

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: Baccus House

Other names/site number: _____

Name of related multiple property listing: _____

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. Location

Street & number: 124331 S. 3981 Rd

City or town: Vernon State: OK County: McIntosh

Not For Publication: Vicinity:

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

I hereby certify that this X nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

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

___ national ___ statewide ___ local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

___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

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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

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Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u> </u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u> </u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u> </u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u> </u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u> </u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Domestic: Single
Dwelling

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Domestic: Single
Dwelling

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

No Style

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: Wood

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

Located in Vernon, McIntosh County, one of the remaining 13 All-Black Towns of Oklahoma, the Baccus House is located at the intersection of Broadway Street and Texas Avenue. This vernacular house has a central entry and front porch, typical of rural southern houses from this era. The house was originally "T" shaped but has a historic lean-to addition on the east elevation. First constructed in 1898 as the railroad office, the Baccus House maintains integrity of setting, location, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

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Narrative Description

The Baccus House faces north onto Texas Avenue with a tree row along Broadway Street to the west and along the eastern edge of the property. The single-story house is topped with a crossed hipped roof clad with standing seam metal. It is clad with wide wood clapboards and has a stone foundation.

The façade has a central panel wood door with a metal screen door. It is sheltered by a partial width shed roof porch supported by four wood columns. The porch is accessed by two stone steps. On either side of the door is a nine-over-six wood hung window. The west elevation, which measures one-bay wide, has a nine-over-six wood hung window. The east elevation is also one-bay wide and has a nine-over-six wood window. The south elevation has a single nine-over-six hung window at the southwest corner.

The leg of the “T” plan has a shed roof porch that shelters the west elevation. The west elevation porch is accessed via a wood step. The west elevation has an off-center wood panel door with a metal screen door. North of the door is a nine-over-six wood hung window. South of the door is a nine-over-six wood hung window. The south elevation has a single nine-over-six wood hung window. The east elevation is concealed by the historic lean-to at the southeast corner dating to the 1930s. Historic doors on the east and west elevations have been covered by siding but can still be seen on the interior.

The lean-to has a nine-over-six wood hung window on the south elevation. There is a multi-pane wood window on the east elevation of the lean-to. The north elevation of the lean-to has a wood panel door. The second lean-to dates to 1962. The east elevation of the “T” leg has a wood pane and panel door with a metal screen door and a nine-over-six hung window.

Interior:

The interior of the house featured a central entry flanked by rooms on either side. Located in the center is the original fireplace dating to the time of the railroad. There are seven historic entry doors in the house; a few of which have been covered on the exterior (historically) but can still be seen on the interior.

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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

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Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Politics/Government

Period of Significance

1920-1953

Significant Dates

1920, 1953

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

W.M. Baccus

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Ft. Smith & Western Railroad

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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 Baccus House is significant at the local level under Criterion B for its association with W.M. Baccus, sheriff, county commissioner and probate administrator in McIntosh County. The period of significance extends from 1920 when the Baccus family purchased the house to 1953 when W.M. Baccus retires from public service.

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

The incentive for building the Fort Smith and Western (FS&W) Railway was the presence of coal fields in the Ouachita Mountains of the Choctaw Nation in Indian Territory. To connect the coal fields with Kansas City, Pittsburgh, and the Gulf, the FS&W was incorporated by Henry Clay Frick and Andrew Mellon who owned the coal leases. Soon the railroad was extended westward to tap into the rich lands around Guthrie. As the expansion of the line extended into McIntosh County, railroad officials commissioned an office to be constructed during this period. The office was constructed in 1898 and abandoned in 1906 when the rail line was operational. The depot, constructed in 1902 for the line, was located on the south side of the tracks directly in front of the office. The FS&W went bankrupt by 1915 and entered into a variety of receiverships through 1931. It was completely abandoned by 1939.

When the railroad completed construction of the line, Thomas and Julia Haynes were assigned to dispose of the office property. In 1909, Thomas and Julia issued a mortgage for Boldin and Lucy Taylor of Denton, Texas, for lots 1-8 of block 17; the office sat on lot 8. On June 20, 1911, the town of Vernon was established, and the railroad office was officially designated with a Vernon address.

From December of 1915 to April of 1916, Vernon grew from a population of roughly 150 to an excess of 300 which included 45 families. Also, by that time, the businesses had doubled. By 1915, the town had five churches, and Vernon was one of the first communities in Oklahoma to receive assistance from the Julius Rosenwald Fund for a school (non-extant).

The local economic focus, with acres of deep rich soil and prairie lands, was cotton. The soils could also accommodate diversified crops like wheat, potatoes, alfalfa, apples, and peaches. Many who did not own farms and facilities worked as farm laborers. Vernon served as a rural market center for nearby agriculturalists but also supported a hotel, sawmill, grist mill, two blacksmiths, a drug store, restaurant, cannery, and barbershop.

W.M. Baccus arrived in Indian Territory in 1903 looking for opportunities. Within the first year in Indian Territory, he met and married Rebecca Hutton. She was from a well-established Joe Hutton Sr family in the Indian Territory. Rebecca received her own homestead in 1890 and later

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left for Texas to be with Baccus' family; eventually, they made their way back to Oklahoma and settled on her 160-acre farm in McIntosh County.

