1. Name of Property
   Historic name: _Edwards-Hardaway Homestead and Cemetery_
   Other names/site number: _Edwards Store (NRIS #72001069); Old Hardaway Home; Red Oak Post Office_
   Name of related multiple property listing: _N/A_____________________
   (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. Location
   Street & number: _Section 15, Township 6 North, Range 22 East_____
   City or town: _Red Oak__ State: _Oklahoma_ County: _Latimer____

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           ___local
   Applicable National Register Criteria:
   _X_A             ___B           ___C           ___D

____________________________
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:) _____________________

Signature of the Keeper   Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

Private:  

Public – Local

Public – State

Public – Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box.)

Building(s)  

District

Site

Structure

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

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<th>Noncontributions</th>
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Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 1

### 6. Function or Use

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

- DOMESTIC/single dwelling
- DOMESTIC/secondary structure
- FUNERARY/cemetery

---

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

- VACANT/NOT IN USE
- FUNERARY/cemetery

---

Sections 1-6 page 3
7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)

__OTHER/Dogtrot Cabin__

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)
Principal exterior materials of the property: __WOOD/Log__

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

Best known for its historic association with the Butterfield Overland Mail stage route, the Edwards-Hardaway Homestead and Cemetery contains three contributing resources: a circa 1850 dogtrot-style log building with subsequent additions in 1870 and 1889, a stone-lined well shaft, and a family cemetery. A non-contributing, concrete block well house is also on site. The dogtrot-style log building was the residence of Thomas and Nancy (Hardaway) Edwards, who provided a meal stop for the Butterfield Overland Mail, a general store, and a post office for the local community of Red Oak from their homestead property. The log building, which was previously listed on the National Register of Historic Places as Edwards Store (NRIS #72001069), is among the oldest buildings in Oklahoma and retains numerous historic features. These include a wood frame with wood beams set atop dry-laid, stacked stone piers and foundation, rough-hewn log exterior walls, and two stone chimneys. A stone-lined well shaft, now partially filled in, provided water to the property. The cemetery holds the final resting place for Thomas and Nancy Edwards, and it remains in use. Together, these resources provide an accurate representation of domestic and commercial life along a major transportation route in Indian Territory during the mid-to-late nineteenth century.
Edwards-Hardaway Homestead and Cemetery

Name of Property

Latimer County, Oklahoma
County and State

Narrative Description

Site and Setting

The Edwards-Hardaway Homestead and Cemetery is in the northeast quarter of the northwest quarter of Section 15, Township 6 North, Range 22 East of the Indian Meridian in Latimer County, Oklahoma. The site encompasses one acre more or less. Contributing resources include a log building (Edwards Store, NRIS #72001069), a stone well shaft, and a cemetery. A noncontributing concrete block well house is also on site.

The setting is rural and the closest municipality is the town of Red Oak approximately eight miles southwest. Wilburton, the county seat of Latimer County, is approximately twenty miles southwest. Oklahoma State Highway 82 is four miles west and U.S. Highway 270 is three miles south of the site. Oil and natural gas drill pads and access roads are visible from the site and consistent with fossil fuel development in the vicinity. Otherwise, the predominant land use is agriculture, specifically livestock production.

Resources are set back approximately one hundred yards north of Norris Road, a paved lane accessed from State Highway 82 that extends generally southwest-to-northeast through the area. The overall grade of the site ascends from southeast to northwest from Norris Road. The dogtrot building, cemetery, and well are set near the top of a slight ridgeline. The site itself is accessed via a gravel parking lot north of Norris Road to a metal gate. Remnants of a dirt access road extend generally northward from the gate for approximately seventy yards before curving to the west approximately twenty yards in front (southeast) of the log building. The access road then extends generally westward for another seventy yards to the cemetery. The area immediately surrounding the log building is heavily wooded, partially obscuring it from the road. The building is currently vacant, and the cemetery remains in use by family members.

Resource Descriptions

The following is a description of each resource associated with the Edwards-Hardaway Homestead and Cemetery. Names of contributing resources are indicated in bold.


   Edwards Store is a one-story building with an L-shaped footprint and a generally southeast-facing façade. It has a cross-gabled roof clad in corrugated metal sheets. The roof has a moderate pitch, and a stone chimney is centered on both the east and west side gables. The circa 1850 original construction and the 1870 addition are identified by rough-hewn log exteriors and dovetailed corner joints. The exteriors were once chinked, much of which is no longer extant. The exterior of the 1889 addition is identified by a combination of vertical and horizontal board-and-batten wood siding. Porches with shed-style roofs clad in corrugated metal sheets are on the
Edwards-Hardaway Homestead and Cemetery
Latimer County, Oklahoma
County and State

façade and northwest (back) elevation. Much of the building’s foundation consists of dry-laid stone piers. Wood-framed window openings are typical throughout, with sashes and glass no longer extant.

Facade

A porch with a wood plank floor extends the full width of the southeast-facing façade (Photograph #0001). The floor level is set about two feet above the ground. The shed-style porch roof is covered by corrugated metal sheets. The metal roofing partially obscures otherwise exposed wood rafter tails and a wood beam that extends the full width of the elevation. Metal roofing on the easternmost end of the porch is no longer extant, leaving the wood roof framing exposed. The entire roof is supported by five, square (four-by-four inch) wood posts. Each post is six feet and six inches tall and of contemporary pressure-treated lumber. Each of the centermost posts align with the extent of the dogtrot. One post is set approximately ten feet from each of the centermost columns, and the fifth post is set at the westernmost end of the elevation. A potential sixth post at the easternmost end of the elevation is no longer extant. Easternmost sections of the porch floor are also no longer extant. Existing sections of the wood plank floor are level to that of the rest of the building.

The building elevation set behind the porch is subdivided into three distinct bays. The east (right) bay, built in circa 1850, is approximately fifteen feet wide (Photograph #0008). A wood-framed doorway is centered on the bay and is flanked to each side by a wood-framed window opening. The door is no longer extant, and the window opening to the west (left) of the door retains remnants of a 3/3 hung unit. The west (left) bay, built in 1870, is approximately twenty feet wide (Photograph #0002). There are two window openings of relatively equal width and spacing on this bay, each retaining remnants of wood frames. Three utility boxes with exposed conduits and cables are on the westernmost end of the bay.

The center bay is a covered, open-air breezeway, also called a dogtrot (Photograph #0010). It is approximately ten feet wide and extends approximately fifteen feet to the north. The rough-hewn log exteriors of the circa 1850 construction and 1870 addition frame the length of the dogtrot. It has a wood plank floor, and remnants of the original wood framing and shingles are visible on the underside of the metal-clad roof. A wood-framed doorway to the interior of the 1870 addition is nearly centered on the west wall of the dogtrot. The door is no longer extant, and remnants of a wood-framed screen door are attached to the exterior. There are no openings on the dogtrot’s east wall.

Southwest Elevation

The southwest side elevation consists of a gabled end of the 1870 addition and the west side of the 1889 addition (Photographs #0003 – #0004). Much of this elevation is set near ground level atop a continuous stone foundation, and the exterior walls are mostly clad in remnants of asphalt sheets rolled out in vertical sections, which are attached to the exterior walls by a series of
widely spaced vertical wood planks (roughly ten-foot intervals). The siding and planks obscure much of the rough-hewn log exterior of the 1870 addition and vertical board-and-batten wood siding that is original to the 1889 addition. The metal-clad roof has an approximately one-foot overhang along the full length of the elevation.

