United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

1. Name of Property
   Historic name: _Schultz/Neal Stone Barn_________________________
   Other names/site number: _N/A_________________________________
   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 35, Township 23 North, Range 2 East__
   City or town: _Red Rock_ State: _Oklahoma_ County: _Noble_
   Not For Publication: [ ] Vicinity: [X]

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 ___statewide _X_local
   Applicable National Register Criteria:
   ___A ___B _X_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
Schultz/Neal Stone Barn
Noble County, Oklahoma

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
- [x] other (explain:) 

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Signature of the Keeper</th>
<th>Date of Action</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply.)

Private: [x]
Public – Local
Public – State
Public – Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box.)

Building(s) [x]
District
Site
Structure
Object
Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contributing</th>
<th>Noncontributing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

- AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/agricultural outbuilding

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

- VACANT/NOT IN USE
7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)

OTHER/Barn

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

Narrative Description
(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a summary paragraph that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

Built in 1941, the Schultz/Neal Stone Barn is a prominent architectural landmark in rural Noble County, Oklahoma. Located in an open pasture off U.S. Highway 177, the barn resembles a “cathedral” on the Oklahoma plains. It is approximately 98 feet wide and 160 feet long, large enough to accommodate three basketball courts. Building height from ground level to roof ridge is approximately 55 feet, or the equivalent of four and one-half stories. In addition to its notable size, the Schultz/Neal Stone Barn stands out for its historic integrity, specifically design, materials, and workmanship. It has a front-gabled, steeply-pitched “broken gambrel” roof; a design achieved by the construction of a flanking shed to each side of the central bay. The exterior is clad in uncoursed, quarry-faced, multi-colored sandstone. The interior is open and structural features are exposed.
Narrative Description

Site and Setting

The Schultz/Neal Stone Barn is in the northwest quarter of the southwest quarter of Section 35, Township 23 North, Range 2 East of the Indian Meridian, in Noble County, Oklahoma. The closest municipality is the town of Red Rock, approximately seven miles to the northwest. The barn is set approximately 250 yards east of U.S. Highway 177/Oklahoma Highway 15, a two-lane road that runs north-to-south between Ponca City (19 miles to the north) and Stillwater (21 miles to the south). Perry, the county seat for Noble County, is approximately fifteen miles to the southwest. The Sooner/Red Rock Power Plant, owned and operated by Oklahoma Gas & Electric, is two miles to the north. Sooner Lake, a reservoir built in the early 1970s, is to the east and south of the barn. The Cimarron Turnpike (U.S. Highway 412) is approximately two miles to the south.

The setting is rural and encompasses forty acres. There are two sheds with associated stockyards approximately one hundred yards to the northwest of the barn. A one-story, single-family dwelling and at least three associated outbuildings are west of these sheds and stockyards, and approximately fifty yards east of U.S. Highway 177. The barn itself is accessed via a metal gate off the highway. A two-track road extends generally eastward from the gate for approximately 125 yards before it curves slightly to the southeast towards the barn. The road is overgrown and seldom used.

The site is generally level with a minimal slope westward, towards U.S. Highway 177. Open pasture is to the west, south, and east of the barn. Traces of a stockyard are immediately to the north of the barn. Dimensions are roughly 160 feet long and 65 feet wide. The stockyard is currently overgrown and bounded by remnants of a wood corral fence on three sides (west, north, and east). The south side is bounded by the barn’s north-facing side elevation.

The barn is currently vacant and not in use. Adjacent pasture, including the former stockyard, is grazed by cattle.

General Building Description (Photo #0001)

The Schultz/Neal Stone Barn is notable for its immense size, native stone exterior, unique roofline, and detailing. The building is approximately 98 feet wide and 160 feet long. Building height from ground level to the center ridgeline is approximately 55 feet, or roughly four and one-half stories. The building is of concrete block construction, and the exterior is clad in uncoursed, quarry-faced, multi-colored (tan/gray/black) sandstone. It has a front-gabled, steeply-pitched “broken gambrel” roof clad in corrugated metal sheets. According to Dr. Brad A. Bays, author of the Thematic Survey of Historic Barns in Northwestern Oklahoma (2011), this roof style was achieved by a flanking bay to each side of the barn’s central bay. Each side bay has a low-pitched, shed-style roof. This combination of the central bay’s gambrel roof and each
flanking bay’s shed-style roof creates “an aesthetically interesting roof shape” unlike that of most agricultural buildings in the vicinity.¹ The overall roof shape conveys the appearance of the building’s three distinct bays, with the central bay being the widest and tallest. These bays, or “portals,” help classify the building as a Midwest three-portal livestock feeder barn.² The roof over each side bay has a slight overhang. There are three utilitarian cupolas of equal width and spacing atop the center ridgeline. Each cupula is clad in sheet metal and unadorned.

