of the house are of load-bearing stone utilizing a local red granite cobblestone, roughly spherical in shape, and coursed in a stack bond. These

⁵⁸ Dr. Lawrence L. Ketch (grandson of Frank Ketch), in discussion with Marjorie Nowick, September 6, 2006.

⁵⁹ "Frank Ketch, State Oilman, Dies in Hospital." *The Oklahoman* (Oklahoma City), 29 April 1951.

cobblestones are approximate 9" in diameter and are set in plain concrete. This cobblestone masonry technique is visible at other locations in the area, most notably at the resort community of Medicine Park, Oklahoma. The foundation and walls are in good condition, although the house is in generally poor condition.

The gable ends on the east and west façades are clad in vertical wood board where the cobblestones stop at the roof sill. The gable ends also have attic vents and exposed plate and beam ends.

A porch wraps around the eastern three-quarters of the south façade and the southern half of the east façade. A sunroom is at the northeast corner of the building and connected to the rear (north) bedroom. The sunroom is constructed of double-hung sash windows above a cobblestone half wall that continues the line of the wraparound porch on the east façade and vertical board, wood-framed half walls to the south and north. Along the east façade, the porch and sunroom are recessed under the gable end of the main structure. The south façade of the porch has a shed roof along its full length. At the corners of the porch and also at the corners of the gable end are stucco piers. A separate shed roof porch also sits at the northwest corner of the main structure and shelters the entry into the kitchen. The ceiling of the porch is plaster over lath; the majority has deteriorated due to water infiltration. The screen of the porch is no longer intact, but the upper wall wood framing remains.

The ranch house has two chimneys: one internal chimney on the ridge of the roof centered between the two gable ends and one external chimney on the west façade. Both chimneys are faced with the cobblestones and have metal flashing at the roofline. The exterior chimney is capped with concrete, while the interior one is not capped.

The primary entrance is on the south façade beneath the shed roof porch. The front door has a single light with dentil details below, drawing design cues from Craftsman style. It is flanked on either side by paired windows with a triple set of windows at the southwest corner outside of the screened porch. Windows and doors have plain concrete lintels throughout, and windows have similar plain concrete sills that contrast sharply with the red cobblestone exterior. The east façade is subsumed beneath the screened porch, and from the southeast corner moving north there is a set of paired windows and a single window. The porch is split at the midpoint along the east façade by a wall, which encloses the northern portion into a sunroom. The sunroom has double-hung sash windows along the porch half wall in a four-over-one-light configuration, oriented vertically as is common in the Craftsman style. Along the south wall of the sunroom is a pair of double-hung sash windows with a five-over-one-light configuration again with the upper lights oriented vertically. The north exterior wall of the sunroom has one double-hung sash five-over-one-light window on the west end and an opening for a door with a sidelight at the northeast corner. Along the north façade of the ranch house, from east to west, is a tripartite window with a fixed middle window and double-hung, one-over-one-light windows to either side, another design feature common to Craftsman style. A single, double-hung, one-over-one-light window is to the west of the tripartite window. The east wall of the rear shed porch (at the northwest corner of the building) begins just to the west of this single window. Beneath the porch is a single door entrance into the kitchen flanked on either side by single, double-hung, one-over-one-light

windows. Along the west façade, from north to south, are two paired windows, each double-hung with four-over-one lights with the upper lights exhibiting the Craftsman-style vertical orientation. Square single-light windows flank the chimney to either side at the southern end of the west façade. Some windows are missing panes and some are missing entire sashes. However, each façade has some intact windows.

The roof is a side gable with a relatively low pitch. As is common in Craftsman bungalows, plates and beams are exposed on the gable ends and rafter tails are exposed along the eaves. The roof is covered with composite shingles in a diamond or scale pattern over wood decking. The roof ridge is capped with barrel tiles. The roof has almost completely collapsed on the western half of the house, between the west façade and the center of the house, exposing the interior to the elements. The rear porch roof has also collapsed.

C. Description of Interior

The floor plan of the Ketch Ranch House comprises six rooms: a living room, kitchen, and dining room on the west half of the house, and two bedrooms (with a bathroom between them) and a small sunroom on the east half of the house. There are four doors from the outside into the house: the main, front entrance via the porch on the south façade; an entrance at the northwest corner of the house into the kitchen via the small shed-roofed porch; at the northeast corner of the house into the sunroom, which leads to the northern bedroom; and from the side of the wraparound porch on the east façade of the building.

The primary entrance on the south façade opens into the living room. Three doors lead from the living room: the first door leads into the small dining room, the second door leads into the northern bedroom, and the third door leads to the southern bedroom at the southeast corner of the house. The east half of the house is occupied by the two bedrooms, a bathroom between them, and a small sunroom at the northeast corner of the house off the northern bedroom.

The flooring throughout the house is pine board. Baseboards are smooth pine boards that are 12" tall. Due to exposure from the collapsed western half of the roof, several places of the floor structure in the western half of the house have rotted and collapsed. The interior treatment of the façade (exterior) walls is paint over thin layer of concrete, and the interior walls and ceilings are plaster over lath. In the bathroom, the interior walls are scored to simulate tile.

The living room is the most ornate in interior and decorative treatment. The primary entrance opens into the living room, which accesses the dining room, north bedroom, and south bedroom. The living room chimney fireplace along the west wall is a prominent feature. It is faced with dressed red granite blocks. Alternating blocks of rough and smooth face create patterns in the stonework: a diamond pattern above the firebox, a course of smooth capped by a course of rough on the mantel, and smooth center blocks in alternating courses along the two pilasters flanking the firebox. The fireplace is flanked by two built-in benches or wood boxes with a single pane window above each. Interior window and door moldings are simple, smooth-planed pine surrounds.

The kitchen opens to the dining room and to the porch on the northwest corner of the house. The kitchen has built-in cabinets and a double sink surrounding two paired windows on the west wall. There are no kitchen appliances. An open stove vent is on the south wall of the kitchen. The interior walls have been scored to simulate tile, just as in the bathroom.

The bathroom has only a sink remaining. Layers of linoleum flooring obscure any evidence of a bathtub or toilet.

D. Site

The Ketch Ranch House is sited to take advantage of the views of the Ketch Ranch and surrounding area. The house sits on a stream terrace midway up a hill north of Blue Beaver Creek. From this high point, the house has a commanding view of Blue Beaver Creek and Mount Sherman. The front lawn south of the house features mature oak trees. A walkway extends south from the primary entrance of the house across the driveway to a concrete stairway leading down the terraced yard, across the road, and to the low-water crossing of the creek. Blue Beaver Creek bisects the original Ketch Ranch property and the other ranch structures.

A second house, barn, smokehouse, springhouse, and root cellar were located south of the creek, approximately 0.75 mile southeast and approximately 80' below the Ketch Ranch House. None of these other structures are extant, although their foundations are present. These are designated as loci.

The use of the regional cobblestone materials on the house extends out into the grounds and landscaping. Paired cobblestone piers that are 2' square at base mark the entrances to the property from the main road to the east. There is a corresponding pair of cobblestone piers on the west edge of the hill.

The driveway, lined with cobblestone edging and curb, ran across the front of the house to the west end of the property where a cobblestone garage is documented to have stood. Leading off from the east side of the driveway, a cobblestone retaining wall frames the east and north (rear) lawns that surround the house. The retaining wall stands 32" high and 10" wide, and consists of four courses of cobblestones capped in concrete. Cobblestone edging also curved from the driveway west of the house to a concrete walkway leading from the back porch and kitchen door at the northwest corner of the house. Off the northeast corner of the house is a low, circular, concave feature that is 12'-0" in diameter and 18" tall, constructed of two courses of cobblestone, and capped in concrete. This feature may have served as a decorative planter.

The hill north (behind) of the house ascends beyond the cobblestone retaining wall to an approximate elevation of 1,520' above mean sea level, or another 50' above the house.

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s.v. "Cannonball (River Rock) Architecture" (by Peter J. McCormick)
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C. Supplemental Material:

Supplemental Materials include historical and descriptive data, historical photographs, and black and white photographs.