A stone fireplace and chimney projects out from the building face and is centered on the gabled end of the 1870 addition. The fireplace and chimney are made with flat, rough-hewn stone. The roof gable to each side of the chimney is clad in wood lap siding. The front porch is to the south (right) of the gabled end and is open on this elevation.

There are three wood-framed window openings of varied size to the north of the gabled end and along the 1889 addition. The openings are arranged in no apparent pattern and reflect the interior layout. Each opening is topped by a wood-framed awning clad in sheet metal. The southernmost of the three windows is set approximately three feet above ground level and nine feet north (left) of the chimney. It contains remnants of a 1/1 hung unit and is approximately one-quarter the height and width of the centermost window, which is set approximately seven feet to the north (left) and contains remnants of a 2/1 hung unit. The subsill of the centermost unit is approximately two feet above ground level. The northernmost window opening, set approximately nine feet to the north (left) of the center unit, has similar dimensions as the southernmost window and is set approximately four feet above ground level. The window unit in this opening is no longer extant.

**Northwest Elevation**

The northwest (back) elevation, from west to east (right to left), consists of the gabled end of the 1889 addition, a porch, and the back elevation of the circa 1850 original building (Photographs #0004 – #0005).

The gabled end of the 1889 addition is approximately sixteen feet wide and is set atop a continuous stone foundation. The roof gable is clad in horizontal clapboard wood siding, and the remainder of the elevation below the gable is clad in vertical board-and-batten siding. Two wood-framed window openings of similar dimension and relatively equal width and spacing are centered on the elevation. Sheet metal flashing is above each opening. The right (west) opening contains remnants of a 1/1 hung window.

The porch has a metal-clad, shed-style roof that is a continuation of the east (left) side roof slope associated with the 1889 addition. The porch is approximately nine feet wide and is open up to about six feet and six inches, above which the wall is clad with vertical wood boards. The porch’s wood plank floor is set upon wood beams, which in turn are set upon dry-laid stone piers. The porch extends north-to-south along the northeast side elevation of the 1889 addition, towards the dogtrot, before intersecting with a similar porch that extends east-to-west along the back elevation of the circa 1850 original building. This porch also has a metal-clad, shed-style roof, a wood plank floor, and a foundation of dry-laid stone piers. A wood-framed doorway is set
behind the porch and to the left (east) of center on the elevation of the circa 1850 original building. A wood-framed screen door is set inside the doorway. Four posts support the porch roofs on this elevation, two of which are of contemporary pressure-treated lumber.

Northeast Elevation

The northeast side elevation, from north to south (right to left), consists of the side elevation of the 1889 addition and the gabled end of the circa 1850 original building (Photograph #0005).

The side elevation of the 1889 addition is set back underneath the porch (Photograph #0010). The northernmost two-thirds of the exterior is clad in vertical board-and-batten siding, while the southernmost one-third is clad in horizontal clapboard wood siding. There are three wood-framed window openings of varied size and one door opening along this elevation. The openings are arranged in no apparent pattern and reflect the interior layout. A 2/2 hung window is set near the north end. A wood-framed doorway, which accesses the kitchen, is approximately two feet to the south (left) of the window. The door is no longer extant. A 4/1 window is roughly nine feet to the south (left) of the door, just to the north (right) of the intersection of the 1889 addition’s side porch and the back porch of the circa 1850 original building. This window has the largest dimensions of any on the elevation, extending nearly from floor to ceiling (roughly three feet wide by six feet tall). Immediately to the north (right) is a rough opening of similar dimensions, which presumably contained an identical window. Approximately three feet to the south (left) is an opening large enough to have contained a set of four windows, each separated by a vertical wood mullion. This opening is set roughly two feet above the porch floor, and window sashes and glass are no longer extant.

A stone fireplace and chimney project out from the building face and are centered on the gabled end of the circa 1850 original building (Photograph #0008). The fireplace and chimney are made up of mostly flat, rough-hewn stone. The roof gable to each side of the chimney is clad in wood lap siding, while the remainder of the elevation below is clad in horizontal metal sheets. In some instances, the sheet metal has fallen off to reveal the original rough-hewn log exterior. The front and back porches are to the south (left) and north (right) of the gabled end, respectively. Each porch is open on this elevation.

Interior

The interior layout is divided into three sections (see Section 11, Page 2). The circa 1850 original building and the 1870 addition each consist of a single, rectangular-shaped room (Photographs #0009 and #0011, respectively). The 1889 addition, located directly northwest of (behind) the 1870 addition, consists of three rooms, the northernmost of which was the kitchen (Photograph #0012). The circa 1850 and 1870 parts of the building each retain an original fireplace.

Wood-framed ceiling, wall, and floor structures are mostly intact in each building section. Many windowpanes and exterior doors are no longer extant.
Each interior room has multiple layers of ceiling, wall, and floor finishes. Together, they document the varied finishes applied within the building for well over one hundred years. Remnants of gypsum board ceiling and wall finishes are typical throughout. Several layers of wallpaper are visible underneath deteriorated gypsum board in the 1889 addition. In the circa 1850 original building and the 1870 addition, the gypsum board was applied over wood planks and logs. Remnants of carpet or vinyl flooring is also typical throughout. Existing floor finishes appear to have been applied over original wood plank flooring.

Alterations/Modifications

Visible modifications to the dogtrot building reflect its use as a family residence until the 1980s. Corrugated metal sheets were applied over the original wood shingle roof by circa 1971. Other visible modifications such as the horizontal metal flashing over sections of the original wood exterior and the addition of an electric meter at the west end of the façade were likely in place by this time. The original National Register nomination, written in 1971, mentions a hitching post set in front of the building. It is no longer visible and assumed to be no longer extant. The wood posts supporting the front porch roof are of contemporary, pressure-treated lumber. Each of the stone chimneys is stabilized with mortar, and each chimney section from the roof ridge upward is wrapped in plastic. Repointing and plastic wrap are resultant of a 2020 building preservation grant and were undertaken by the current property owner as stabilizing measures.


A cylindrical well shaft approximately two-and-one-half feet in diameter and lined by stone blocks is approximately fifteen feet east of the circa 1850 original log building (Photograph #0007). The shaft is infilled up to about two or three feet below grade, while the top of the shaft is even with grade level.


The Hardaway-McCann Cemetery has been an active burial site since the mid-nineteenth century. Located approximately one hundred feet west of the log building, the cemetery is set within a square plot bounded by a painted metal fence installed in circa 2008 (Photograph #0013). The plot is approximately 125 feet long and 125 feet wide. Approximately sixty-five headstones are arranged in a grid and clustered near the center of the plot. Most are shaded by a small grove of trees (Photograph #0014). Of these headstones, thirty-seven are marked. Several marked headstones date to the late 1800s, and the most recent headstone was erected in 2019. Most remaining, unmarked headstones are simple field stones. Two unmarked headstones presumably indicate resting places for the children of Thomas and Nancy Edwards, both of whom died in infancy. A large, square-shaped, stone cairn is set near the center of the cemetery (Photograph #0015). Although unmarked, it is believed to indicate the resting place of Thomas
and Nancy Edwards. Numerous rocks and pebbles of various sizes, presumed to be visitation stones, are on top of the cairn.