West-facing Façade (Photos #0001-0002, #0005-0007)

A metal-clad, triangular-shaped extension resembling a hay hood is atop the gabled end of the central bay.³ A cast stone plaque that reads “1941” is centered underneath the extension, inset into the building face. Centered approximately four and one-half feet below this plaque is a metal plaque that reads “B. NEAL.” A fixed, metal-framed, multi-light window with wired glass is set approximately three feet to each side of the metal plaque. Each window is three lights wide and three lights tall. Each opening has a cast stone subsill and a jack arch lintel of three red, coursed sandstones to each side of a tan, diamond-shaped sandstone key. A buttress clad in matching multi-colored sandstone is set beneath each subsill. Each buttress projects forward from the building face for approximately three feet at ground level. This projection tapers gradually until it becomes flush with the building face beneath each subsill.

A heart-shaped stone with a diamond-shaped stone above is centered on the central bay, approximately ten feet below the metal plaque sign. There is a stone stack to each side of the heart-shaped stone. Each consists of four red, rectangular-shaped stones that have generally equal dimensions. A large opening approximately sixteen-by-sixteen feet is centered at grade level. Each end of the opening is adjacent to one of the two stone buttresses that support the exterior wall. The opening contains a painted, overhead wood door that is eight panels wide and eight panels tall. A jack arch header of coursed sandstone and a diamond-shaped sandstone key is set above the opening.

A pair of metal-clad sliding doors is centered on each flanking bay. Each door is comprised of wood panels subdivided into eight vertical sections. Each opening is approximately two-thirds the size of the door opening on the central bay.

North Side Elevation (Photos #0002-0003)

¹ State of Oklahoma, Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office, Thematic Survey of Historic Barns of Northwestern Oklahoma. Submitted by Brad A. Bays, Ph.D., Department of Geography, Oklahoma State University (2011), 34.
² According to Bays, “[A] Midwest livestock feeder barn is defined as any large, tall barn with a relatively large hay capacity and a relatively complex interior design (if known) which is not dominated by diagnostic traits of other barn types.” Ibid., 58.
³ A hay hood houses a pulley system utilized for moving and stacking hay bales. They range from simple extensions to more elaborate structures. There is no extant pulley system in the Schultz/Neal Stone Barn, so it is possible that the hay hood is ornamental. See ibid., 33-34.
Much of the view of the north side elevation is dominated by the steeply-pitched gambrel roof of the central bay. The three cupolas atop the ridgeline are clearly visible from this elevation. There are no other openings on the roof.

A pair of metal-clad sliding doors is centered at grade level on the side elevation of the flanking bay. The doors are wood paneled. The right (west) door is subdivided into fourteen vertical sections, and the left (east) door is subdivided into twelve vertical sections.

Four window openings of equal width and spacing are to each side of the doors. Each opening contains a metal-framed hopper window. Vertical metal muntins subdivide each window into three lights. Each opening has a cast stone subsill and a jack arch lintel of coursed sandstone. Each window header height is equal to that of the doors, and each subsill is set approximately six and one-half feet above grade.

**East (Back) Elevation (Photos #0003-0004)**

The overall size and shape of this elevation is identical to the façade. However, this elevation lacks the window openings and stone detailing that is present on the façade. Unlike on the façade, there is a cast stone cap atop each of the two buttresses of the central bay.

A large door opening is centered at grade level between the two buttresses of the central bay. The dimensions of the door opening are identical to those of the façade. The opening contains a pair of metal-clad sliding doors. The doors are wood paneled, with each door being three panels wide and three and one-quarter panels tall (see Photo #0012).

A pair of metal-clad sliding doors is centered on each flanking bay. The dimensions of each opening and the composition of the doors are identical to those on the façade.

**South Side Elevation (Photo #0004-0005, #0007)**

The roof profile of the central bay and the location of the window and door openings on the flanking bay are identical to those of the north side elevation. Each window opening contains a metal-framed hopper unit with vertical metal muntins subdividing the window into three lights. The cast stone subsill of each window opening is set approximately six and one-half feet above grade. Unlike the north side elevation, these windows do not have sandstone jack arch lintels. The dimensions and composition of the doors are identical to those on the north side elevation.

**Interior (Photos #0008-0012)**

The interior is subdivided into three distinct bays, or aisles, that extend the full length of the building and mirror the overall form and profile of the exterior. It is notable for its openness and exposed structural features. Interior spaces are open from ground level to the full height of the roof. Indeed, the curved wood trusses supporting the roof above the central bay provide a cathedral-like feel when walking through the building (see Photos #0008, #0010, and #0012).
Wood framing set atop a concrete stem wall foundation demarcates each flanking bay from the central bay (see Photos #0009-0011). The north flanking bay is open for the entire length of the building. A wood corral fence subdivides the south flanking bay into two distinct spaces.

All perimeter walls are exposed concrete block. On both the east and west ends of the building, there is a buttress clad in multi-colored sandstone set in the perimeter walls on each side of the central bay. Each buttress projects forward from the building face for approximately three feet at grade level, and these projections taper gradually as the buttresses extend upward. Each buttress terminates at the bottom chord of the curved wood trusses that support the roof (see Photo #0012).

All interior spaces are unfinished. An earthen floor is typical throughout except for the area adjacent to the main (west) entrance, which is a visible concrete slab. Two storage rooms with wood frame walls and earthen floors are set to each side of the main entrance in the central bay (see Photo #0010).

