

101 RANCH
12 miles southwest of Ponca City on State Highway 156
Ponca City
Kay
Oklahoma

HALS OK-8
OK-8

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

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

HISTORIC AMERICAN LANDSCAPES SURVEY

101 RANCH

HALS NO. OK-8

Location: 12 miles SW of Ponca City on State Highway 156, Ponca City, Kay County, Oklahoma

Lat: 36.56938 Long: -97.14464

Significance: During the 1920s, the 101 Ranch was one of the largest ranches in Oklahoma and the United States, with a total land area of over 110,000 acres. The main ranch house was built in the Greek-Revival style, while the entire ranch was designed and organized based on functionality with three main areas for agricultural, livestock, and people. Today the 80 acres remaining of the ranch site is considered a National Historic Landmark and is listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

History: The 101 Ranch began in 1879 by Colonel George Miller on land along the Salt Fork of the Arkansas River leased from the Ponca Indians. The growth of the ranch became a family affair as Colonel Miller and his sons built what was at the time the largest farm and cattle ranch in the United States. The ranch became a self sustaining operation and also became a tourist attraction mostly because of its "Traveling Wild West Show." The site consisted of a variety of structures including a dairy barn, restaurant, meat packing facilities, grocery store, blacksmith shop, employee and employer residences, and school. Up to 200 men were employed by the ranch including many African American ranch hands. At its peak, during the 1920s, the ranch was a grand spectacle, but a series of destructive events slowly sent the ranch into ruins. The major contributor was the Great Depression, during which time many of the buildings on the ranch were auctioned off for operating funds. Today the 80 acre headquarters site contains dilapidated buildings, ruins of other buildings and foundations where buildings once stood, but the site is gradually being improved with efforts made by the 101 Old Timers Association even though the site is being threatened by the encroachment of the Salt Fork of the Arkansas River.

Sources: "National Register Properties in Oklahoma: 101 Ranch," <http://www.ocgi.okstate.edu/shpo/shpopic.asp?id=73001560> (accessed March 12, 2009).

"101 Ranch." Historic American Buildings Survey. Library of Congress, Prints and Photograph Division, Washington, D.C. 20540,

http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/D?hh:1:/temp/~ammem_0HKa::
(accessed on 2.27.2009).

"101 Ranch Old Timers Association," <http://www.101ranchota.com/> (accessed March 12, 2009).

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The silo (National Register Properties in Oklahoma website:
<http://www.ocgi.okstate.edu/shpo/shpopic.asp?id=73001560>, accessed March 21, 2009).