A rectangular-shaped, concrete block well house is approximately sixty feet north of the log building (Photograph #0006). It is roughly three-and-one-half feet wide by six feet long and three-and-one-half feet tall. It does not have a roof and contains an inoperable well pump.
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.
- [ ] B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- [ ] 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
- [x] 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
Edwards-Hardaway Homestead and Cemetery

Name of Property                   County and State

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions.)

ETHNIC HERITAGE: NATIVE AMERICAN
COMMERCE

Period of Significance
1850-1889

Significant Dates
1850
1870
1889

Significant Person
(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder
UNKNOWN
Edwards-Hardaway Homestead and Cemetery

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.)

Summary Paragraph

The Edwards-Hardaway Homestead and Cemetery is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A at the statewide level of significance for Ethnic Heritage: Native American and Commerce. The period of significance is from 1850, the estimated date of construction for the first segment of a log building on site, to 1889, which corresponds with the date of the final addition to the log building and the relocation of the Red Oak townsite eight miles southwest. The homestead encompasses three contributing resources: a log building known today as Edwards Store (NRIS #72001069), a stone-lined well shaft, and a cemetery. Whereas the cemetery includes the graves of Thomas and Nancy (Hardaway) Edwards, Criteria Consideration D applies. Built in circa 1850, with subsequent additions in 1870 and 1889, the log building is among the oldest surviving buildings in Oklahoma. In addition, it is the only existing building in the state historically associated with the Butterfield Overland Mail stage route. This association with the Butterfield reflects the pivotal role that the homestead played in the commercial development of Indian Territory. Between 1859 and 1861, stage drivers and passengers on the Butterfield Overland Mail route stopped at the homestead for lunch and to rest their horses. Following the Civil War, the homestead served as the original townsite of Red Oak, for which Thomas Edwards was named postmaster in 1868. Edwards operated a store on the homestead with his wife, Nancy, and her nephew, Jesse Hardaway. The store, as well as the town of Red Oak, flourished at this location until 1889, when the townsite moved eight miles southwest to be closer to a railroad. Although the store building on the property is no longer extant, the construction of additions to the log home throughout the period of significance represent the Edwards-Hardaway family’s commercial success in the region. Historic use of the site by Thomas and Nancy Edwards and their descendants also associates the homestead with a prominent family within the Choctaw Nation. In sum, the Edwards-Hardaway Homestead and Cemetery is a monument to the ethnic and commercial development of Indian Territory during the mid-to-late nineteenth century. The site remains under family ownership and the cemetery remains in use.

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

HISTORIC CONTEXT

The Edwards-Hardaway Homestead and Cemetery is approximately eight miles northeast of the town of Red Oak, Oklahoma, which is in rural, coal-producing Latimer County. This region of low, forested mountains is in the southeastern quadrant of Oklahoma and within the traditional lands of the Caddo and Osage nations. By 1850, however, the site was within treaty-designated
Edwards-Hardaway Homestead and Cemetery

Name of Property: Latimer County, Oklahoma
County and State: Territory of the Choctaw Nation. The subsequent history of the Edwards-Hardaway Homestead and Cemetery is part of the history of the Choctaw Nation because its first occupants, Nancy Hardaway and Thomas Edwards, were Choctaw citizens (by birth and by marriage, respectively). Nancy Hardaway was a Choctaw woman born to a white father and a Choctaw mother while Thomas Edwards, her husband, was an English immigrant to Indian Territory. Together, they built a life of great importance to the commercial development of the Choctaw Nation.

Originally claimed by the United States as part of the Louisiana Purchase, Indian Territory was set aside as the destination for the forced relocation of Native American peoples west of the Mississippi River. White settlers encroached upon southeastern Indian Territory as early as 1819, when Major William Bradford led an expedition to evict two hundred white families squatting on Osage lands at the mouth of the Kiamichi River. The federal government did not honor Osage claims for long, however. In 1830, following the Treaty of Dancing Rabbit Creek, the federal government began to forcibly relocate the Choctaws from their lands in Mississippi to southeastern Indian Territory. Most were deported from Mississippi within a decade, but some groups remained. Over the course of a generation, a subsequent exodus of individuals and families, including the family of Nancy Hardaway, moved from Mississippi to the Choctaw Nation in Indian Territory. Approximately several hundred Choctaws stayed in Mississippi, where they are today recognized as the Choctaw Tribe of Mississippi.

Prior to the expulsion of the Choctaws from Mississippi, a number of military roads had been established throughout Indian Territory to connect native trading centers and U.S. military outposts. Several of these roads were based on existing indigenous roadways and later became utilized as roadways by the Choctaw people. Fort Smith, located along the Arkansas River at the border of Oklahoma and Arkansas, was first established in 1817. The fort was abandoned for a time when Fort Gibson, located fifty-five miles southeast of Tulsa, was established in 1824. The Choctaw Agency, located fifteen miles from Fort Smith, was established in 1832 and the community of Skullyville grew up around it. Fort Coffee, located approximately five miles north of Skullyville and along the Arkansas River, was also established in 1832 as a river port. In 1837, Captain G. P. Kingsbury departed Fort Coffee and established a new military road to Boggy Depot, located approximately fifteen miles southwest of present-day Atoka. It was this Choctaw Nation road connecting Fort Smith with Boggy Depot along which the Edwards-Hardaway homestead was located.

2 W. David Baird and Danney Goble, Oklahoma, a History (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press), 52.
CRITERION A: ETHNIC HERITAGE, NATIVE AMERICAN

The Choctaw people were among many Native American groups in the southeastern United States affected by provisions of the Indian Removal Act of 1830, which sought to expel all Native Americans in the United States to west of the Mississippi River. While negotiating the Treaty of Dancing Rabbit Creek in central Mississippi in 1830, Secretary of War John H. Eaton and General John Coffee lodged in the home of Hartwell Hardaway, a wealthy white man who was married to a Choctaw woman named Sukky. Nancy Hardaway, the couple’s young daughter, was around six years old at this time and perhaps directly witnessed Eaton and Coffee’s discussions with Choctaw leaders concerning the treaty. Although approximately 11,000 Choctaw people were deported to Indian Territory by 1833 because of the treaty, the Hardaway family did not move to Indian Territory until June 1847, when they arrived at Fort Coffee with members of the Big Black River band of Choctaws.

Thomas Edwards appears to have arrived in Indian Territory at around the same time as the Hardaway’s. Born in London, England, in 1818, Edwards was convicted of an unknown crime as a young man and subsequently deported to the penal colonies of New South Wales, Australia. He arrived in Sydney, Australia, on a ship named the Mary Ann in 1835, at the age of seventeen. Edwards’ time in Australia is not well documented, but records indicate that he received a certificate of freedom on September 6, 1841, when he was still a young man of twenty-three years old. He likely arrived in Indian Territory by way of New Orleans and a steamboat up the Mississippi and Arkansas rivers to Fort Smith. By the late 1840s, Edwards worked as a clerk for a general store near present-day Poteau, Oklahoma, where, according to local sources, he “met, courted, and married” Nancy Hardaway.