**Modifications/Alterations**

The Shultz/Neal Stone Barn was part of an active cattle and hay operation from 1941 to 1992. A fire in 1951 destroyed much of the interior, which was subsequently rebuilt. The “B. NEAL” plaque sign was installed in 1992. According to family members, this sign replaced an original sign that read “R. SCHULTZ.”

All window and door openings appear to be original. Window frames and glass are in fair condition. Several of the hopper windows are inoperable and some lights are broken. Historic photographs indicate that metal cladding was added to the sliding barn doors within the last five to ten years. All doors are in poor condition. Several wood panels are missing on the main (west) overhead door, including the entire top row. A pair of contemporary tube metal fence panels have been installed in front of the door to prevent entry by livestock. All other doors are padlocked and inoperable.

The barn is currently vacant and appears to be structurally sound. A roof section approximately two feet wide and eight feet long near the west end of the central bay is missing. Although the barn is currently not in use, the surrounding pasture is leased for cattle grazing. The presence of manure indicates that cattle have entered the building on occasion.

---

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.)

☐ 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

☐ 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
Schultz/Neal Stone Barn
Name of Property

Noble County, Oklahoma
County and State

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions.)

ARCHITECTURE


Period of Significance
1941-1954


Significant Dates
1941
1951


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


Cultural Affiliation


Architect/Builder
UNKNOWN


**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.)

The Schultz/Neal Stone Barn is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C at the local level of significance for Architecture. The period of significance extends from 1941, the year construction was completed, to 1954, when repairs following a 1951 fire are documented to have been completed. The barn was built on behalf of Richard Schultz, president of Red Rock State Bank, who was among the wealthiest individuals in Noble County. Schultz recruited as many as thirty workers to build the structure. Many of these workers were German Americans, and some had worked previously on the E. W. Marland Mansion (NRIS #73001561) in Ponca City. In 1947, John Byron “Cowboy” Neal leased the ranchland that included the barn and continued to use the property until the early 1990s, utilizing the barn primarily for hay storage. By all accounts, the Schultz/Neal Stone Barn is “the largest free-standing rock barn” in Oklahoma and it is a prominent local landmark in Noble County.

---

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

**Historic Context**

Located in north-central Oklahoma, Noble County contains rolling grasslands and several meandering creeks that drain into the Arkansas River. The land was used and occupied by indigenous peoples for centuries. Upon the forced removal of the Cherokees to Indian Territory during the 1830s, present-day Noble County became part of the Cherokee Nation. While the majority of Cherokee people congregated near Tahlequah and other towns or forts in eastern Indian Territory, land located west of the 96th meridian (including Noble County) became known as the “Cherokee Outlet.”5 After the Civil War, the U.S. government required the Cherokee Nation to relinquish control over the Outlet and allow for the resettlement of other native groups to the area. By the early 1880s, amidst a series of forced migrations to Indian Territory sometimes called the “Second Trail of Tears,” the United States relocated seven tribes to the Outlet. Among them were the Otoe and Missouria tribes, who, beginning in 1881, jointly occupied a 201-square-mile reservation near the Arkansas River.6

The Cherokee Nation leased remaining lands in the Outlet to cattle ranchers, most notably members of the Cherokee Strip Live Stock Association. This leasing agreement granted cattlemen, most of whom were based in nearby Kansas, an exclusive right to graze cattle within the Outlet for $100,000 a year. In addition to providing a measure of financial security and

---


autonomy to the Cherokees, the leases prevented orchestrated (and illegal) efforts by David L.
Payne and other “Boomers” to open the Outlet and other reservation lands to homesteading. In
1890, however, President Benjamin Harrison declared that the Cherokee Nation had no legal
authority to lease the Outlet to cattlemen and ordered the U.S. military to remove all ranchers
from the area. One year later, the Cherokee Nation reluctantly agreed to cede the Outlet to the
United States, which subsequently opened it for settlement in 1893. Remaining reservation lands
within the Outlet were allotted shortly thereafter. The Otoe-Missouria reservation was allotted in
1904 and subsequently absorbed by Noble County.7

New settlers to Noble County were drawn to its agricultural potential. Indeed, Noble County, as
well as neighboring counties to the north and west, quickly emerged as Oklahoma’s “wheat belt”
by producing millions of bushels of wheat annually. The livestock industry, particularly cattle
and horses, was profitable in this region as well. Notable operations in adjacent Kay County
included the Miller Brothers’ 101 Ranch (NRIS #73001560) and W. H. Vanselous’ Big V Ranch
(NRIS #84003068).8 The individuals and families who migrated to Noble County included
American citizens from all across the country as well as European immigrants, most notably
Germans. Noble County’s predominantly rural population has hovered between 10,000 and
15,000 throughout the twentieth century.9

Architectural Significance

The son of German immigrants, Richard Schultz was born in Kansas City, Missouri, on June 3,
1888. The family migrated to Oklahoma two years later, where his father, Frank Schultz,
ultimately operated a blacksmith shop. According to an obituary published by a local alumni
association, Richard Schultz graduated from Perry High School in 1908. He subsequently
attended a business school in nearby Guthrie for one year before returning to Perry to work in a
bank as a bookkeeper. By 1917, he moved to Red Rock, a small town of approximately 500
people, and worked as a cashier for Red Rock State Bank.10 U.S. Census records indicate that
Schultz continued to occupy this position through 1930. These records also indicate that Schultz
was unmarried and lived in rented rooms and boarding houses.11