PART IV. PROJECT INFORMATION

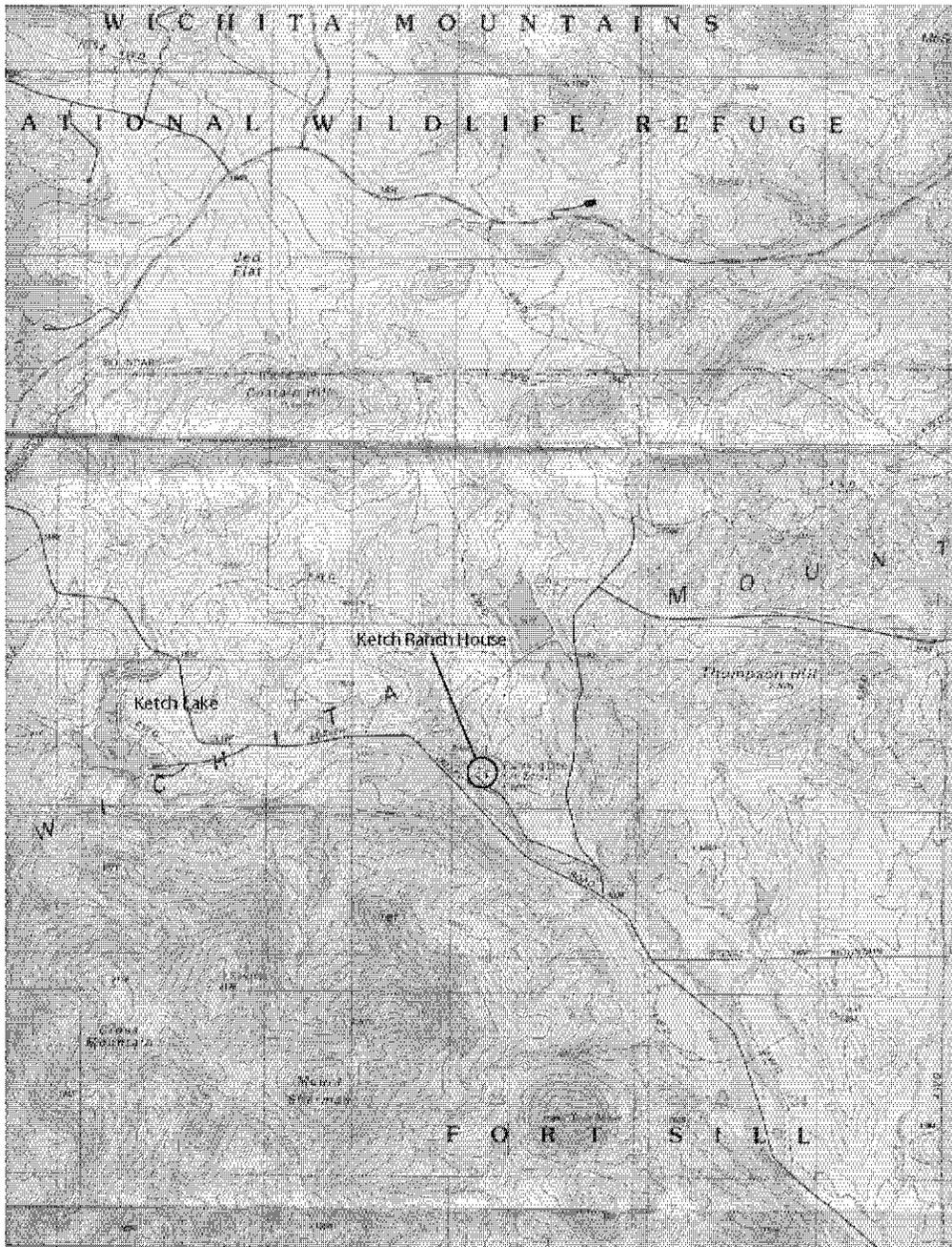
This project was conducted by engineering-environmental Management, Inc. (e²M) for the U.S. Army, Fort Sill Military Reservation at the request of Tegan Swain and Kevin Christopher, Cultural Resources Managers. Ken Shingleton, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Tulsa District served as the contract officer's technical representative. Historical research and architectural documentation were completed by Marjorie Nowick and Daniel Hart of e²M. Photography was completed by Timothy McGrath, principal of Image West, Colorado as subcontractor to e²M. Fieldwork was conducted on 26 June 2006, and on 8 April 2008. Large-format photography was completed by Mr. McGrath on 8 April 2008.

Supplemental Material

Historical and Descriptive Data
Historical Photographs

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Mount Scott 7.5-minute USGS quadrangle