Thomas had been scouting a site for a general store along the Boggy Depot road by the time that he courted Nancy. Like his father-in-law before him, intermarriage enabled Edwards to become immersed in the commercial and civic affairs of the Choctaw Nation. Edwards established the store in the fall of 1850. The original log building, which comprised a single bedroom with a

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separate kitchen, reportedly took less than one month to build (Historic Image #1, Section 11, Page 9). 12

Although local historians, family recollections, and the National Register nomination for Edwards Store (NRIS #72001069) all assert that Thomas and Nancy Edwards arrived on site in 1850, the earliest discovered property record related to the Edwards-Hardaway Homestead and Cemetery dates to 1866. This gap in the documentary record is most likely a product of two factors. First, prior to the allotment policies of the late nineteenth century that opened much of Indian Territory to non-Indians, all land within the Choctaw Nation was held in common. Under this custom, ownership of a specific site by an individual or family was established through continued occupancy and the construction of improvements such as buildings and fences. Thus, construction of the original log building and associated store in circa 1850 by Thomas and Nancy Edwards would have essentially secured their claim to the site.

Second, the outbreak of the Civil War in 1861 caused chaos throughout Indian Territory and prompted everyone to seek the best options to preserve themselves and their families. Thomas and Nancy Edwards were no exception. On June 14, 1861, the Choctaw Nation declared itself “free and independent” and established an alliance with the Confederate States of America. All male “citizens and residents” of the Nation between ages eighteen and forty-five were required to enlist in military units or serve in “Home Guards.” 13 Thomas’ sympathies for the Union, perhaps combined with the threat of required military service, prompted him, Nancy, and other Hardaway family members to leave Indian Territory for Fort Smith, Arkansas. It is unclear how long the family remained at Fort Smith. Nor is it clear whether Edwards Store was maintained during the war. 14

Thomas Edwards reappeared in the Choctaw Nation by 1864, when Union forces had captured Fort Smith and regained control of much of Indian Territory. In March, a Union colonel notified the Commissioner of Indian Affairs of a meeting of a Unionist faction of the Choctaw Nation in Skullyville. Known as the New Hope Convention, the meeting involved approximately forty individuals. The group named Edwards provisional governor and appointed a delegate to represent them in Washington, D.C. Edwards’ role was purely titular. The convention noted that

12 Chaudoin, Red Oak Annals, 45-46.
14 Gunning, The Edwards Store, 28-29. Little is known of Edwards’ time at Fort Smith during the war. A list of refugees to Fort Smith from Indian Territory includes Thomas Edwards, who is indicated as a “head of family” along with one woman, presumably Nancy, and one child. In May 1865, a U.S. Treasury agent at Fort Smith noted a request by Edwards to retain “Two Bells [and] Fixtures” formerly the property of the Choctaw Nation.” Office of Local Special Agent, Treasury Department, May 24, 1865. In 1883, the General Council of the Choctaw Nation awarded Edwards twenty-five dollars for service as a witness on behalf of the Nation “against loyal claimants” in Fort Smith in 1866. Bill No. 24, October 22, 1883, General Records of the Choctaw Nation. For an overview of Indian Territory during the Civil War, see Mary Jane Warde, When the Wolf Came: The Civil War and the Indian Territory (Fayetteville: University of Arkansas Press, 2013).
his appointment was “subject to a vote of the Nation” and delegates claimed to represent only one-third of all Choctaws. Although he never expressed any authority in the affairs of the Choctaw Nation, Edwards was occasionally known as “Governor” for years afterward.

In May 1866, two years after the New Hope Convention, Thomas Edwards formally acquired the homestead from Charles Cox, who had presumably been occupying the site in the interim. The bill of sale indicates that Edwards received all existing improvements on the site, including buildings and fences, in exchange for four cows and calves. The homestead subsequently thrived. One undated census lists Thomas Edwards as farming thirty acres of corn and keeping eight horses, twenty-three cattle, and two hundred and fifty hogs. This census also indicates two Hardaway households nearby: Jesse Hardaway, Nancy’s nephew who later owned and occupied the Edwards-Hardaway homestead after her death in 1888, and Stith Hardaway. Jesse was farming twenty-five acres of corn and cotton, and keeping four horses, seventy-five cattle, and one hundred hogs. An 1896 census lists Jesse Hardaway, his wife, and four children as citizens of the Choctaw Nation. Hardaway secured a patent to 160 acres that included the Edwards homestead in November 1903, which formally recognized the family’s longstanding claim to the land.

The Edwards-Hardaway Homestead and Cemetery represents a fusion of Native American and Anglo-American lifestyles in Indian Territory. Even while in Mississippi, many Choctaw people embraced a strategy of acculturation to the lifestyles of whites who colonized their ancestral lands. Choctaw society was matriarchal and household responsibilities were traditionally divided according to gender, with men as hunters and women as farmers, cooks, and householders. However, through the marriage of Choctaw women to white men, European traditions of patriarchy exerted their influence on Choctaw lifeways and family structures. Such norms extended to Indian Territory, where Choctaw women who married white men often led lifestyles that were more sedentary and centered on the home in a manner similar to upper class Anglo-
American women. Choctaw women such as Sukky Hardaway “did not work in the fields, but tended to household affairs.”22 Similarly, Nancy Edwards supported the family business by preparing meals for stagecoach drivers and passengers on the Butterfield Overland Mail. Such trends are reflected further in agriculture. Both Thomas Edwards and Jesse Hardaway are listed in the Skullyville County census as heads of household, and, as such, are credited for the agricultural goods that their farms produced. Only a few generations earlier, the role of farming would likely have been fulfilled by women in Choctaw society.

Little is known about Nancy Edwards’ Choctaw lineage prior to her mother, Sukky, who was born in circa 1810. However, her father, Hartwell, had deep roots in Anglo America prior to marrying into the Choctaw Nation. Although Hartwell and Sukky met and married in Mississippi, Hartwell was born in Brunswick, Virginia, in 1779. Rebecca and John Hardaway, Hartwell’s parents, both had family histories in Virginia that stretched back to the early 1600s.23

Together, the histories of Nancy and Thomas Edwards shed important light on the development of the Choctaw Nation in Indian Territory. Nancy’s life marked the continuation of a transplanted class of affluent Choctaw women who acculturated into Anglo-American society. Thomas, meanwhile, represented a striving merchant class of Anglo-American men who married into the Choctaw Nation and, in the process, claimed a space in tribal politics and frontier commerce through intermarriage. Official documents such as the 1866 Bill of Sale and 1903 patent further place the Edwards-Hardaway Homestead and Cemetery at the intersections of Native American and Anglo-American lifestyles in the Choctaw Nation during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

CRITERION A: COMMERCE

General stores were keystone institutions of commerce in the frontier West. Knowledge about their commercial dealings is preserved in the various types of records that store clerks kept. A few definitions are important to employ in order to understand the degree to which these records contained information about frontier society. For example, the term “ledger” often applied to “a cash charge book or record of settlement with the store owner; however, it could also have referred to the account ledgers kept on each customer.”24 Journals, meanwhile, were itemized, chronological records of sales. Lastly, “daybooks” were filled with the “individual purchases and day-to-day transactions between store owners and their clients.”25 Together, these documents recorded the important position that general stores played in community life and revealed intricacies in frontier relationships and local systems of power.26