7 Josh Clough, “Leases in the Cherokee Outlet and Cheyenne-Arapaho Reservation,” in Historical Atlas of
120-21; idem, “Opening of the Cherokee Outlet,” 130-31; Alvin O. Turner, "Cherokee Outlet Opening," The
Encyclopedia of Oklahoma History and Culture,
https://www.okhistory.org/publications/enc/entry.php?entry=CH021; and Dianna Everett, "Noble County," idem.,
8 Thematic Survey of Historic Barns, 118-21; Bruce W. Hoagland, “Wheat Farming, 1907-2000,” in in Historical
2006), 168; and National Register of Historic Places, “Ranching Properties in Northwestern Oklahoma, Multiple
9 Everett, “Noble County”.
10 Betty L. Waters, "Red Rock," The Encyclopedia of Oklahoma History and Culture,
11 Genealogical profile of Richard Schultz, which include U.S. Census records from 1900-1930 and a 1917 Selective
See also “Obituary—Schultz, Richard,” Perry High School Alumni Association, Inc., accessed February 26, 2020,
Most stories about Richard Schultz highlight his meteoric rise in becoming one of Noble County’s wealthiest individuals. The most common story describes Schultz rising through the ranks from a lowly janitor to the president of Red Rock State Bank. One source also refers to Schultz as a cattlemaster as well as a banker. Although there may be an element of truth to these stories, they are not supported entirely by available primary sources. Census records and other documents never indicate that Schultz occupied a janitorial position at Red Rock State Bank. Furthermore, although Schultz had a direct financial interest in land and cattle, it is unclear whether he directly oversaw everyday ranch operations.

The Schultz/Neal Stone Barn was completed in 1941. Construction reportedly took three years. Schultz recruited as many as thirty workers to build the giant structure, many of whom were German Americans. This reliance on German American laborers, as well as the need to construct outbuildings such as barns, was prevalent throughout the region. Northern Oklahoma, including Noble County, remained a prominent center of wheat, corn, and cattle production during the mid-twentieth century. In addition, Noble County had experienced a significant influx of foreign-born settlers—particularly German immigrants—during the 1893 land run and subsequent allotment of the Otoe-Missouria reservation.

Of particular significance for Schultz’s barn was the fact that German immigrants brought distinct building traditions and styles that utilized stone. According to Leon Crabtree, a subsequent owner of the barn, many of the workers that Schultz hired had worked previously on the E. W. Marland Mansion (NRIS #73001561), built a decade earlier in Ponca City. Given its size and construction materials, Schultz’s barn has more in common with the Marland Mansion than with any nearby farm building. Much as the mansion “is a majestic monument in stone” to Ernest Whitworth Marland, one of Oklahoma’s preeminent oil men, the sheer mass and design of the Stone Barn is a prominent display of wealth for an individual who, by most accounts, was a “shy man who lived quietly” in nearby Red Rock and Perry. According to Belle Phelps Neal, the wife of Schultz’s business partner John Byron Neal, Richard Schultz “created the barn as a monument to himself.”


13 Ralph W. Marler, “Record-setting barn’s broad side is big enough for almost anyone to hit,” Tulsa World, June 22, 1999.
14 See “Schultz, Retired Bank President”.
15 Marks, “Historic Designation Sought”.
17 Ibid., 28-31.
18 Marler, “Record-setting barn’s broad side”.
19 The “monument in stone” quote comes from National Register of Historic Places, “Marland (E. W.) Mansion, Ponca City, Kay County, Oklahoma,” NRIS #73001561, Section 8, Page 3. The “shy man who lived quietly” reference is from Carl Hamm, executor of Schultz’s estate, quoted by Marks, “Historic Designation Sought”. See also “Shultz, Retired Bank President”.
20 Quoted in Wysocky, ed., This Old Barn, 12.
Comparisons of the Stone Barn to the Marland Mansion are not far-fetched, as the barn’s construction coincided with Schultz’s continued rise in local prominence. By 1940, he became president of Red Rock State Bank as well as its principal shareholder. He remained president until 1950, when he sold the bank to First National Bank of Perry and retired. By the time of his death on May 25, 1958, Richard Schultz owned “a vast amount of farm and business property” throughout the state.\(^21\)

John Byron “Cowboy” Neal first saw Schultz’s Stone Barn while driving a load of cattle to Oklahoma City. He was awestruck by the sight and, according to his daughter Patty McAlister, Neal stopped for a closer look and said to himself, “Lord, if I could just have a place like that.”\(^22\) Born on September 15, 1911, Neal grew up in Kingfisher County and graduated from Dover High School. He married Belle Phelps in November 1932, and the couple went on to have three sons (one of whom died in infancy) and three daughters. The family resided in Logan and in Osage counties, “moving from farm to farm” Patty wrote, before moving to Noble County.\(^23\) Neal began leasing ranchland from Schultz in 1947 and continued to use the property in the vicinity of the Stone Barn until the early 1990s.\(^24\) He died on April 30, 1993, at the age of 81.\(^25\)

Neal utilized the Stone Barn primarily for hay storage. The center aisle could hold up to 60,000 hay bales at a time, and each flanking bay provided shelter for feeding cattle. In 1951, a fire destroyed 50,000 hay bales and left only the barn’s stone walls standing. Nevertheless, Schultz and Neal rebuilt the barn within two years and, as Patty recalled, “Dad never stored that much hay in the barn again.”\(^26\) Aerial photographs confirm that building repairs were completed by 1954 (see Section 11, Page 7).