Figure 1. Ketch Ranch House location map

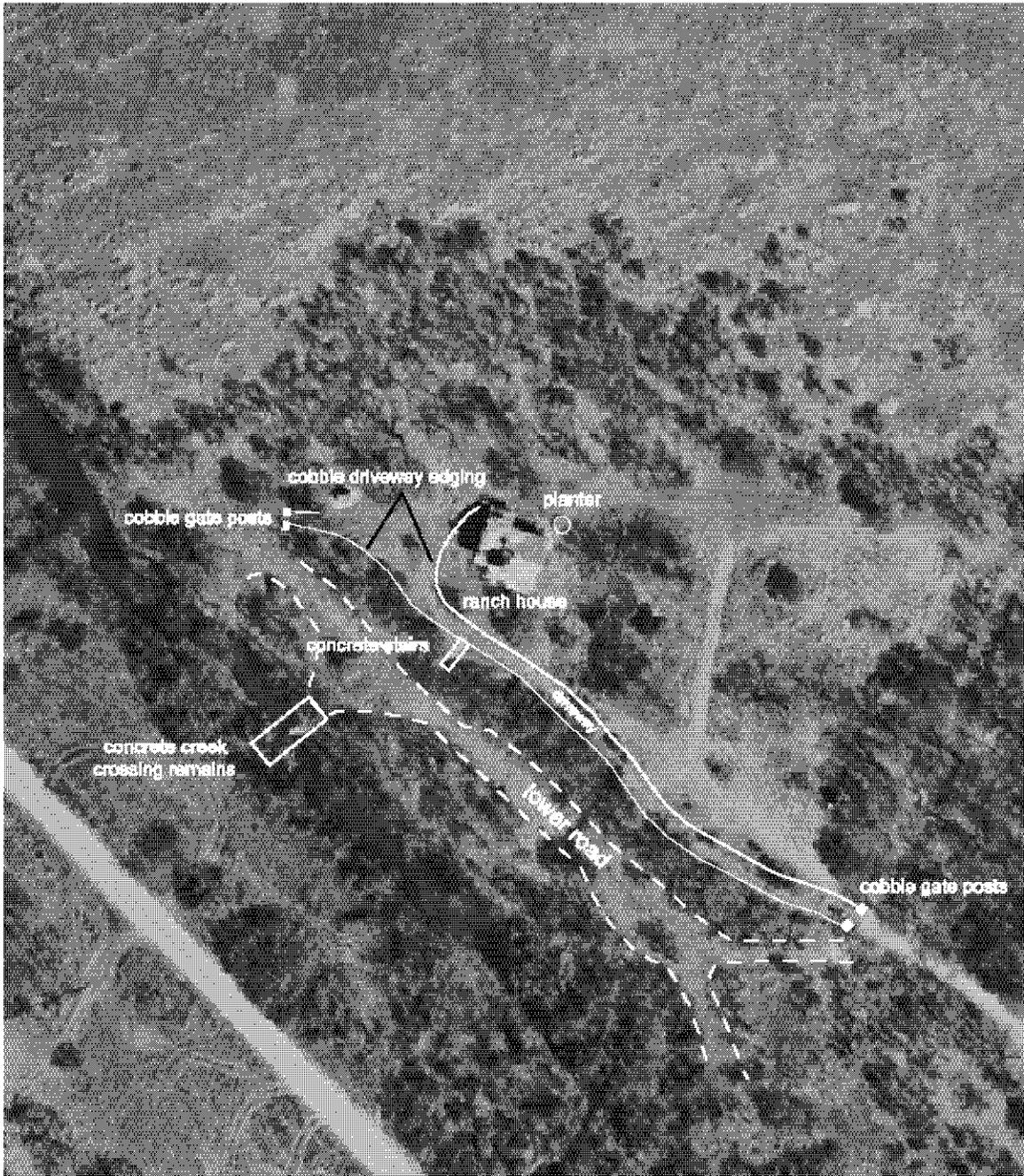


Figure 2. Aerial photograph labeled with Ketch Ranch House location features

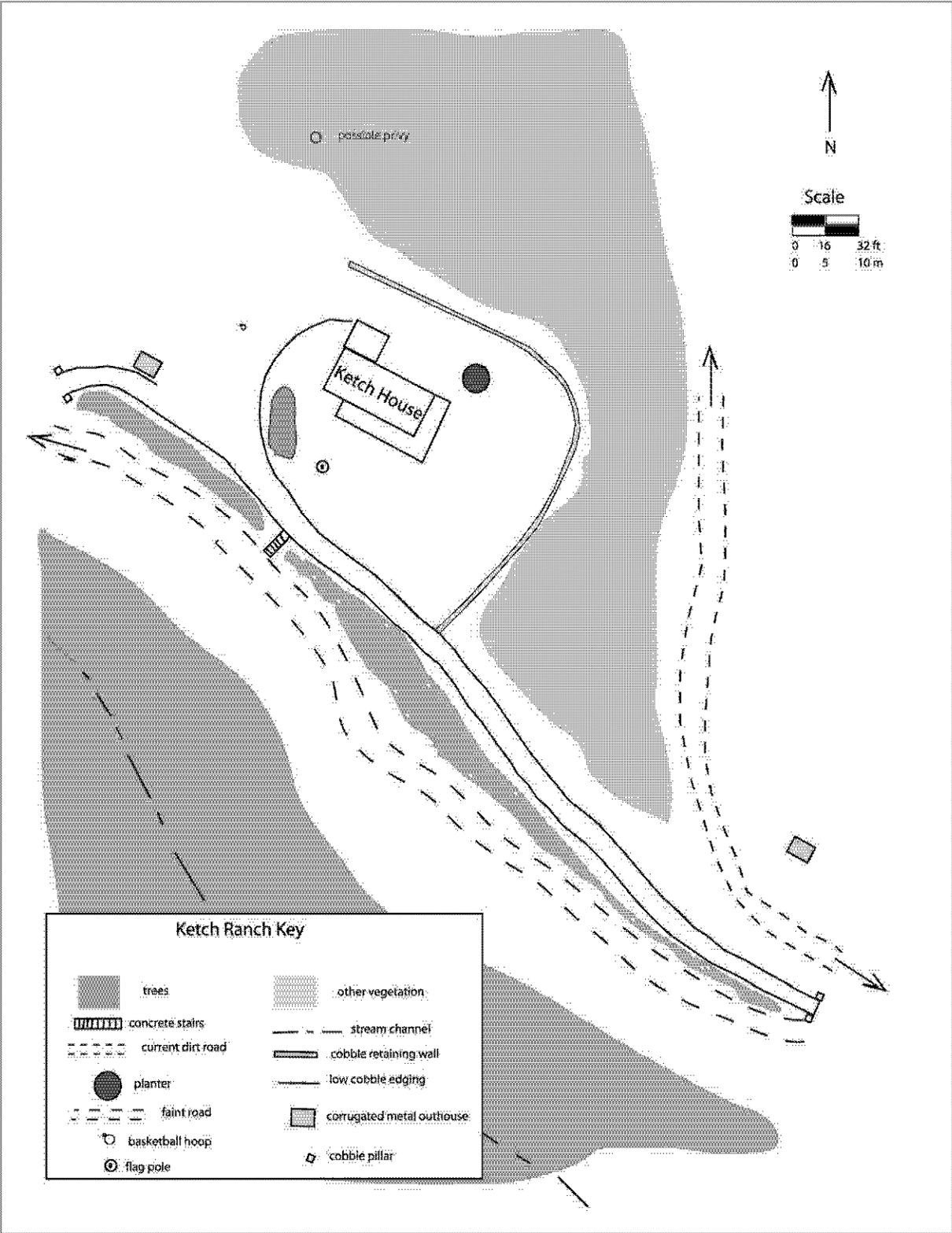


Figure 3. Ketch Ranch property sketch map

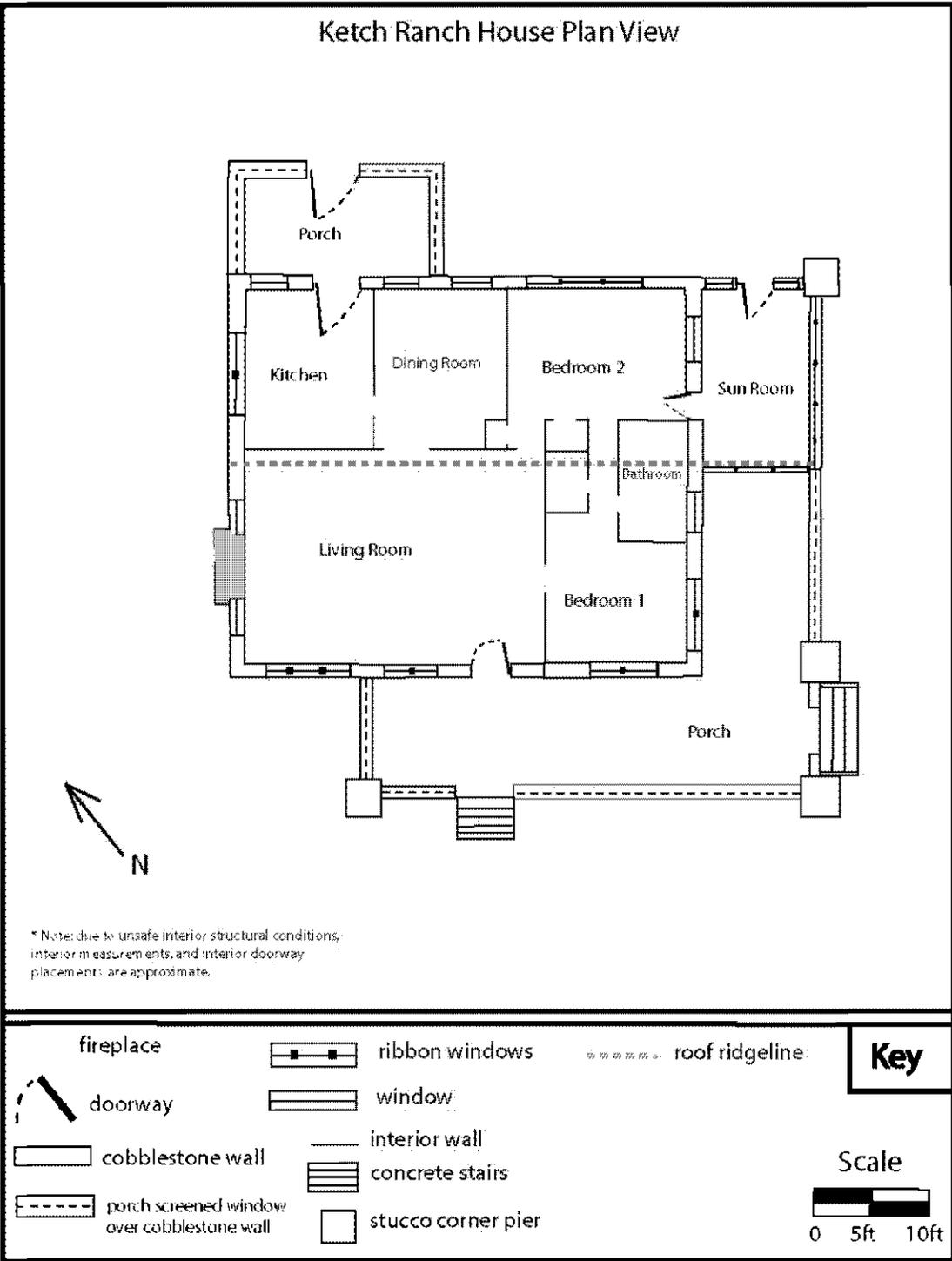


Figure 4. Sketch floor plan of Ketch Ranch House

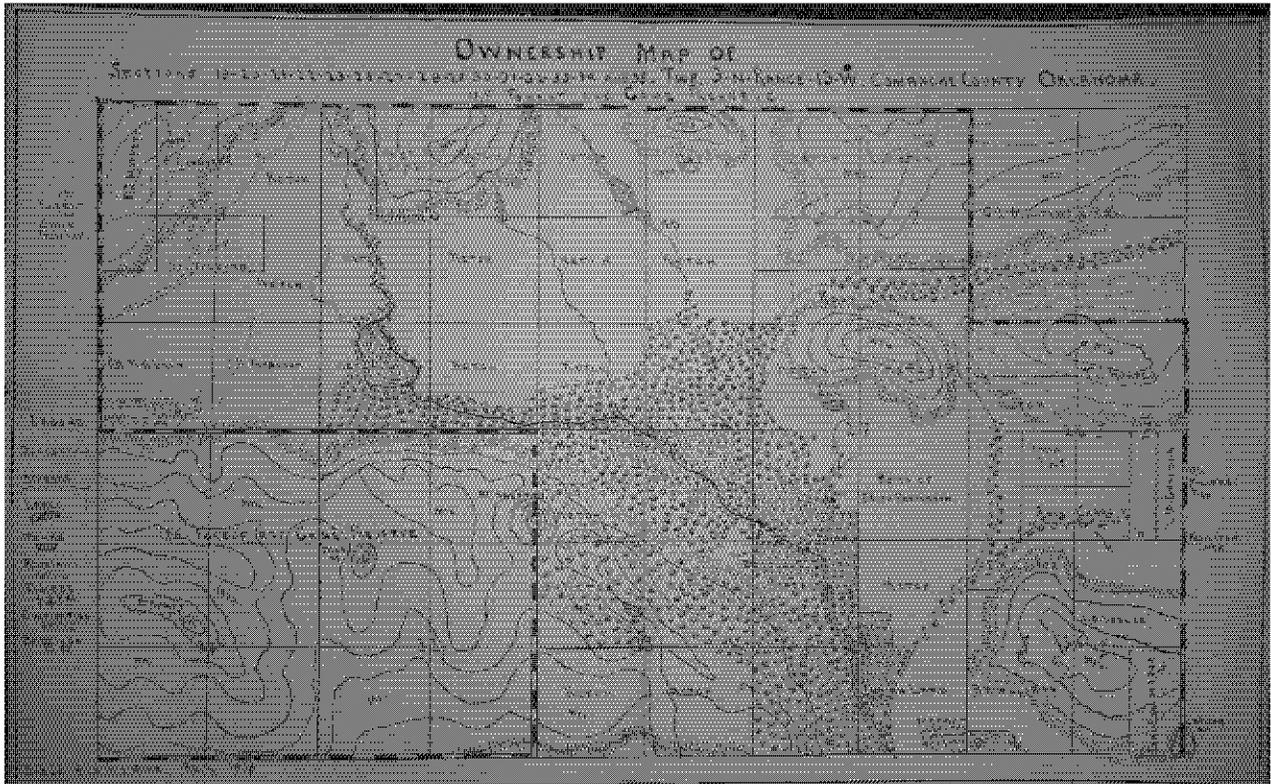


Figure 5. Ketch Ranch ownership map from the Lawrence L. Ketch, Collection

Drawn by Frank Ketch, 1939

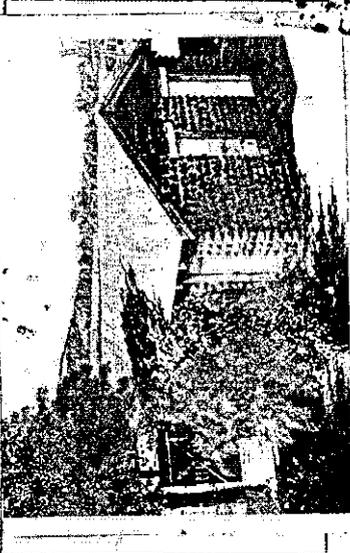
Routed to O.D. & Survey 4321

O.O.M.C. Plan No. Building No. G-760

Place Fort Sill, Oklahoma
 Designation of building Garages - Ketch Ranch
 Total cost \$ 550.00 Date completed 1924
 Material: Walls concrete Foundation concrete
 Roof gyp. shingles Floor barrel
 Total floor area above basement square feet 375
 Size: Main building 12x15 Wings
 a. (floor base)
 b. (type of base)
 c. (type of details not water bearing)

COOKING RANGES INSTALLED
 Coal No.
 Gas No.
 Electric No.
 Oil No.
 Stove No.