25 Ibid., 12.
26 Ibid., 7-8.
Edwards-Hardaway Homestead and Cemetery
Latimer County,
Oklahoma

The store operated by Thomas Edwards, Nancy Edwards, and Jesse Hardaway at the Edwards-Hardaway Homestead and Cemetery was representative of the type of general store operating in Indian Territory during the mid-to-late-nineteenth century. It carried a wide range of staple goods. For instance, one could find rudimentary cooking supplies such as sugar, flour, cornmeal, salt, cheese, crackers, butter, molasses, pepper, rice, potatoes, baking soda, baking powder, yeast, and starch. Life on the frontier was not solely restricted to rudimentary provisions, though. A more indulgent customer could also purchase dried fruits, ginger snaps, coffee, tea, candy, and tobacco. These dry goods were augmented by seafood such as oysters, salmon, and sardines, all of which were likely shipped upriver from the coast.27

Between 1859 and 1861, Edwards secured himself a place in interstate commerce by having the store serve as a meal stop for the Butterfield Overland Mail. On March 3, 1857, Congress passed funding for contracted mail delivery between the Mississippi River (beginning at St. Louis, Memphis, or New Orleans) and San Francisco with the conditions that the contractor guarantee 25-day delivery to begin within twelve months.28 John Butterfield, a stage operator from New York, secured the winning bid for this contract. For the portion of the route that passed through Indian Territory, which veered southeast towards the Red River and Texas, Butterfield relied on pre-existing wagon roads, homesteads, and businesses within the boundaries of the Choctaw and Chickasaw nations.29 One example of such a Choctaw Nation road was the “Texas Road” (also known as the Osage Trace), which had served as the main emigrant and military artery from Kansas to Texas for decades.30

Although never officially designated a stop for the Butterfield route, Thomas Edwards negotiated with the company to have his homestead serve as a lunch stop since the stage was scheduled to pass by at around noon. For a price of forty-five cents, Nancy Edwards offered travelers a menu of “[venison], wild turkey, pork, vegetables in season, grits and homemade bread, and coffee.”31 Drivers and passengers ate in the kitchen located behind the 1850 original log building, and the horse team received much-needed respite before traversing “The Narrows,” a 250-feet increase in elevation to the west.32 According to the Red Oak Annals, Thomas Edwards also marketed “Indian trinkets” with no connection to the Choctaw Nation in order to profit from travelers’ desires to memorialize their passage through Indian Territory.33 Consistent with its branding as providing an efficient means of mail delivery, official accounts of the Butterfield state that the

31 Flossie Chaudoin, Red Oak Annals, (Red Oak, 1987), 47.
33 Chaudoin, Red Oak Annals, 47.
company allotted no more than forty minutes for all meal stops. Local sources, however, claim that Edwards successfully lobbied for a one hour stop at his homestead; a testament, perhaps, to his local influence.

In addition to serving meals and selling goods, Thomas and Nancy Edwards were essential to the commercial life of the local agriculture economy. Edwards outfitted farmers with important implements such as hoes, plows, and cotton sweeps. He also purchased and sold livestock, kept oats and corns in stock in case farmers had to purchase extra feed, and occasionally took up and posted stray animals. After the Civil War, when cotton production and tenant farming in the region expanded, Edwards bought and traded cotton for merchandise. Such business enterprises reflect not only the importance of Thomas and Nancy Edwards to area producers and consumers but also the evolution of the American market economy in Indian Territory.34

Much like the store building itself, original transaction records pertaining to the Edwards Store have largely not survived the vagaries of time.35 Nevertheless, local historians were previously able to examine several original ledgers. In his local history, The Edwards Store or Old Red Oak, eastern Oklahoma historian I. C. Gunning produced tables of merchandise and prices based off the store’s ledgers, including one that compared prices for the years 1867, 1880, and 1889. In general, the price for common necessities at Edwards Store decreased over time. This deflationary trend, particularly for major staples, indicates goods gradually becoming more available in Indian Territory. For instance, sugar in 1867 sold at Edwards Store for fifteen cents per pound, but by 1889 sold for ten cents per pound. The same deflationary trend is seen in the prices for flour and salt. Prices for some mass-produced consumer goods such as shoes also decreased during this period, while prices for livestock—specifically cattle and horses—increased.36

Bartering was particularly important to commerce prior to the Civil War, when bank notes and specie was uncommon in the West. Customers often exchanged agricultural produce such as corn or cotton for merchandise provided by Edwards, who then sold those goods to freighters traveling to Fort Smith. These freighters then returned to Edwards Store, ensuring that it kept supplied with the staples and goods essential for frontier commerce. Most of the ledgers examined by Gunning indicate accounts that were “paid with produce, with labor, and sometimes

34 Gunning, The Edwards Store, 35, 39; Chaudoin, Red Oak Annals, 50.
35 In May 1955, the Daily Oklahoman reported that historian W. Eugene Hollon donated a ledger from Edwards Store to the University of Oklahoma. The ledger had been a gift to Hollon from Roscoe and Margaret Conkling, authors of a definitive account of the Butterfield Overland Mail. The fate of Dr. Hollon’s donation is unknown, as the University of Oklahoma currently does not possess any ledgers from Edwards Store. See “Ledger of History Given to University,” Daily Oklahoman, May 28, 1955, and Lina Ortega, email message to author, June 16, 2020. Descendants of the Hardaway family recall seeing and handling the original ledgers, which one individual described as having red covers and blue-lined pages. Nannette Ellinger, conversation with June Chubbuck, March 1, 2020.
36 Gunning, The Edwards Store, 60.
with a small amount of cash,” indicating an economy informed by personal understandings of labor and value as well as by distant market impulses.  

The evolution of the homestead’s original log building reflected the commercial prominence of the Edwards-Hardaway family. In 1870, a one-room addition was constructed approximately ten feet to the west of the bedroom associated with the original circa 1850 construction. The addition was built of hand-hewn logs likely sourced from the surrounding area and put together by dovetailed corner joints. When compared with the original construction, historian I. C. Gunning noted that the 1870 addition displayed “better workmanship and construction techniques,” which could suggest that Edwards was able to hire labor with greater expertise for the project. For example, the chimney for the 1870 addition features field stone that “is dressed and shaped much better” than the chimney for the original cabin. Furthermore, while the chimney for the original cabin was dry-laid, the stone slabs for the 1870 chimney were laid up with mortar. A covered breezeway, commonly called a dogtrot, connects the two structures. According to Gunning, the 1870 addition served as a living room and, on occasion, as an extra bedroom. Together, the circa 1850 original construction and 1870 addition represent one of the best extant examples of a nineteenth century dogtrot log building in the state of Oklahoma.

Thomas Edwards died on October 16, 1883. By this time, Nancy’s nephew, Jesse, had worked as a clerk at the store for at least three years. Upon Nancy’s death in 1888, Jesse inherited the property and moved his family, who lived in vicinity of Poteau, to the Edwards homestead to continue operating the store. By 1889, Jesse built a three-room addition to the cabin directly behind the 1870 addition. This addition is easily distinguished from the other building sections by using pre-cut wood siding on the exterior. This sawmill-produced building material, rather than locally sourced hand-cut logs, indicates the gradual infiltration of the market economy and manufactured goods into Indian Territory. A cast iron stove for heating and cooking as well as the use of various mass-produced utensils and personal effects further reflect this trend.