That the Stone Barn could store vast amounts of hay and withstand a fire is a testament to its construction and design. The barn’s foundation extends sixteen feet deep and each stone buttress that supports the exterior walls is three feet in width at its base.\(^27\) The stone exterior helped the barn withstand the threat of fire, as hay is highly combustible and prairie wildfires are a common occurrence throughout the Great Plains.\(^28\) Such use of stone, in combination with a corrugated sheet metal roof, also protected the interior from moisture, which could damage any hay crop. Above all, the materials used in its construction and repair reinforce geographer Brad Bays’

\(^21\) “Obituary.”
\(^22\) Quoted in Wysocky, ed., *This Old Barn*, 12.
\(^24\) Directories for the City of Perry and surrounding area (including Red Rock) available at the Oklahoma Historical Society’s Research Center indicate that Neal resided southeast of Red Rock, which is in the general vicinity of the barn. Perry-Billings-Morrison, Red Rock, Oklahoma Telephone Directory (Southwestern Bell Telephone Company, 1968-1994)
\(^26\) Quoted in Wysocky, ed. *This Old Barn*, 12. The story was repeated in Marler, “Record-setting barn’s broad side”.
\(^27\) Marler, “Record-setting barn’s broad side”.
assertion that the “longevity” of a stone barn was “a priority over the speed of construction or labor required to complete [it].”

The barn’s stability and durability, valuable for storing an agricultural commodity, ultimately contributed to its celebration as a local landmark and architectural marvel. In 2008, Beth Lizardo of National Geographic wrote that the Schultz/Neal Stone Barn has “more the makings of a cathedral than a barn” due to its “lofty” interior and roof structure supported by an “intricate, arching skeleton” of wood beams. Local journalists made similar comparisons, with Dawn Marks of the Oklahoman calling the Stone Barn a “cathedral on the prairie,” and Ralph Marler of the Tulsa World dubbing it a “massive cathedral” capable of hosting college basketball’s Final Four. Historic preservationists also took note of the building’s unique, open interior. John Olson of the National Trust for Historic Preservation noted that roof support beams, which were typical in most barns, were unnecessary for the Stone Barn because of its arched roof structure. For this, as well as for other reasons, Olson said, “It’s just too big and too grand of a barn to let go.”

This celebration of the Schultz/Neal Stone Barn’s architectural significance was a product of growing concern over the fate of historic farm and ranch buildings during the late twentieth century. In the late 1980s, the National Trust of Historic Preservation initiated its “Barn Again!” program, which encouraged agricultural producers to adapt historic barns and other outbuildings to new uses. Program advocates argued that rehabilitating an existing building was more cost effective than tearing it down and constructing a new structure. By the mid-1990s, six states had created barn preservation programs, most of which were jointly administered by a state historic preservation office and the state university extension program.

The Centennial Farm and Ranch (or Century Farm and Ranch) program, which first gained popularity during the late 1970s in anticipation of the U.S. Bicentennial, is another program that recognizes the history and vitality of rural life. Oklahoma’s Centennial Farm & Ranch Program was founded in 1989 to commemorate the centennial of the Land Run and is overseen by the Oklahoma Historical Society and the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture. It recognizes farming and ranching families who have remained in operation for at least 100 years. It also offers a “historic structures” award to those operations that have retained historic buildings and structures, including houses or barns and other outbuildings. As of 2018, the program has

---

29 Thematic Survey of Historic Barns, 46.
31 Marks, “Historic Designation Sought” and Marler, “Record-setting barn’s broad side”.
32 Quoted in Marks, “Historic Designation Sought”.
recognized more the 1,600 farming and ranching families and given “historic structures” awards to over 100 operations.\textsuperscript{34}

Despite these efforts to assist them, few farmers and ranchers own historic structures that are in good or fair condition. For example, during a 2010-2011 survey of over 600 sites in northwest Oklahoma, geographer Brad Bays wrote that most “historic barns” were “in a state of neglect, abandonment, or ruin.” He went on to write that “some of the most architecturally significant properties recorded are in a state of dereliction.”\textsuperscript{35} Of approximately 400 barns that Bays examined in northwest Oklahoma, only 16, including the Schultz/Neal Stone Barn, were deemed individually eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.\textsuperscript{36} Nonetheless, despite their poor condition, many local residents value historic barns as an important component of rural America. As Bays wrote, they appreciate these structures because “of their agricultural heritage, and many want to keep them even if they do not own them or have direct family connections to them.”\textsuperscript{37}