METERS INSTALLED
 Gas No.
 Electric No.
 Steam No.
 Water No.

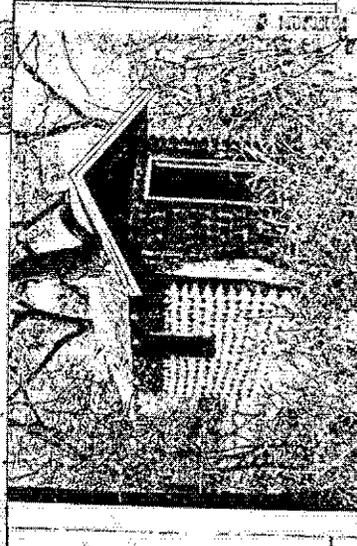


See reverse side of form.

Figure 9. Ketch Ranch building card, courtesy of Fort Sill Museum

Building No. 775
(Ketch, Wash)

O.C.M.G.: Plan No. *PA 8 432*



Place: Fort Sill, Oklahoma
 Designation of building: Springs House - Ketch Ranch
 Total cost: \$ 100.00
 Material: Walls: Cobblestone
 Roof: Comp. Shingles
 Total floor area above basement: square feet 116
 Size: Main building 10' x 20' Wings: 0
 Height of first floor above ground: _____
 How lighted: _____
 Water connections: _____
 Sewer connections: _____
 Gas connections: _____
 METERS INSTALLED
 Gas, No. _____
 Electric, No. _____
 Oil, No. _____
 Steam, No. _____
 Water, No. _____

COOKING RANGES INSTALLED
 Gas, No. _____
 Electric No. _____
 Oil, No. _____
 Steam, No. _____

TYPE & CONDITION OF FLOOR COVERING

ADDITIONS AND INSTALLATIONS
 (Refer either chronologically or alphabetically in modifications, additions, introductions of new areas, light, heating, etc.)

DATE	DESCRIPTION	COST
4/25/18	Spring House 10x11x8' granite cobblestone wall on concrete foundation 5' in height concrete floor, composition shingle roof 5' x 15' C.V. 24833	129.00
4/26/18	No. 1 tank, concrete meter, (on top of sec. 29 & center of sec. 31) 4x12x8' reinforced walls and bottom C.V. 24833	80.00
RECEIVED	PROPERTY	
APR 27 1918	W. H. H. McKeown & Co. Inc. 159/3	

REMARKS: _____

Figure 12. Ketch Ranch building card, courtesy of Fort Sill Museum

State Historic Preservation Office

1. Property Name	KETCH RANCH
2. Resource Name	SAME
3. Address	No Data
4. City	FORT SILL
5. Vicinity	No Data
6. County	Comanche
7. Lot	No Data
8. Block	No Data
9. Plat Name	No Data
10. Section	No Data
11. Township	No Data
12. Range	No Data
13a. Latitude	
13b. Longitude	
14a. UTM Zone	
14b. Northings	
14c. Eastings	
15. Resource Type	Building
16. Historic Function	AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE
17. Current Function	Defense
18. Area of significance, Primary	ARCHITECTURE
19. Area of significance, Secondary	Historic - Non-Aboriginal
20. Description of Significance	THE FIRST SUCCESSFUL ORE SMELTER LOCATED IN THE WICHITA MOUNTAINS WAS MADE IN OCTOBER, 1905, ON LAND LATER KNOWN AS THE KETCH RANCH.
21. Document Resource	No Data
22. Name of the Preparer	PAUL FISCHER
23. Survey Project	Yes Project Name: SITES SURVEY FOR THE OKLAHOMA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
24. Date of Preparation	
25. Photographs	Yes Year: No Data
26. Architect/Builder	No Data

Figure 13. Oklahoma Landmarks Inventory (online version), Ketch Ranch entry, from the Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office (page 1)

27. Year Built	
28. Original Site	Yes Date Moved: No Data
From Where	No Data
29. Accessible	Yes
30. Architectural Style	Art Deco
Other Architectural Style	
31. Foundation Material	UNCOLLECTED
32. Roof Type	99 UNCOLLECTED
33. Roof Material	STONE
34. Wall Material (Primary)	NO DATA
35. Wall Material (Secondary)	UNCOLLECTED
36. Window Type	99 UNCOLLECTED
37. Window Material	UNCOLLECTED
38. Door Type	99 UNCOLLECTED
39. Door Material	UNCOLLECTED
40. Exterior Features	THE BUILDINGS ARE MADE OF WICHITA MOUNTAINS COBBLESTONE.
41. Interior Features	No Data
42. Decorative Details	No Data
43. Condition of Resource	Good (very well maintained)
44. Description of Resource	
45. Comments	
46. Placement	
47. Listed on National Register	No Value
Continuation:	
National Register Entry:	
Date Updated (mm/dd/yyyy)	

[View Another Record](#)

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Figure 14. Oklahoma Landmarks Inventory (online version), Ketch Ranch entry, from the Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office (page 2)

WILL NOT PASS

FERRIS TELEGRAPHS ROBERTSON THAT WAR DEPARTMENT IS AGAINST ALLOTMENT

A telegram was received yesterday from Representative Scott Ferris at Washington stating that he believed the bill to allot the Apache Indians land from the government reservation would fail to pass. The war department is now against the move.

The telegram is in response to one from the Chamber of Commerce sent Saturday asking his aid to defeat the bill. A delegation from Elgin are in Washington urging the passage of the bill, believing that the allotment of farms from the reservation will be a drawback to the improvement of the post on the reservation.

He points out that the improvement and construction of the big fact will be a great to the farmers near it and particularly to those who plant in that it will provide an excellent market where top prices will always be paid for all kinds of a produce.

Child Dies in Boiling Water

Lawton, Okla., May 3.—The three-year-old child of Clayton Mills in this city was scalded to death in a tub of boiling water Saturday evening.

Mrs. Mills was scrubbing from the tub when the child came running and tumbled into the hot water, so severely burned that it died a few minutes.

Mrs. Mills went to Temple on business last evening.

THE CHRISTIAN MAN

What About Him?
 Hear this sermon by the Rev. Treat TONIGHT, Tuesday, 8:30, Congregational church, 3rd corner, C and Seventh. All are cordially urged to attend these meetings.

...a radius of a mile and a half was torn and shattered. Giant trees were snapped off close to the earth, barns and dwellings were converted into kindling wood, and even in Ottawa, four miles from the scene, hundreds of plate glass windows were broken.

RAMSEY BACK

Says Fued Wasn't as Bad as Paper But Was a Feud.

J. D. Ramsey came in Sunday night but will make Lawton only a short stay. He plans to leave again today for Sulphur. It was reported some time ago by an Oklahoma City paper that he had gone back to Tennessee to take part in a family feud in the mountains there.

Mr. Ramsey states that the feud, however, was not as bad as was reported. At least he received no bodily injury in the disturbance.

COME TO REST

Virginia L. Ketch, elder child of Mr. and Mrs. Frank B. Ketch, residing at 212 Grand boulevard, after an illness of 23 days with complicated measles, quietly passed away at 12:45 yesterday morning. For the last 12 days she was unconscious, and medical skill with the best of care failed to successfully combat with the complications which came.

Relatives of Mrs. Ketch, with the following family are: Mrs. Brown, mother; Mrs. Hall, sister; and Miss Edith Hall, niece of Mrs. Ketch, from Hennessy. Mrs. Taylor, a sister, from Wednesday morning at 10 o'clock, conducted by Rev. W. S. Lemon pastor of the First Methodist Episcopal church.

This little daughter and friend was born on the 12th of January, 1904 and now, after a brief happy childhood, has gone to awaiting baptism.

...of the state... hereby recommend to the people of Oklahoma without regard to political affiliation, the adoption of the proposed amendment.

Will Ask Subscriptions.

The commercial clubs of the various towns will be asked to subscribe \$10 each to the cause and with this financial aid Secretary Arnold hopes to be able to win the fight which will be decided on June 11, at the same time the capital location is voted. He will at once increase his office force and start at the work with a will. It was his plan of campaign which was for him the place of secretary at the federation meeting and he has much hope of making it a success.