Beginning in 1868, the store building served as a U.S. Post Office, with Thomas Edwards as postmaster. According to Phyllis Whitworth, Edwards named the post office “Red Oak” for the red oak trees on or near his property. This official designation formally recognized an important traditional role that Edwards had occupied since arriving in 1850. As there was not an official post office in the area before the Civil War, local residents commonly left mail at Edwards’ homestead to be picked up by the next carrier passing through. Likewise, an individual

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37 Ibid., 46. See also Chaudoin, Red Oak Annals, 46.
39 Ibid., 13-20.
40 Ibid., 20-22, 56-57.
41 A report of Thomas Edwards passing through Springfield, Missouri, on his way to Indian Territory from Washington, D.C., in April 1868 suggests that he traveled to the nation’s capital to secure the appointment. “Aklahoma Territory,” Semi-Weekly Wisconsin, April 22, 1868.
could pick up mail left for them at Edwards Store. Edwards’ combined roles as postmaster and storekeeper were instrumental, and his responsibilities ranged from stocking essential goods for local residents to submitting election returns during tribal elections.

The association of the Edwards-Hardaway homestead with the Red Oak post office ended after 1888, when the Choctaw Coal and Railway Company platted a townsite approximately eight miles to the southwest while surveying a route through the area. By 1889, a “new” Red Oak was established along the railroad. Bypassed by the railroad and facing not only competition from new stores but also the gradual obsolescence of the traditional stage route, Jesse Hardaway closed the store and focused on farming.

Although never an official stop on the Butterfield Overland Mail, the broader ethnic and commercial history of the Edwards-Hardaway Homestead and Cemetery has been overlooked in favor of its brief association with the stage route. This development stemmed largely from the Oklahoma Historical Society’s effort to commemorate the Butterfield’s centennial in 1958, decades after the store building on the homestead was extant. The celebration was extravagant to say the least and involved “a re-run” of the entire route from Tipton, Missouri, to San Francisco, California. Included in the caravan were “a U.S. mail post office trailer, a chapel trailer, an anvil unit complete with blacksmith shop, a Concord stagecoach used by the military in Oklahoma in the 1870’s, a horse trailer carrying five horses, a California history trailer, and a print-shop equipped with hand-set type and a Washington hand-press which will issue daily editions all along the route.” At each official stop, the caravan picked up “mail to be stamped with a commemorative Butterfield Overland Mail Route stamp.” Any number of vehicles could tag along in addition to the official caravan. Muriel Wright and George Shirk of the Oklahoma Historical Society accompanied the caravan as it made its way along the 192-mile route through the state. One year later, Wright approved the installation of a historic marker at the Edwards-Hardaway homestead recognizing “Edwards Store” as a stop on the Butterfield stage route. This commemorative effort culminated in the early 1970s when Edwards Store, as well as each of the twelve official stops designated by the Butterfield stage in Oklahoma, were listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

44 For example, see *The Vindicator* (Atoka, OK), August 9, 1876; *The Fort Smith Daily Herald*, February 7, 1878; Green Stovall, interview by Bradley Bolinger, July 20, 1937, Interview 6788, Indian-Pioneer Papers Collection, Western History Collection, University of Oklahoma; and Lucy Cherry, interview by L. W. Wilson, November 26, 1937, Interview 12276, Indian-Pioneer Papers Collection, Western History Collection, University of Oklahoma.
CRITERIA CONSIDERATION D: HARDWAY-MCCANN CEMETERY

Established in circa 1850, the Hardaway-McCann cemetery maintains a high degree of historic integrity and a close association with the Edwards-Hardaway homestead. Most of the cemetery’s approximately sixty-five headstones are shaded by a small grove of trees and within visual distance of the log building that was the home of Thomas and Nancy Edwards and subsequent Hardaway family members. The oldest gravesites, which span the mid-to-late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, are near the center. Most are indicated by simple, unmarked, rough-hewn stone markers of varying heights. A large, unmarked, square-shaped stone cairn marks the resting place of Thomas and Nancy Edwards, who died in 1883 and 1888, respectively. Two stone markers nearby likely indicate the gravesites of their two children, both of whom died in infancy. An unmarked field stone is also likely associated with Jesse Hardaway, who passed in 1922. The cemetery remains an active burial site for extended members of the Hardaway and McCann families, including many who lived nearby or elsewhere in Oklahoma. Such contemporary gravesites, most indicated by granite slabs along the cemetery’s outer edges, juxtaposed with rough-hewn field stones convey a unique family history that stretches over one hundred and fifty years and encompasses the ethnic and commercial development of the Choctaw Nation.

CONCLUSION

Although the ethnic and commercial significance of the Edwards-Hardaway Homestead and Cemetery ended with the establishment of “new” Red Oak, the property continued to sustain subsequent generations of the Hardaway family to the extent that it became known locally as the “old Hardaway home” or the “old Hardaway place.” By the time the property was documented for listing on the National Register of Historic Places in the early 1970s, it had been home for at least five generations of the Hardaway family. At the time Edwards Store was listed in 1972, the cabin was occupied by Lula Hardaway. The log building was an active residence until the early 1980s, and the property remains within the family. Recent efforts to preserve and restore the building as well as to document the entire site have been spearheaded by Chrissy Dickmeyer, a sixth-generation member of the Hardaway family, with assistance from the nonprofit The Edwards Store, Inc.50


9. **Major Bibliographical References**

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

**Articles**


**Books**


**Reference Collections and Databases**


Edwards-Hardaway Homestead and Cemetery

Name of Property: Edwards-Hardaway Homestead and Cemetery

County and State: Latimer County, Oklahoma

References:


*The Oklahoman* Digital Archives. Metropolitan Library System. Oklahoma County.


Reports, Theses, and Dissertations


Websites


Edwards-Hardaway Homestead and Cemetery

Latimer County, Oklahoma


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): __________

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 1 acre MoL________

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

1. Latitude: 34.998094  Longitude: -94.975507
2. Latitude: 34.997705  Longitude: -94.975285
3. Latitude: 34.998043  Longitude: -94.974352
4. Latitude: 34.998412  Longitude: -94.974567
Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The Edwards-Hardaway Homestead and Cemetery is in the northeast quarter (NE/4) of the northwest quarter (NW/4) of Section 15, Township 6 North, Range 22 East of the Indian Meridian in Latimer County, Oklahoma. The boundary for this nomination encompasses Edwards Store (NRIS #72001069) and associated objects and sites, specifically the Stone Well Shaft (contributing), the Hardaway-McCann Cemetery (contributing), and a concrete block well house (noncontributing). The boundary is indicated as follows: Beginning 19 feet north of the northwest corner of the Hardaway-McCann Cemetery and 130 feet west of the northeast corner of the cemetery (POINT OF BEGINNING); thence southeasterly for a distance of 155 feet; thence northeasterly for a distance of 305 feet; thence northwesterly for a distance of 155 feet; thencesouthwesterly for a distance of 305 feet to the POINT OF BEGINNING.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The current boundary is the extent of the Edwards-Hardaway Homestead and Cemetery and associated building, object, site, and structure in the vicinity that maintain sufficient historic integrity.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Matthew Pearce, Ph.D./Principal Historian; Tanner Carlson/Intern Historian; Catherine Montgomery AIA/Historical Architect and President
organization: Preservation and Design Studio, PLLC
street & number: 616 NW 21st Street
city or town: Oklahoma City state: Oklahoma zip code: 73103
e-mail: mp@PandDStudio.com; cm@PandDStudio.com
telephone: (405) 601-6814
date: May 26, 2021