Although structurally sound, the historic integrity of the Schultz/Neal Stone Barn has been threatened by abandonment and neglect since the 1990s. Upon Richard Schultz’s death in 1958, ownership of his extensive holdings, including the barn, transferred to his extended family in Germany.\textsuperscript{38} Byron Neal continued to ranch on Schultz’s former holdings, but he did not formally acquire the ranchland that included the barn until 1989. One year later, he placed the property under a revocable trust. In 1992, one year prior to his death, Neal retired from ranching and the Bank of Perry sold the property that included the barn at auction.\textsuperscript{39} Leon Crabtree, who raised goats and lived in nearby Blackburn, was the highest bidder and he planned to convert the structure into a mohair fabric facility. However, by 1999, Crabtree’s plans had not materialized and he sold his goat herd, leased his acreage to cattlemen, and listed the barn for sale.\textsuperscript{40} In 2004, Michael and Melissa Wallace acquired the barn from Crabtree, only to sell it to Paul H. Dujardin of Telluride, Colorado, two years later. Dujardin, a retired company president who indicated to the \textit{Oklahoman} that he hoped to see the Stone Barn preserved, sold it to its current owner, Henry E. Wells of Stillwater, Oklahoma, in 2006.\textsuperscript{41} The Schultz/Neal Stone Barn is currently not in use.

\textsuperscript{34} Conditions to qualify for the centennial program including owning and operating a farm/ranch of at least 40 acres that generates at least $1,000 in annual income. See Oklahoma Centennial Farm & Ranch Program, “Program History,” \url{https://www.okhistory.org/shpo/historyfr.htm}, accessed March 31, 2020.

\textsuperscript{35} \textit{Thematic Survey of Historic Barns}, 15.

\textsuperscript{36} See ibid., 82-100. Since 2011, three barns in northwest Oklahoma surveyed by Bays have been listed on the National Register of Oklahoma. They are the Acre Family Barn (Blaine County, NRIS #13000073), the Bennie L. Aupperle Dairy Barn (Kay County, NRIS #12001038), and the Elmer Baker Barn (Texas County, NRIS #12001040)

\textsuperscript{37} Ibid., 16.

\textsuperscript{38} “Obituary.” Mrs. Elizabeth Rissman who resided in Roitzsch, Germany, at the time of Schultz’s death, is indicated as his only immediate survivor.

\textsuperscript{39} See Wysocky, ed. \textit{This Old Barn}, 12; and Revocable Trust of Byron Neal, Garfield County Clerk, Book 1264, Pages 233-250, June 10, 1994. Neal’s death notice in the \textit{Tulsa World} lists him as a “retired rancher.” See “State-Area Deaths”.

\textsuperscript{40} Crabtree blamed the failure on a lack of federal incentives. See Marler, “Record-setting barn’s broad side”.

\textsuperscript{41} Warranty Deed, Noble County Clerk, Book 631, Page 428, December 28, 2006. See also Marler, “Record-setting barn’s broad side” and Marks, “Historic Designation Sought”. 
Conclusion

The Schultz/Neal Stone Barn is an important architectural landmark and a familiar sight for many rural Oklahomans. Most visitors are drawn to its imposing stone structure. As Beth Lizardo of *National Geographic* notes, not only is the building “the largest free-standing rock barn” in Oklahoma, it is perhaps among the largest of such structures in the entire world. It also serves as a reminder of hard work and community. According to his daughter Patty, Byron Neal “often said the barn symbolized what farm life was all about.” In Byron’s words, this involved “good fences” and “clean pastures” as well as “a big family and lots of good neighbors and friends.” One cannot help but stand in awe of this “prairie cathedral,” and it is a valuable architectural link to rural Oklahoma’s past.

---

42 Lizardo, “Saving Oklahoma’s Prairie Cathedral”.
9. Major Bibliographical References

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

Books


Government Records and Publications

Noble County Clerk. Perry.


Articles


Schultz/Neal Stone Barn  
Name of Property  
Noble County, Oklahoma  
County and State


Marler, Ralph W. “Record-setting barn’s broad side is big enough for almost anyone to hit.” *Tulsa World*. June 22, 1999. 1.


Reference Collections, Databases, and Directories


State Historic Preservation Office. *Oklahoma Landmarks Inventory*.  

State Historic Preservation Office. *Oklahoma’s National Register of Historic Places*.  

Websites

“Barn Again!”  


Schultz/Neal Stone Barn  Noble County, Oklahoma
Name of Property                   County and State

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

___ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
___ 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:
___ 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  _less than 1 acre_

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates
Datum if other than WGS84: __________

1. Latitude: 36.253472  Longitude: -97.035316

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The Schultz/Neal Stone Barn is in the northwest quarter (NW/4) of the southwest quarter (SW/4) of Section 35, Township 23 North, Range 2 East of the Indian Meridian, in Noble County, Oklahoma. The boundaries for this nomination are as follows: Beginning 1 foot north of the northwest corner of the barn (POINT OF BEGINNING); thence south for a distance of 99 feet; thence east for a distance of 161 feet; thence north for a distance of 99 feet; thence west for a distance of 161 to the point of beginning.
Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The current boundary is the extent of the Schultz/Neal Stone Barn, which is directly accessed from U.S. Highway 177. It is the only building, structure, or object in the vicinity that maintains sufficient individual architectural significance and historic integrity.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Matthew A. Pearce, Ph.D., Principal Historian; Catherine Montgomery AIA, President
organization: Preservation and Design Studio, PLLC; on behalf of Preservation Oklahoma, Inc.
street & number: 616 Northwest 21st Street
city or town: Oklahoma City state: Oklahoma zip code: 73103-1861
e-mail: mp@panddstudio.com
telephone: 405-601-6814
date: August 11, 2020