RETURN FROM SAD VISIT

Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Kennard Just Buried Father—May Have to Return.

Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Kennard returned Sunday from Texas where they buried Mr. J. B. Kirkland, father of Mrs. Kennard. Mr. Kennard stated yesterday that the mother is now reported very low with consumption and they may have to return on their sad trip. Mrs. Kirkland was attacked by an attack of pneumonia. Mrs. Kirkland is suffering from consumption.

CLOSES SUCCESSFUL MEETING

Rev. Stephens, Baptist missionary for Comanche county, closed a very successful series of meetings at the Thomas schoolhouse Sunday. A church of 25 members was organized and 12 were baptized.

AN ERROR

The statement that Virginia Ketch suffered from scarletina was corrected yesterday by Dr. Turner, attending physician, who stated that Miss Ketch died from complications following measles.

...on the ho... All pol... shadows a true... definitely of... the house of... of loads. The... preaching to... patriotism and... that contention... side by the str... for a year at la... The house of... on Wednesday... they returns, lo... from the throne... of A. J. Balfour... will reply... Roswald McKen... admirably, emb... far on the crisis... home.

Many Court Cases

According to a Marlborough hour mention of the Queen Mary. The new court has a considerable Prince and Prince new King and Queen. Mr. Kennard positively retired. It is quite certain to form an almost safe to assume will be far less brilliant than Edward.

The latter is weight and dignity of the King's office. A Queen under his reign with the pomp and considered befitting great empire. As a result to his court a by wealthy social life American heroines. High aristocracy play part. It is quite certain changes will be speculation of the court. The Queen Mary is a character of character. As a result to her more the court surrounding Queen Alexandra. She is a love work connected with while King George, so is more fond of country walks than of society. There is a general belief court will do of a study where time and that a why... influence in the will be obliged to seek step retirement.

Continued on Page

Fred's Philosophy

Monday is not only the best policy, it is the ONLY policy. Also Under wear, Hats & Oxfords

FRED SPONSLER, 309 3rd St.

Lawton Daily News Republican
 Lawton, Okla.

Figure 15. Obituary of Virginia Ketch

17:

Section: The Oklahoman; Date: 1916 Apr 20; Section: None; Page Number: 3

Real Estate, Basis of All Values, Most Productive Where Boom Has Not Damaged By Inflation



The wealth of all Nations is based upon their Realty values, and even MONEY itself is nothing more than a representative of Real Estate and is used as a circulating medium merely for convenience. Great fortunes have been made out of Real Estate

Real Estate investments are today and always have been the safest and surest investment that can be made.

Town lots in a well located and growing town make a good investment and always will.

I consider lots in Ringling the best investment that a man can make. I own both business and residence property in Ringling, and the average NET return on my investment in rents the past year has been 35%. Where else can you go and equal this investment?

You are taking no chances whatever in buying lots in Ringling, as the town is established and values actually exist.

Ringling is not a boom town, and this is not an addition sale, but a sale of the original townsite, and you will be offered inside property with improved property adjoining at your own price.

I have lived in Ringling for the past two years, and have sold practically every lot that has been sold in the town to date, and every lot today is worth more money than it sold for, and the lots that will be offered at this sale are as good and as well located as any lots on the townsite. Personally, I regret very much that Mr. Hamon, the owner of the townsite, has seen fit to sacrifice these beautiful lots at auction.

I have had charge of the lot sales at Ringling all of the time since the town has been established, and will have personal charge of this auction sale. No lots will be sold by mail and you must be on the ground personally if you bid.

The sale will positively take place, rain or shine, under the big tent at Ringling on May 4, 5 and 6, 1916, and every unsold lot on the original townsite will be sold without by-bid or reserve.

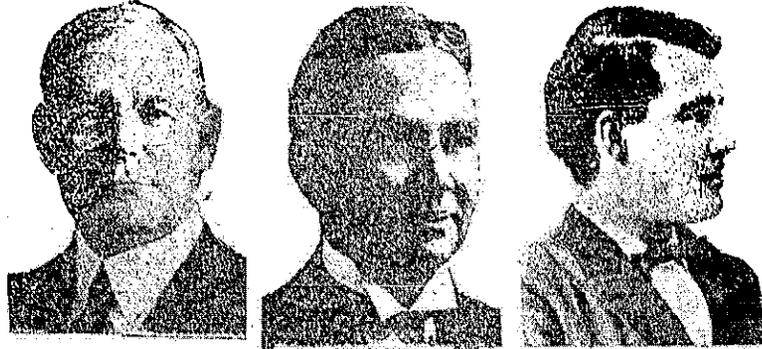
The Oklahoman, April 20, 1916

Figure 16. Advertisement for auction of lots in original town site of Ringling to be administered by Frank Ketch

Id= 6:

Publication: The Oklahoman; Date: 1921 Mar 10; Section: Front Page; Page Number: 1

Clara Goes on Trial Today; Widow Fears Jury Leniency; Ketch May Reverse Version



N. P. Freeling.

Attorneys for Defense and State are Ready To Go to Trial; Knowledge of Case No Bar to Jury Service.

(By the Associated Press.)
MURKIN, Okla., March 9.—State and defense attorneys Wednesday announced readiness for the second Monday morning of the trial of Clara Smith charged with the murder last November of John L. Hamon, an anti-Communist national campaigner from Oklahoma. The District court judge, Earl A. Dickert, was advised Wednesday of this case and Judge Thomas W. Chappin announced that the Hamon case had the precedence.

The case comes in point of international interest. An Oklahoma's greatest murder case, according to N. P. Freeling, state attorney general, who is in charge of the prosecution, it does not differ in its essentials from a score or more murder cases filed at in Oklahoma, however. Mr. Freeling said, explaining that the prominence of Mr. Hamon and the many weeks' search for Clara Smith attracted the unusual attention.

Mr. Freeling came into the prosecution of the case upon direction of Gov. J. B. A. Robertson after Justice H. Mathers, present county attorney, was retained as a defense attorney before his assumption of office January 1.

State and defense counsel Wednesday night were in agreement in announcements that the case would be fought out on its merits as a murder case, and that no effort at the sensational would be indulged by either side.

"We shall make no effort to play
(Continued on Page 2, Column 9.)

The Oklahoman, March 10, 1921

Figure 17. Clara Smith Hamon trial article

Id=6:

Publication: The Oklahoman; Date: 1921 Mar 10; Section: None; Page Number: 2

RAILWAY RATES ARE CONTINUED ON SAME BASIS

(Continued from Page 1.)

Oklahoma is the last of states that says, for the time being at least, that all naturally exist their own railroad rates. In short, we think it is a bad time to rock the boat.

"We feel that refusing to continue in effect the 35 percent increase on road building material is not only in the interest of the public, but in the interest of the carriers as well, as they are shown to have the equipment and to be badly in need of it. We also feel that reduction in fuel and these line arbitrators in thoroughly justified and will be assessed to by the carriers."

ATTORNEYS FOR DEFENSE READY TO START TRIAL

(Continued from Page 1.)

to the gallery," said Walter Reed of West Worth, of the defense counsel. "We shall endeavor to hold the court proceedings to what occurred immediately before Mr. Hamon was shot, dying statements, if any, and facts directly surrounding Mr. Hamon's shooting and death."

His said an effort would be made to go back into the past and that the chief interest of the defense was in the selection of "twelve honest men."

Mrs. Hamon to Attend.

The statement from Attorney General Freeling coincides with that of Mr. Reed almost identically.

Mrs. Jake L. Hamon, the widow, said that she would attend the trial as a witness and that she would act as a spectator each session of court until a verdict is rendered.

Freeling said that he would ask waiving of the rule against witnesses appearing in the court room in three instances. He said he would request that Mrs. Hamon, as the widow, be permitted to attend the court sessions; Frank L. Ketch, administrator of the estate; and Sam Blair, a newspaper man. He said Ketch should be present because of his interest in the trial, and that Blair had journalistic duties that should be considered.

Knowledge No Bar.

In selecting the jury, which, it was believed, would be begun tomorrow, he said he would, Freeling said no insistence that a man be any further with the case would be made. He said that, if the man otherwise was acceptable for jury service, he would be accepted by the state mag-

istrates he had not formed an opinion; evidence could not change.

Including thirty-five gentlemen left over from the 300 summoned at the opening of the present court session, 183 men are available for examination for jury service in the Hamon case. There have been predictions that the jury will be selected from the thirty-five remaining, and that some of the 147 men summoned in the special center would be called on. Of the thirty-five gentlemen left over, the majority are elderly men, married and with families. Fewer than half a dozen are young men.

O'Brien Not Active.

It was indicated that James C. O'Brien, who stepped into as a prosecutor of murder cases with an assistant state's attorney for Cent county, Ill., would not appear actively in the case. Mr. O'Brien, wearing a red necktie, as was his wont when he appeared in trials with the intention of asking the death penalty, was prominent about downtown Ardmore Wednesday. He said that no arrangement had been made for his active participation in the trial and Freeling said he understood Mr. O'Brien would be inactive, but would continue to act as Mrs. Jake L. Hamon's personal attorney.