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: Edwards-Hardaway Homestead and Cemetery
City or Vicinity: Red Oak
County: Latimer  State: Oklahoma
Photographer: Preservation and Design Studio, PLLC
Date Photographed: June 2020, March 2021

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Direction</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0001</td>
<td>Edwards Store (NRIS #72001069). Southeast-facing façade. Circa 1850 original building (right) and 1870 addition (left), with dogtrot in between.</td>
<td>North</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0002</td>
<td>Edwards Store (NRIS #72001069). Porch along southeast-facing façade. 1870 addition in foreground.</td>
<td>East</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0003</td>
<td>Edwards Store (NRIS #72001069). Gabled (southwest) end of 1870 addition (foreground). Southwest side elevation of 1889 addition (background).</td>
<td>North</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number</td>
<td>Description</td>
<td>Orientation</td>
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<tr>
<td>0004</td>
<td>Edwards Store (NRIS #72001069). Gabled (back) elevation of 1889 addition (left). Southwest side elevation of 1889 addition (right).</td>
<td>South</td>
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<tr>
<td>0005</td>
<td>Edwards Store (NRIS #72001069). Northeast (back) elevation of circa 1850 original building (left). Northeast side and gabled (back) elevations of 1889 addition (right).</td>
<td>Southwest</td>
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<tr>
<td>0006</td>
<td>Noncontributing concrete block well house (foreground, left) with Edwards Store (NRIS #72001069) in background.</td>
<td>South</td>
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<tr>
<td>0007</td>
<td>Stone well shaft (foreground). Gabled (northeast) end of circa 1850 original building, Edwards Store (NRIS #72001069) (background, right).</td>
<td>Southwest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0008</td>
<td>Edwards Store (NRIS #72001069). Southeast-facing façade (left). Gabled (northeast) end of circa 1850 original building (right).</td>
<td>West</td>
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<tr>
<td>0009</td>
<td>Edwards Store (NRIS #72001069). Interior, circa 1850 original building.</td>
<td>North</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0010</td>
<td>Edwards Store (NRIS #72001069). Close-up of dogtrot. Northeast side elevation of 1889 addition (background, left).</td>
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<tr>
<td>0011</td>
<td>Edwards Store (NRIS #72001069). Interior, 1870 addition.</td>
<td>Southwest</td>
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<tr>
<td>0013</td>
<td>General view of Edwards-Hardaway Family Cemetery.</td>
<td>North</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0014</td>
<td>General view of Edwards-Hardaway Family Cemetery, with Edwards Store (NRIS #72001069) in background.</td>
<td>East</td>
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<tr>
<td>0015</td>
<td>Edwards-Hardaway Family Cemetery. Close up of stone cairn, believed to be the resting place of Thomas and Nancy Edwards.</td>
<td>West</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**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.
The Edwards-Hardaway Homestead and Cemetery is in the northeast quarter (NE/4) of the northwest quarter (NW/4) of Section 15, Township 6 North, Range 22 East of the Indian Meridian in Latimer County, Oklahoma. The boundary for this nomination encompasses Edwards Store (NRIS #72001069) and associated objects and sites, specifically the Stone Well Shaft (contributing), the Hardaway-McCann Cemetery (contributing), and a concrete block well house (noncontributing). The boundary is indicated as follows: Beginning 19 feet north of the northwest corner of the Hardaway-McCann Cemetery and 130 feet west of the northeast corner of the cemetery (POINT OF BEGINNING); thence southeasterly for a distance of 155 feet; thence northeasterly for a distance of 305 feet; thence northwesterly for a distance of 155 feet; thence southwesterly for a distance of 305 feet to the POINT OF BEGINNING.
Edwards-Hardaway Homestead and Cemetery

Name of Property: Edwards-Hardaway Homestead and Cemetery
County and State: Latimer County, Oklahoma

Site Photo Key:
- Edwards Store (NRIS #72001069)
- Concrete Block Well House
- Hardaway-McCann Cemetery
- Stone Well Shaft
- Dirt access road (remnants)
- Fence (typical)
Edwards-Hardaway Homestead and Cemetery
Name of Property:
Latimer County, Oklahoma
County and State:
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable):

Interior Photo Key and Construction Timeline
Edwards Store (NRIS #72001069)

Key
- ORIGINAL CABIN, Circa 1850
- 1870 ADDITION
- 1889 ADDITION

North
The Edwards-Hardaway Homestead and Cemetery is in the northwest quarter of the northeast quarter of Section 15, Township 6 North, Range 22 East of the Indian Meridian, in Latimer County, Oklahoma. The site lies within a valley mostly cleared of trees in the San Bois Mountains, a subset of the Ouachita Range. The area is predominantly rural, and the closest municipality is Red Oak, Oklahoma, approximately eight miles to the southwest. Oklahoma State Highway 82 is approximately four miles to the west. US Highway 270 is three miles to the south. Retention ponds, access roads, and fossil fuel well pads in the vicinity indicate oil and natural gas development.
Located approximately one hundred yards north of Norris Road, the Edward-Hardaway Homestead and Cemetery includes Edwards Store (NRIS #72001069), a stone well shaft, the Hardaway-McCann Cemetery, and a noncontributing concrete block well house. Trees and shrubs obscure much of the site from the road. A painted white, metal fence outlines the cemetery. A small grove of trees is within the fence line.
This 1940 aerial from the U.S. Geological Survey is the earliest aerial photograph discovered that documents the Edwards-Hardaway Homestead and Cemetery. The area is predominantly rural. Norris Road is clearly visible.
A closer view of the 1940 aerial shows the continued development of the Edwards-Hardaway Homestead and Cemetery during the early twentieth century. The setting is predominantly rural, and some areas appear to be under cultivation. An accessory building with a metal roof is north of the concrete block well house. The store building kept by Thomas and Nancy Edwards, located approximately thirty yards south of the building listed as Edwards Store (NRIS #72001069), is no longer extant by this time.
The Big Picture: Aerial, 1964
(United States Geological Survey)

This 1964 aerial shows no major changes to the vicinity of the Edwards-Hardaway Homestead and Cemetery.
The Edwards-Hardaway Homestead and Cemetery site maintains much of the configuration shown in this 1964 aerial. Subsequent aerial photographs available on Google Earth indicate that the accessory building north of the concrete block well house was no longer extant by 1995.
**Historic Image #1: Edwards-Hardaway Homestead Site Map (not to scale)**

This site map shows that the Edwards-Hardaway Homestead and Cemetery was an active agricultural and commercial enterprise in Indian Territory throughout the mid-to-late nineteenth century. The log building was constructed in three stages (circa 1850, 1870, and 1889). Although the log building was listed as Edwards Store (NRIS #72001069), the actual store was to the south and is no longer extant. Accessory buildings and sites such as the hide shed, corn crib, and feedlot are also no longer extant. The kitchen associated with the original circa 1850 log building was removed upon construction of the 1889 addition. (I.C. Gunning, *The Edwards Store or Old Red Oak*, 1971, pg. 15)
Edwards-Hardaway Homestead and Cemetery
Name of Property
Latimer County, Oklahoma
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Historic Image #2: Circa 1933
The earliest discovered photograph of the Edwards-Hardaway Homestead and Cemetery shows the east side elevation of Edwards Store (NRIS #72001069) with the front (left) and back (right) porches visible. Note the dry-laid stone chimney and wood exterior. Compare with National Register photograph #0008. (Roscoe P. Conkling Papers, Seaver Center for Western History Research, Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History)