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: Schultz/Neal Stone Barn

City or Vicinity: Red Rock

County: Noble    State: Oklahoma

Photographer: Preservation and Design Studio, PLLC

Date Photographed: June 2020

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>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0001</td>
<td>General view of building and access trail.</td>
<td>East</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0002</td>
<td>North side elevation (left). West-facing façade (right).</td>
<td>Southeast</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0003</td>
<td>East (back) elevation (left). North side elevation (right).</td>
<td>Southwest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0004</td>
<td>South side elevation (left). East (back) elevation (right).</td>
<td>Northwest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0005</td>
<td>West-facing façade (left). South side elevation (right).</td>
<td>Northeast</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0006</td>
<td>West-facing façade.</td>
<td>East</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0007</td>
<td>Close up of west-facing façade (left) and south side elevation (right).</td>
<td>Northeast</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0008</td>
<td>Center bay, interior</td>
<td>East</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0009</td>
<td>North bay, interior</td>
<td>East</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0010</td>
<td>Center bay, interior</td>
<td>Southwest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0011</td>
<td>South bay, interior</td>
<td>West</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0012</td>
<td>Close up of buttresses, perimeter walls, and wood trussed arches, interior.</td>
<td>Northeast</td>
</tr>
</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 Schultz/Neal Stone Barn is in the northwest quarter (NW/4) of the southwest quarter (SW/4) of Section 35, Township 23 North, Range 2 East of the Indian Meridian, in Noble County, Oklahoma. The boundary for this nomination is limited to the extent of the Schultz/Neal Stone Barn and is indicated as follows: Beginning 1 foot north of the northwest corner of the barn (POINT OF BEGINNING); thence south for a distance of 99 feet; thence east for a distance of 161 feet; thence north for a distance of 99 feet; thence west for a distance of 161 to the point of beginning.
Schultz/Neal Stone Barn
Name of Property
Noble County, Oklahoma
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Photo Key

Schultz/Neal Stone Barn
Fence (typical)
Stockyard
WORN TRAIL
Schultz/Neal Stone Barn
Name of Property
Noble County, Oklahoma
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

The Schultz/Neal Stone Barn (outlined in red) is in the northwest quarter of the southwest quarter of Section 35, Township 23 North, Range 2 East of the Indian Meridian, in Noble County, Oklahoma. The area is predominantly rural. The closest municipality is Red Rock, Oklahoma, approximately 7 miles to the northwest. U.S. Highway 177/Oklahoma Highway 15 is approximately 250 yards to the west of the barn. The Sooner/Red Rock Power Plant is 2 miles to the north. Sooner Lake is to the east and south.
The Schultz/Neal Stone Barn is approximately 98 feet wide and 160 feet long. There are two sheds and stockyards to the northwest of the barn. A 1-story single-family dwelling and two outbuildings, each with a red composition roof, are west of the sheds. The barn is accessed via a metal gate off U.S. Highway 177/Oklahoma Highway 15 and a worn, two-track road that veers gradually to the southeast.
This 1937 aerial from the U.S. Geological Survey is the first available photograph that documents the vicinity of the Schultz/Neal Stone Barn prior to its construction. The area is predominantly rural and undeveloped.
Schultz/Neal Stone Barn
Name of Property
Noble County, Oklahoma
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Schultz/Neal Stone Barn
(approximate location)

Close Up: Aerial, 1937
(U.S. Geological Survey, OSU Map Room)

A closer view of the 1937 aerial indicates some development near the site of the Shultz/Neal Stone Barn. The barn reportedly took three years to build, and construction was complete by 1941.
This 1954 aerial is the first available photograph that documents construction of the Schultz/Neal Stone Barn. The area is rural and agricultural, with few structures visible. Several creeks are in the area, including Greasy Creek to the southeast of the barn and tributaries to Red Rock Creek to the northwest.
The Schultz/Neal Stone Barn was constructed in 1941. Ten years later, a fire destroyed much of the interior. The above aerial photograph confirms that building repairs were completed by 1954. The distinct roofline and immense size of the barn is apparent. A collection of smaller structures and stockyards are northwest of the barn. One structure is directly south of the barn.
This 1971 aerial photograph from the U.S. Geological Survey shows no major changes to the vicinity of the Schultz/Neal Stone Barn. There is evidence of contour plowing to the north and west of the site.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Schultz/Neal Stone Barn</th>
<th>Name of Property: Schultz/Neal Stone Barn</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Noble County, Oklahoma</td>
<td>County and State: Noble County, Oklahoma</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Name of multiple listing (if applicable): N/A</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A closer view of the 1971 aerial shows no changes to the Schultz/Neal Stone Barn. Ponds to provide water for livestock are to the southeast and southwest.
This 1995 aerial photograph includes the Sooner/Red Rock Power Plant to the north of the Schultz/Neal Stone Barn and Sooner Lake to the east. Construction on the lake began in 1972 and the power plant was operational by 1980.
Schultz/Neal Stone Barn
Name of Property
Noble County, Oklahoma
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Close Up: Aerial, 1995
(U.S. Geological Survey, Earth Explorer)