A coincidence of the opening of the trial is the scheduled appearance in Ardmore of Governor Robertson of Oklahoma. The governor's visit here was said to have no connection with the Hamon trial, however, but to be for the purpose of opening the twentieth Oklahoma livestock show. The faculty all witnesses from out of Ardmore were said to be on hand.

Ardmoreites Select Jury.

Freeling, chief of the state council, and William P. McLean, leading attorney for the defense, said that they would not be active in picking the jury, but that the Ardmore members of their respective staffs would do that. Both pointed out that because of the great anxiety for obtaining a twelve-man jury it was advisable that that very important work be done by men who are familiar with the life history of the members of the centers.

Notwithstanding the slight amount of interest evidenced locally in the trial, court attaches immediately upon announcement of court invited themselves rearranging the seats of the comparatively tiny court room to accommodate as many persons as possible.

Figure 18. Clara Smith Hamon trial article (second page)

Id= 10 :

Publication: The Oklahoman; Date: 1921 Mar 10; Section: Front Page; Page Number: 1



James Mithers.

Hamon to Speak Through His Former Business Man- ager on Facts Surrounding His Death, Is Belief.

BY SAM BLAIR.

(Staff Correspondent)

(Copyright, 1921, by Universal Service)
(Copyright, 1921, by Chicago Herald and
Examiner)

ARDMORE, Okla., March 9.—The murder trial of Clara Smith became Thursday morning.

Wednesday night this little city regards itself importantly. Through courts the sidewalks of the main street and congest in stern antagonism and on the evening to talk pompously about this matter which is to be the climax of the history of the life of the late John Hamon's affinity.

There is a deal of head wringing; there is a superfluity of whispers. About the tables of the soda water parlors are collected or lounged parties. The groups that knit themselves about the Salvation Army band; the patent medicine salesman and the local and foreigner, blind men, matriculationists are all puffed up with the dignity of the occasion. And in the hotel lobbies are nervous symphonies, the individuals of which talk in cautious tones and nod each others ribs or touch a warning finger to lips and glower darkly towards another group just as intent on its own important mystery.

And in the rooms of the Hotel Ardmore—there is the wisdom of reality. Lawyers are conferring. Witnesses are being prepared. Newspapers are suspecting each other of having "inside dope". Courtiers and diplo-

(Continued on Page 2, Column 1.)

The Oklahoman, March 10, 1921

Figure 19. Clara Smith Hamon trial article

Id= 10:

sensations may be developed. But, so far as concerns the matter of conviction or acquittal, the one important thing is supposed to be Jake Hamon's oath bed statement to his friends.

Heart Appeal Strong.

The heart appeal will come in the testimony of the two women most concerned with what the verdict will be. The testimony of these two—the defendant, 27 years old, and the slain man's widow, 42 years old—already has been told in substance in interviews given this correspondent.

Mrs. Hamon, the widow, with her son, Jake Jr., and her 12-year-old daughter, Olive Belle, reached Ardmore Wednesday. In advance of Mrs. Hamon came James C. O'Brien, Chicago attorney who earned the sobriquet of "Hopper" when, as an assistant prosecuting attorney, he convicted and sent to the gallows a number of murderers. Mr. O'Brien has been retained by Mrs. Hamon in a personal capacity.

Mr. O'Brien may not take an active part in the direct prosecution, although he arrived in town wearing a red necktie he always affected when appealing to a jury for a death verdict.

"Hopper" Not in Case.

He is expected to participate in the case only insofar as the interests of Mrs. Hamon are involved. The actual prosecution will be conducted by Attorney General S. P. Freeling of Oklahoma City, assisted by H. H. Brown of Ardmore. The defense attorneys are Charles A. Conkley, James H. Mather and J. B. Champion.

The defense announces that it fears nothing. Mr. Conkley agrees with Attorney General Freeling in estimating that the trial will not continue beyond a week. But this estimate is conditioned on both sides upon the assumption that the "other side doesn't intrude extraneous details."

It is the possibility of these "extraneous details" that lends "liquidity" to the trial prospect. Some of the testimony will concern character and reputation—that of the defendant, several of her associates and, possibly, that of men who were Jake Hamon's political and business allies. And for every reputation assault there will be a defense.

Steve O'Brien Subpoenaed.

For instance, the attorneys of the accused woman have subpoenaed one Steve O'Brien, mentioned by Clara in one of her interviews with me as her "first love."

Clara recalled this romance as the bright, clean period of her life—when she was a school girl in Lawton, and just before she yielded to the dominating cavernous smiles of Jake Hamon. It appears that this sweetheart of another time looks back upon this affair with kindly interest. He will testify, it is understood, that Clara was a blameless girl before the determined Hamon lured her away.

The Oklahoman, March 10, 1921

Figure 20. Clara Smith Hamon trial article

Id= 10 :

Publication: The Oklahoman; Date: 1921 Mar 10; Section:None; Page Number: 9

KETCH MAY BE KEY TO VITAL FACTS ON DEATH OF OIL MAN

(Continued from Page 1.)

was read from the constitution, open to another, making defects, with speeches or counter-speeches, to ascertain, if possible, what the "other side" is planning to produce.

But the possibility of it all seems a little overdone. The speakers on both sides are guessing that the trial will last not much longer than a week. And the guesses of both sides are guessing the same result in the end. Each side, too, knows the general trend which the evidence of the other side will follow.

Issue Is Clear.

The evidence will be divided, thus. The prosecution will attempt to prove that Clara Smith killed her employer, and actually, Jake L. Hamon, in a premeditated and unprovoked fashion. The defense will attempt to prove that a revolver held in Clara's hand was accidentally discharged when she was struck down upon her with a chair after a period of domestic abuse.

The state will attempt to show that Clara believed a murder insurance policy existing that the oil magnate had paid for was about to be cashed and take up a life of "respectability." The defense will try to show that Clara despised the life she had led with Hamon; that she had only remained with him because of the dependence of well that she, herself, had helped arrange a plan whereby the two should meet.

Story Will Stand

The defendant's own story from the witness stand will be identical with the story she told to me when I found her, after the shooting and her disappearance from Ardmore, in Clinton, Texas. Because she made to me her first statement of the facts of the shooting, I am expected to be a witness in the case. My testimony, however, is not anticipated with special interest by either side, because I already have published every important thing she told me.

But there are witnesses whose statements are expected with excitement. One such—and probably the first witness who will be called—is Frank Ketch, general manager of the Hamon property and Jake Hamon's business overseer. Mr. Ketch originated and gave first circulation to the information that Jake Hamon accidentally shot himself while cleaning a .22 calibre automatic pistol. Mr. Ketch is expected to admit on the stand that this story was an invention, told with the kindly purpose of protecting Hamon from notoriety and announced at a time when he believed Hamon would survive his wound. This much of Mr. Ketch's testimony is generally anticipated.

What Does Ketch Know?

Other details, however, of his statements cannot be forecast. Many believe that through Mr. Ketch the dead Jake Hamon will speak from the witness stand. Mr. Ketch was with Hamon from about the hour of his shooting to the moment of his death, last November 25.

Will the witness Ketch say to the jury: "Before he died, Jake Hamon told me how and why he was shot, and the way of it was this?"

When this question is answered, probably the most vital element of evidence will have been introduced. Some facts may be shot in the next room; some reputations may be asailed; some political and personal

The Oklahoman, March 10, 1921

Figure 21. Clara Smith Hamon trial article

Interview Notes with Lawrence (Larry) L. Ketch
(grandson of Frank Ketch)

September 6, 2006
Englewood, Colorado

Introduction

Mr. Larry Ketch, grandson of Frank Ketch, is a surgeon at Children's Hospital of Denver. After being contacted by the cultural resources team, he agreed to meet for an interview at the e2M corporate offices in Englewood, CO. At the time of the interview he provided several historic photos of Ketch Ranch, his father and grandparents, and another unknown location. These photographs were scanned and are included in the report generated for this project as an appendix. Marjorie Nowick, Daniel Hart and Mr. Ketch participated in the interview.

Interview Notes

Larry's father (Lawrence B. Ketch, son of Frank and Ada Ketch) lived at the ranch from approximately 1927-1928 when he was about 8-9 years old.

Larry has other pictures of Frank building Ketch Lake but was not able to locate them. He recalls the lake was built sometime around 1927-1928. He also has a map of the lands encompassed by Ketch Ranch (which he later provided in January of 2008).

The cobble house was the main ranch house. A frame house was used by a range foreman that managed the ranch lands. Horses were kept at the ranch. A barn was provided for them.

Frank Ketch has a brother named Charlie that died in childhood from diphtheria or typhoid. For a time Frank was a night clerk in a hotel in Tuscon. Frank was later in the oil business with The Mullin Brothers (Harold, Sylvester, and another brother). Frank was also involved in the land rush as an entrepreneur and was friends with John Ringling (of the Ringling Bros. Circus and who was also in the oil business) during the land rush. As a result, Frank promoted land in a new town named "Ringling" for his friend. Frank alternately made a fortune, lost it, made it again, and eventually lost it all and died penniless from a heart attack while changing a tire.

Ada Ketch spent as much as 400,000 in one year when Frank was doing well. This may have led to tax trouble and formation of the Monte Vista Ranch. Frank and Ada Ketch were not faithful to each other and eventually divorced in their 60s. Frank remarried a Native American woman.