Historic Image #3, Circa 1971
This photograph of the east side elevation of Edwards Store (NRIS #72001069) conveys nearly all of the building's unique architectural features, including the dovetailed corner joints, the dry-laid stone chimney, and porches. Compare with National Register photographs #0005 and #0008. (I.C. Gunning, The Edwards Store or Old Red Oak, 1971, pg. 16)
Edwards-Hardaway Homestead and Cemetery

Name of Property
Latimer County, Oklahoma
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Edwards-Hardaway Homestead and Cemetery

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Historic Image #4, Circa 1971
This photograph shows the dogtrot breezeway between the circa 1850 original log building (right) and the 1870 addition (left). (I.C. Gunning, *The Edwards Store or Old Red Oak*, 1971, pg. 21)

Historic Image #5, Circa 1971
This photograph of the north (left) and west (right) elevations of the 1889 addition shows vertical board-and-batten wood siding and metal awnings above the windows. Compare with National Register photograph #0004. (I.C. Gunning, *The Edwards Store or Old Red Oak*, 1971, pg. 21)
Edwards-Hardaway Homestead and Cemetery

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<th>Name of Property</th>
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**Historic Image #6, Circa 1971**
Edwards Store (NRIS #72001069) remained in fair condition into the 1970s, retaining such key features as the dovetail corner joints and chinking. Compare with Historic Image #2 and National Register photograph #0008. (I.C. Gunning, The Edwards Store or Old Red Oak, 1971, pg. 16)

**Historic Image #7: 1971**
The Edwards-Hardaway Homestead and Cemetery has been in the Hardaway family for seven generations, and the log building remained an active residence until the mid-1980s. Compare with National Register photograph #0001. (Edwards Store, NRIS #72001069)
The Edwards-Hardaway dogtrot log building was listed on the National Register of Historic Places as Edwards Store in 1972. This color photograph of the southeast-facing façade accompanied the nomination. Compare with National Register photograph #0001. (Edwards Store, NRIS #72001069)

After its listing on the National Register, postcards promoted the log building as Edwards Store (or Edward’s [sic] Stage Stop) for its association with the Butterfield Overland Mail. (Provided by owner)
Historic Image #10: circa 1982
This photograph shows that the vertical board-and-batten wood siding on the west side elevation (left) of the log building has been covered over. Objects indicating continued residential use include an in-window air conditioning unit, electric utility boxes, and window screens. (Jim Argo, *Window on the Past: Historic Places in Oklahoma*, 1984, pg. 62)

Historic Image #11: circa 1982
This photograph shows that the dry-laid stone chimney on the east side elevation remained in good condition despite being over one hundred years old. (Jim Argo, *Window on the Past: Historic Places in Oklahoma*, 1984, pg. 62)
Historic Image #12: circa 1982
The dovetailed corner joints are among the most distinctive architectural features of the log building. (Jim Argo, *Window on the Past: Historic Places in Oklahoma*, 1984, pg. 62)

Historic Image #13: circa 1982
This photograph shows that the high-quality carpentry work associated with the dogtrot remained in good condition for well over one hundred years. Compare with National Register photograph #0010. (Jim Argo, *Window on the Past: Historic Places in Oklahoma*, 1984, pg. 62)
Edwards-Hardaway Homestead and Cemetery

Name of Property
Latimer County, Oklahoma
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Direction</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0001</td>
<td>Edwards Store (NRIS #72001069). Southeast-facing façade. Circa 1850 original building (right) and 1870 addition (left), with dogtrot in between.</td>
<td>North</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
## Edwards-Hardaway Homestead and Cemetery

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0002</td>
<td>Edwards Store (NRIS #72001069). Porch along southeast-facing façade. 1870 addition in foreground.</td>
<td>East</td>
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Name of Property: Edwards-Hardaway Homestead and Cemetery

County and State: Latimer County, Oklahoma

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)
Edwards-Hardaway Homestead and Cemetery

Name of Property
Latimer County, Oklahoma
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N/A
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**Number** | **Subject** | **Direction**
--- | --- | ---
0003 | Edwards Store (NRIS #72001069). Gabled (southwest) end of 1870 addition (foreground). Southwest side elevation of 1889 addition (background). | North
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0004</td>
<td>Edwards Store (NRIS #72001069). Gabled (back) elevation of 1889 addition (left). Southwest side elevation of 1889 addition (right).</td>
<td>South</td>
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### National Register of Historic Places

**Continuation Sheet**

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0005</td>
<td>Edwards Store (NRIS #72001069). Northeast (back) elevation of circa 1850 original building (left). Northeast side and gabled (back) elevations of 1889 addition (right).</td>
<td>Southwest</td>
</tr>
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Edwards-Hardaway Homestead and Cemetery

Name of Property
Latimer County, Oklahoma
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
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<tr>
<td>0006</td>
<td>Noncontributing concrete block well house (foreground, left) with Edwards Store (NRIS #72001069) in background.</td>
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<tr>
<td>0007</td>
<td>Stone well shaft (foreground). Gabled (northeast) end of circa 1850 original building, Edwards Store (NRIS #72001069) (background, right).</td>
<td>Southwest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>0008</td>
<td>Edwards Store (NRIS #72001069). Southeast-facing façade (left). Gabled (northeast) end of circa 1850 original building (right).</td>
<td>West</td>
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<tr>
<td>0009</td>
<td>Edwards Store (NRIS #72001069). Interior, circa 1850 original building.</td>
<td>North</td>
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Edwards-Hardaway Homestead and Cemetery

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County and State
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<tr>
<td>0010</td>
<td>Edwards Store (NRIS #72001069). Close-up of dogtrot. Northeast side elevation of 1889 addition (background, left).</td>
<td>Northwest</td>
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Edwards-Hardaway Homestead and Cemetery

Name of Property: Edwards-Hardaway Homestead and Cemetery
Latimer County, Oklahoma
County and State: N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number: 11
Page: 26 of 30

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<td>0011</td>
<td>Edwards Store (NRIS #72001069). Interior, 1870 addition.</td>
<td>Southwest</td>
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Edwards-Hardaway Homestead and Cemetery

Name of Property
Latimer County, Oklahoma

County and State
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Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

## Section number 11  Page 27 of 30

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Edwards-Hardaway Homestead and Cemetery

Name of Property: Edwards-Hardaway Homestead and Cemetery
County and State: Latimer County, Oklahoma, N/A

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<td>0013</td>
<td>General view of Edwards-Hardaway Family Cemetery.</td>
<td>North</td>
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**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

**Edwards-Hardaway Homestead and Cemetery**

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<tr>
<td>0014</td>
<td>General view of Edwards-Hardaway Family Cemetery, with Edwards Store (NRIS #72001069) in background.</td>
<td>East</td>
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### National Register of Historic Places
#### Continuation Sheet

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<tr>
<td>0015</td>
<td>Edwards-Hardaway Family Cemetery. Close up of stone cairn, believed to be the resting place of Thomas and Nancy Edwards.</td>
<td>West</td>
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