In November of 1920, W.M. Baccus purchased lots 1-8, block 17 for \$525 that included the office, which at some point prior to W.M. Baccus purchase, was converted to a house. At that time, W.M. Baccus moved his family to Vernon. During that time, he managed his (his wife's) 160 acres along with his father-in-law's adjoining 160 acres. He acquired additional land throughout the county where he was also managing oil leases.

In 1925, Vernon was at the height of its population, over 2000 citizens. W.M. Baccus served as the sheriff of Vernon and the Undersheriff of McIntosh County. He served until 1935 when he retired. At the time of his initial election to sheriff, W.M. Baccus had only been in Vernon for a little over four years. He had already established himself as a community leader with forward thinking and sound logic. While there were certainly wealthier and more educated men in the community, W.M. Baccus had a reputation for sound wisdom and for being fair. Additionally, he was respected by both the white and African American communities and his wife was fluent in the Creek language.

During the 1930s, bankers requested that the state "do something" to address the abundance of bank robberies across the state. Many suggestions were offered, from public whippings to monetary rewards. While W.M. Baccus actively tried to curb the robberies in McIntosh County, he was involved in a posse chase in the adjacent county. In 1940 he was asked to serve again as Sheriff, which he did until the early 1950s.

The 1940s proved quite successful for W.M. Baccus. By March of 1940, he became the Democratic Committee Chairman, and by 1942, he was elected as a county commissioner. By 1948, he made his most important and longest lasting contribution to the Vernon community and McIntosh County when he led a citizens' committee comprised of community leaders from Vernon and the all-Black towns in McIntosh County. He led the group in researching, developing, and writing a ballot measure to be placed on the county-wide ballot. The measure was to provide \$300,000 in immediate funding for a new school in Vernon and additional funds for repairing and building schools in the all-Black towns in McIntosh County. The measure was placed on the ballot where it passed; Vernon got its new school (extant) and other schools throughout the county benefited from the measure. It is important to note that during this time, schools were segregated; if an African American school was needed, the white students received the new schools and the African American students received the rundown building. While McIntosh County is part of the Muscogee Creek Reservation and there were two historic all-Black towns in the county, the majority of the population identified as white. It was a major accomplishment to get the proposal not only on the ballot but also approved by voters.

W.M. Baccus retired from public service in 1953 when his eyesight began to fail. W.M. Baccus served two terms as Sheriff, 1925-1935 and 1940-1953; County Commissioner; and Probate Administrator. This property best represents the time in which W.M. Baccus achieved significance in the community of Vernon as he lived in this residence from 1920 until he retired

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from public service in 1953. This property is significant at the local level for its association with W.M. Baccus, an important political and governmental leader in Vernon.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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

Oklahoma Corporation Commission. Aerial Maps, 1938, 1949, 1978.

The (Boley) Weekly Progress. "Facts About Vernon, Okla.", December 21, 1911, 6.
<https://www.newspapers.com/image/legacy/606556375/>.

———. "Vernon News." February 2, 1911, 1.
<https://www.newspapers.com/image/legacy/606556017/>.

———. "Vernon, Okla." December 17, 1915, 1.
<https://www.newspapers.com/image/legacy/606556523/>.

U.S. Census Bureau. 1900, 1910, 1920, 1950.

Veenendaal Jr., Augustus J. "Fort Smith and Western Railway." In *The Encyclopedia of Oklahoma History and Culture*, 2024.
<https://www.okhistory.org/publications/enc/entry?entry=FO040>.

———. "Railroads." In *The Encyclopedia of Oklahoma History and Culture*, 2024.
<https://www.okhistory.org/publications/enc/entry.php?entry=RA004>.

"Vernon." *Topeka Plaindealer*, April 28, 1916, page 1.

Woodard, James E. "Vernon: An All-Negro Town in Southeastern Oklahoma." *Negro History Bulletin* 27, no. 5 (1964): 115–16. <https://www.jstor.org/stable/44174958>.

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 # _____

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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

Acreege of Property less than 1

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- | | |
|------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Latitude: 35.212151 | Longitude: -95.92647 |
| 2. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 3. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 4. Latitude: | Longitude: |

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

Lots 1-7, lot 8 less W15' all lot 11 BLK 17 Vernon

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

This boundary includes all the land that is historically associated with the Baccus House in Vernon, McIntosh County, Oklahoma.

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11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Clarence L. Baccus Jr./OKSHPO edits
organization: Vernon Chamber of commerce
street & number: Rt 1 Box 709
city or town: Vernon state: OK zip code: 74845
e-mail thecityofvernon@gmail.com
telephone: 310-806-5920
date: July 3, 2024

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: Baccus House

City or Vicinity: Vernon

County: McIntosh

State: Oklahoma

Photographer: Michael Mayes, OKSHPO Survey Coordinator

Date Photographed: February 21, 2024

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

Photograph Number	Subject	Direction
0001	Facade	South
0002	Façade and West Elevation	Southeast
0003	West and Rear Elevations	Northeast
0004	East Elevation	Southwest


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.

Baccus House

124331 S 3981 Rd
Vernon, McIntosh County
Oklahoma

Legend

 35.212151, -95.926470

Louisiana Ave

Grand Ave

Highway St

 35.212151, -95.926470

Mill Creek

Google Earth

Image © 2024 Airbus



700 ft