Figure 22. Interview notes with Lawrence L. Ketch, (grandson of Frank Ketch)



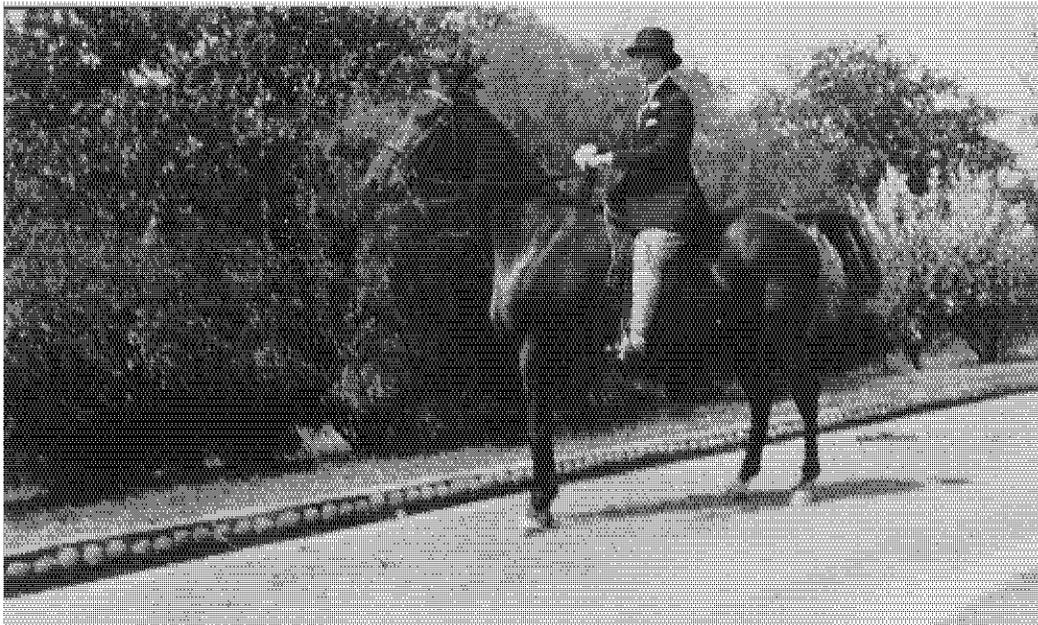
Lawrence L. Ketch, Collection

Figure 23. Portrait of Frank Ketch, date unknown



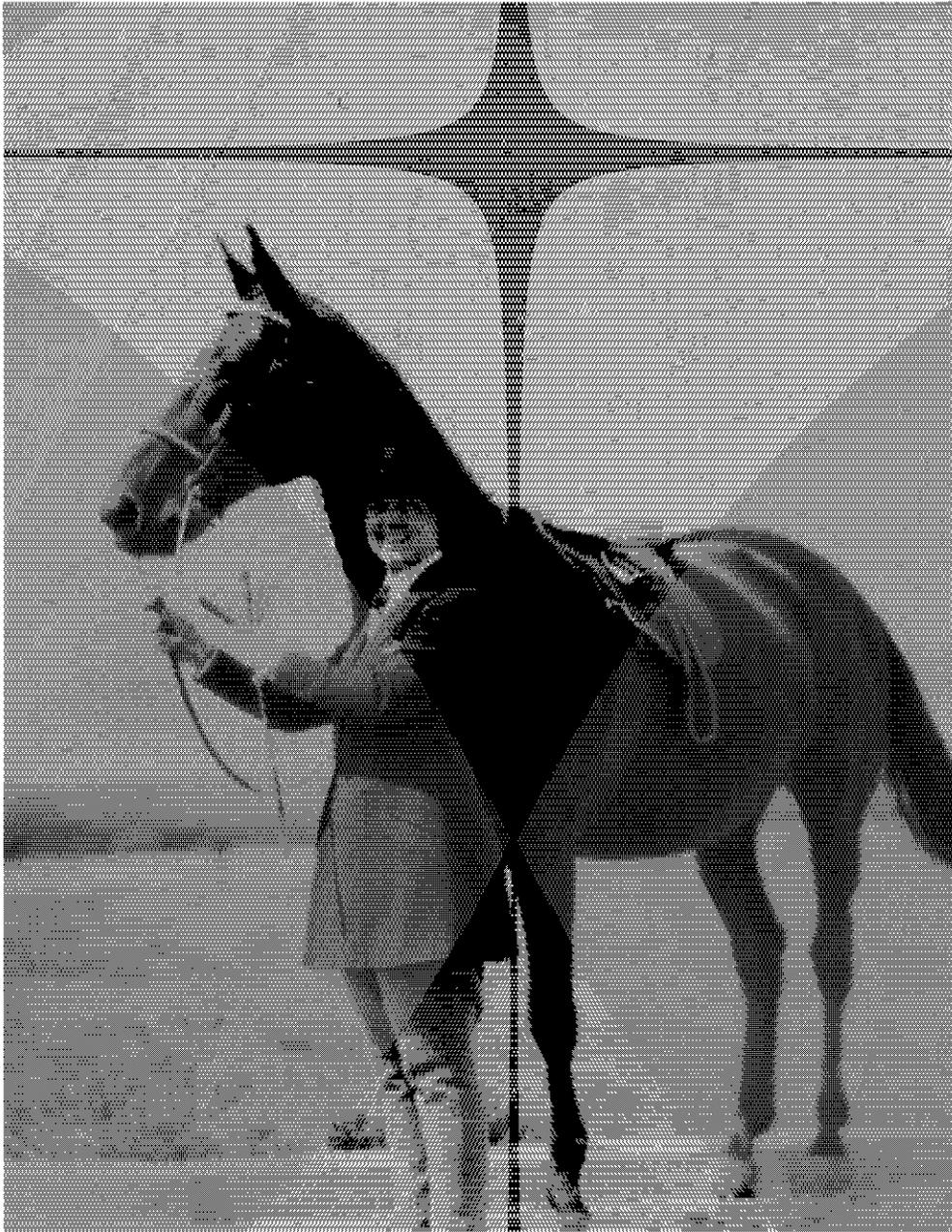
Lawrence L. Ketch, Collection

Figure 24. Ada May Ketch horseback riding at ranch, date unknown



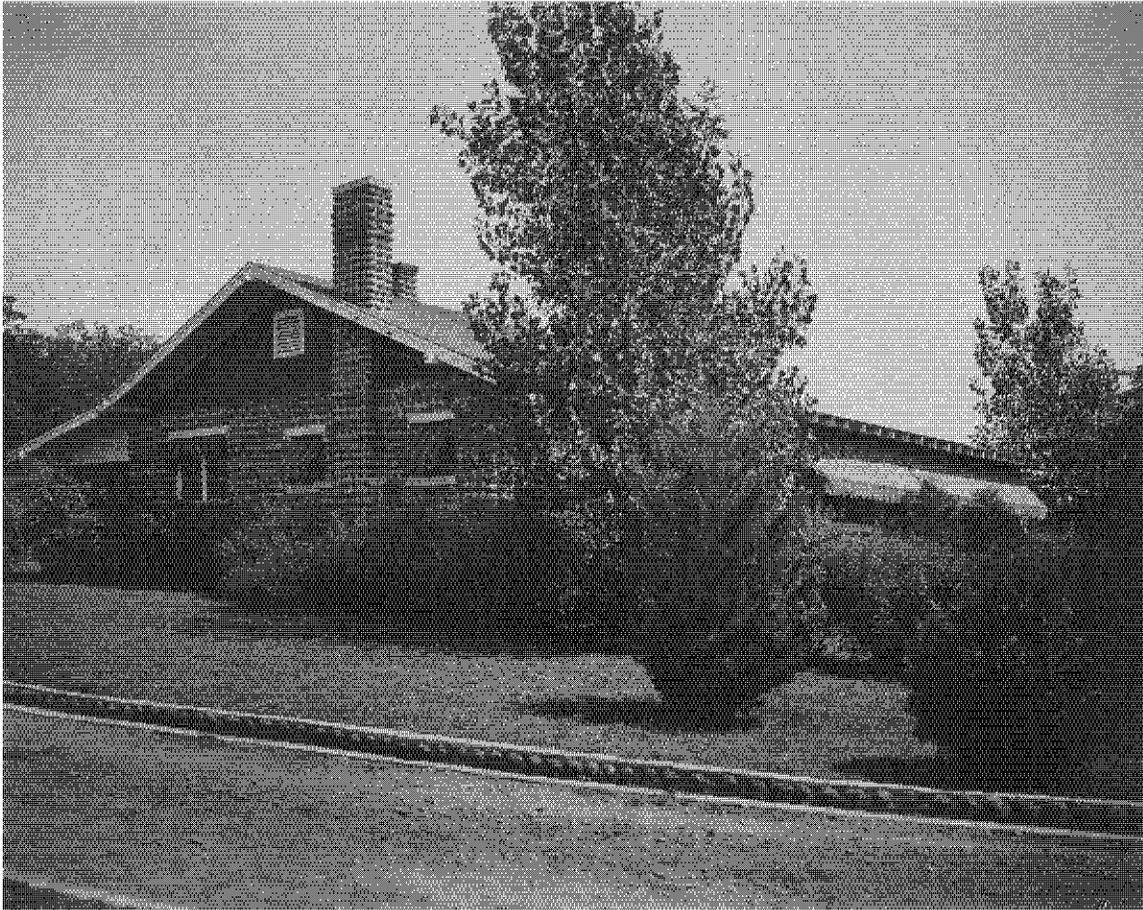
Lawrence L. Ketch, Collection

Figure 25. Ada May Ketch horseback riding in driveway at ranch, date unknown



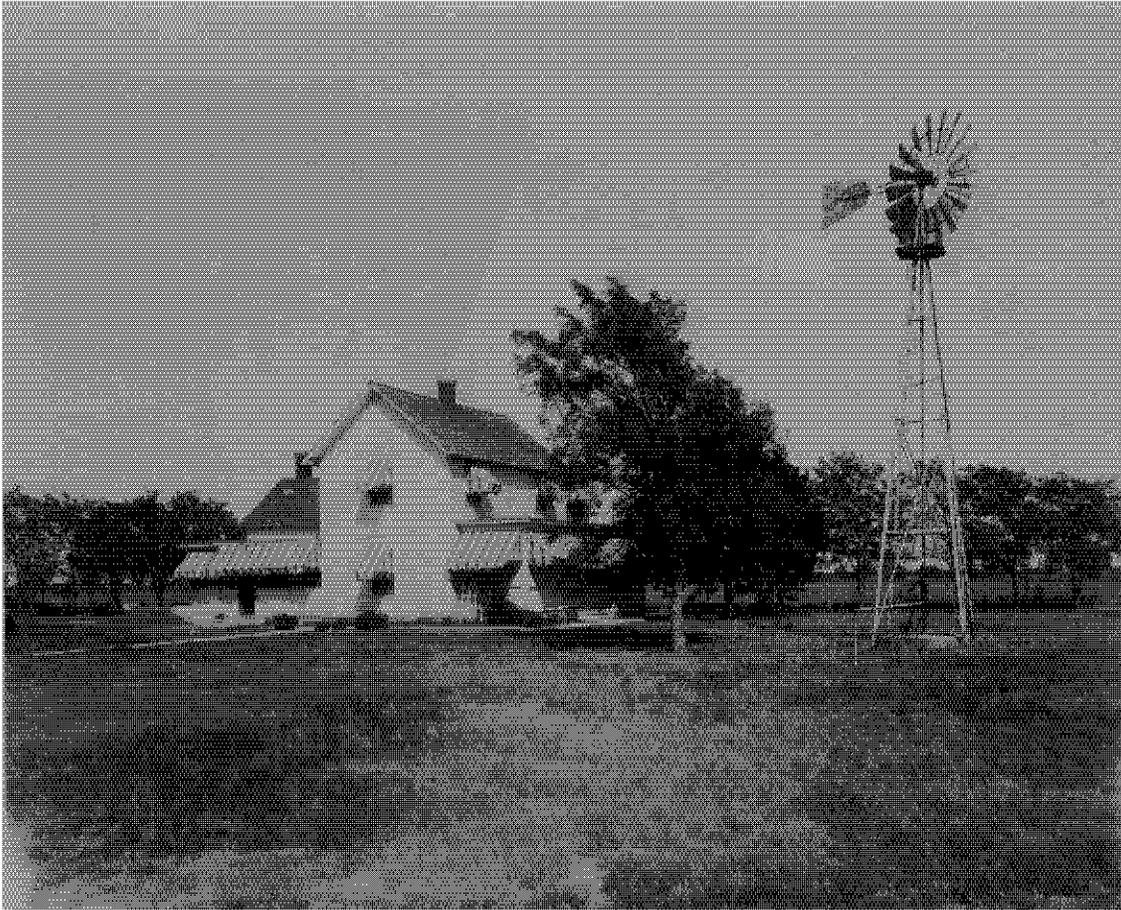
Lawrence L. Ketch, Collection

Figure 26. Ada May Ketch with horse, date unknown



Lawrence L. Ketch, Collection

Figure 27. Ketch Ranch House, south and west façades, date unknown



Lawrence L. Ketch, Collection

Figure 28. Unknown house, date unknown



Lawrence L. Ketch, Collection

Figure 29. Lawrence B. Ketch, in backyard at ranch brushing his teeth, date unknown



Lawrence L. Ketch, Collection

Figure 30. Lawrence B. Ketch, in backyard at ranch, date unknown

Ketch Ranch Chain of Title

*Note all records are from Clerk and Recorder, Comanche County, Oklahoma

1901. Homestead Entry. James Winthrop Hadley. SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ Section 27 and E $\frac{1}{2}$ Section 28, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ Section 28.

November 23, 1904. Warranty Deed. William D. Wesson and Hattie A. Wesson to James M. Powers for \$1000. SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, E $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 28.

January 25, 1905. Warranty Deed. James M. Powers to National Park Cattle Company for \$1000. SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, E $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 28, subject to mineral lease by Fulbright, Kennedy, and Fisher. (Book 35 Page 154)

July 6, 1909. Patent. USA to F. Wesson. Certificate No. 3697. SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, E $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 28.

June 26, 1913. National Park Cattle Company Contract to Charles O. Farrington of Dallas. Lease for oil, gas, artesian water, and other valuable mineral substances for 25 years for parts of Sections 19, 20, 21, 22, 27, and N $\frac{1}{2}$ of Section 29. Includes NE $\frac{1}{4}$ and N $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 28.

August 15, 1919. Warranty Deed. National Park Cattle Company to S. P. Thornhill for \$39,360. Several sections transferred, including sections 19, 20, 21, 22, 26, 27, and 28 totaling 3,200 acres. This includes SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 28. (Book 178 Page 291)

April 18, 1923. Deed Record. S.P. Thornhill to Irving Page, receiver for First National Bank of Lawton for \$1.00. Sections 19, 20, 21, 22, 26, 27, and 28 totaling 3,200 acres. This includes SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 28. (Book 193 Page 108)