A closer view of the 1995 aerial shows no changes to the Schultz/Neal Stone Barn.
Schultz/Neal Stone Barn

Name of Property:
Noble County, Oklahoma

County and State:
N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable):

This 2003 aerial photograph shows no major changes to the vicinity of the Schultz/Neal Stone Barn.
A closer view of the 2003 aerial shows no changes to the Schultz/Neal Stone Barn. The structure directly south of the barn is no longer extant.
The Schultz/Neal Stone Barn is a prominent rural landmark. The above photographs were provided by John Byron Neal's daughter, Patty McAlister, and included in a publication about historic barns. (Ken Wysocky, ed., *This Old Barn*, 1996, p. 12)

Image #2: circa 2005

The height of the Schultz/Neal Stone Barn from ground level to the roof ridge is approximately 55 feet, or the equivalent of 4½ stories. (Oklahoma Landmarks Inventory)
By the early 2000s, writers referred to the Stone Barn as a “cathedral on the prairie.” (Oklahoma Landmarks Inventory)

Bret Carter (foreground), a board member of Preservation Oklahoma, worked with owner Paul Dujardin to determine whether the Schultz/Neal Stone Barn was eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. Photograph by Dawn Marks. (Dawn Marks, “Historic designation sought for rock barn in Noble County, The Oklahoman, March 8, 2005, 4A)
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number  11    Page  16 of 29

Schultz/Neal Stone Barn
Name of Property
Noble County, Oklahoma
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Image #5: circa 2011
(Oklahoma Landmarks Inventory)

Image #6: 2016
(Oklahoma Landmarks Inventory)
The current owner, Henry E. Wells, acquired the Schultz/Neal Stone Barn in 2006. (Oklahoma Landmarks Inventory)
Schultz/Neal Stone Barn
Name of Property
Noble County, Oklahoma
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

National Register Nomination Photograph #0001: 2020
General view of building and access trail. Photograph Direction: East. Photograph by Preservation and Design Studio, PLLC.
Schultz/Neal Stone Barn
Name of Property
Noble County, Oklahoma
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Schultz/Neal Stone Barn

National Register Nomination Photograph #0002: 2020
North side elevation (left). West-facing façade (right). Photograph Direction: Southeast. Photograph by Preservation and Design Studio, PLLC.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Property</th>
<th>Schultz/Neal Stone Barn</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>County and State</td>
<td>Noble County, Oklahoma</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Name of multiple listing</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

National Register Nomination Photograph #0003: 2020

East (back) elevation (left). North side elevation (right). Photograph Direction: Southwest. Photograph by Preservation and Design Studio, PLLC.
Schultz/Neal Stone Barn
Name of Property
Noble County, Oklahoma
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

National Register Nomination Photograph #0004: 2020
South side elevation (left). East (back) elevation (right). Photograph Direction: Northwest. Photograph by Preservation and Design Studio, PLLC.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Property</th>
<th>Schultz/Neal Stone Barn</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Name of multiple listing</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>County and State</td>
<td>Noble County, Oklahoma</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

National Register Nomination Photograph #0005: 2020

West-facing façade (left). South side elevation (right). Photograph Direction: Northeast. Photograph by Preservation and Design Studio, PLLC.
Schultz/Neal Stone Barn
Name of Property
Noble County, Oklahoma
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 11  Page 23 of 29

National Register Nomination Photograph #0006: 2020
West-facing façade. Photograph Direction: East. Photograph by Preservation and Design Studio, PLLC.
Schultz/Neal Stone Barn
Name of Property
Noble County, Oklahoma
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

National Register Nomination Photograph #0007: 2020
Close up of west-facing façade (left) and south side elevation (right). Photograph Direction: Northeast. Photograph by Preservation and Design Studio, PLLC.
Schultz/Neal Stone Barn
Name of Property
Noble County, Oklahoma
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

National Register Nomination Photograph #0008: 2020
Center bay, interior. Photograph Direction: East. Photograph by Preservation and Design Studio, PLLC.
Schultz/Neal Stone Barn
Name of Property
Noble County, Oklahoma
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

National Register Nomination Photograph #0009: 2020
North bay, interior. Photograph Direction: East. Photograph by Preservation and Design Studio, PLLC.
Schultz/Neal Stone Barn

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

National Register Nomination Photograph #0010: 2020
Center bay, interior. Photograph Direction: Southwest. Photograph by Preservation and Design Studio, PLLC.
Schultz/Neal Stone Barn

Name of Property
Noble County, Oklahoma

County and State
N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

National Register Nomination Photograph #0011: 2020
South bay, interior. Photograph Direction: West. Photograph by Preservation and Design Studio, PLLC.
National Register Nomination Photograph #0012: 2020
Close up of buttresses, perimeter walls, and wood trussed arches, interior. Photograph Direction: Northeast. Photograph by Preservation and Design Studio, PLLC.