May 8, 1923. Warranty Deed. Irving Page, receiver for First National Bank of Lawton, to A.M. Ketch for \$2,000. Includes nearly all sections 19, 20, 21, 26, 27, 29. Includes N $\frac{1}{2}$, E $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 28. (Book 181 Page 301).

April 1, 1927. Warranty Deed. Ada M. Ketch to Frank L. Ketch for \$1.00. A half interest in the following property totaling 5060 acres: N $\frac{1}{2}$, N $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 28. Also, land in T3N, R13W (parts of Sections 19, 20, 21, 22, 26, 27, 28, 29, 34, 35, and all of Section 33) and T2N, R13W (parts of Sections 3, 9, 10, 15, and 31). (Book 192 Page 492)

1928. State Game Refuge Lease. Frank L. Ketch leased all his land in Section 21, 22, 27, 28, 33 and partial land in Section 26, 34, 35 to the State of Oklahoma Fish and Game Commission for \$1.00 for 5 years. (Book 199 Page 456)

July 27, 1932. Warranty Deed. Frank L. and Ada M. Ketch to Monte Vista Ranch for \$1.00; except for mortgage held by Business Men's Assurance Co. of Kansas City for \$21,000 and two years past due and 1931 taxes penalty of \$1,250 and subject to grazing lease to Ed Rowe of Meers that expires on December 15, 1934. These lands include N $\frac{1}{2}$, N $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 28 totaling 440 acres. Also note that all lands total 5145 acres in T3N, R13W (parts of Sections 19, 20, 21, 22, 26, 27, 28, 29, 34, and all of Section 33) and T2N, R13W (parts of Sections 4, 9, 10, and 31). (Book 235 Page 18)

January 10, 1941. Court Judgment, Declaration of Taking. Monte Vista Ranch to U.S.A. Taking 7,481.63 acres in Comanche County including Section 28 for expansion of Fort Sill. (Book 264 Page 357)

Figure 31. Ketch Ranch Chain of Title

Ketch Ranch Field Records

“The Crane Story” by Mrs. George Crane. *The Chronicles of Comanche County*. Volume II, No. 1. Spring 1956.

James W. Hadley Family File by Mrs. George Crane. Lawton Public Library, Hugh Corwin Collection.

“Pioneers of Comanche County, Juanita Adams Manuscript Collection.” Oklahoma State Historical Society, Manuscripts Division. Undated Box 1, Folder 1 (85.12).

“Ketch to Quit as Manager of Hamon Estate.” *The Oklahoman*. 4 February 1923.

“Woman Tried for Killing Parts From Man She Met in West.” *The Oklahoman*. 24 June 1925.

Partial article. *The Oklahoman*. 3 April 1926. Article discusses Ketch’s move to Oklahoma City.

“Mr. and Mrs. Ketch Have Guests at Ranch.” *The Oklahoman*. 18 May 1929.

“Fort Sill to Get 20,000 Acres More; US Agents Purchase Land West of Camp.” *The Oklahoman*. 28 September 1940.

“7,481 Acres Sought Next to Fort Sill; Vaught Names Group to Appraise Land.” *The Oklahoman*. 11 January 1941.

“Jury to Decide on Value of Land for Fort Sill Expansion; Owners Demand Trial In Effort to Get Better Price from Government.” *The Oklahoman*. 9 February 1941.

“US Departments Interchange Land in Fort Sill Area.” *The Oklahoman*. 16 February 1943.

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Figure 32. Ketch Ranch Field Records