

**MINUTES FOR APRIL 27, 2015**  
**BOARD OF CHEROKEE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**  
**CHEROKEE COUNTY, KANSAS**

**CONVENE**

Commissioner Hilderbrand called the regular session of the Cherokee County Board of Commissioners (The Board), to order and led all in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance at 9:00 AM on Monday, April 27, 2015 in the Commission Room, #109 of the Cherokee County Courthouse located at 110 W Maple St., Columbus, Kansas. Commissioners Richard Hilderbrand, Charles Napier, Pat Collins, and County Clerk Rodney Edmondson were present.

Members of the press present: Larry Hiatt, Machel Smith, Jordan Zabel

A motion was made by Commissioner Napier to approve the Minutes of the BOCC Meeting for April 20, 2015. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Collins. The motion carried 3-0.

**Scott Jackson - Spring River Mental Health & Wellness**

He appeared before the Board to present the 2015 Mental Health Funding Agreement for the Board to approve. Total mill levy and general funds for 2015 are in the amount of \$111,457.

A motion was made by Commissioner Napier to approve the mental health funding with Spring River Mental Health & Wellness. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Collins. The motion carried 3-0.

Commissioner Hilderbrand read a letter from the Kansas Historical Society concerning the Kansas Route 66 Historic District. The letter stated that the Kansas Route 66 Historic District - North Baxter Springs was listed in the National Register of Historic Places on April 14, 2015.

**Clint Saporito - Columbus Cal Ripken Baseball**

He appeared before the Board concerning the upcoming Columbus Cal Ripken Baseball season.

He informed the Board that they will be hosting two tournaments this year with four to five teams in each tournament. For the second year Columbus will host the 12 and under state tournament July 15-19. There is a \$1,200 fee paid to Cal Ripken Baseball to host the tournament. He reported that they have installed new canopies over the bleachers and purchased new player equipment. They are looking at updating the dugouts and score board in the future. They are requesting the Board's assistance with any funding possible.

The Board took his request under advisement.

A motion was made by Commissioner Hilderbrand to amend the agenda from 11:00 AM to 10:28 AM for the USD 247 Nationals for TSA.

**Brad Coats - Southeast High School Technology Student Association Advisor**

He appeared along with students from the TSA program. They reported that in March the group attended the TSA Kansas State Conference and placed first and second in their events, with the Digital Video Production qualifying for the TSA National Conference in Dallas, Texas. There will be four students attending June 27<sup>th</sup> - July 2<sup>nd</sup>. Last year there were 150 teams at nationals and they took 7<sup>th</sup> place overall. They are requesting any assistance possible from the Board with funding.

The Board took their request under advisement.

RH

**Janet Miller - Economic Development Director**

She appeared before the Board to extend an invitation to attend the NetWork Kansas Youth Entrepreneurship Challenge - Southeast Region at the Columbus 4-H Building on Wednesday, April 29<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 AM - 2:45 PM.

A motion was made by Commissioner Hilderbrand to amend the agenda from 11:30 AM to 11:10 AM for Nathan Coleman. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Napier. The motion carried 3-0.

**Nathan Coleman - County Counselor**

He appeared before the Board regarding legal matters concerning Cherokee County.

He reported that the election contest hearing is set for May 4<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 PM in the District Court.

A motion was made by Commissioner Collins to enter an Executive Session with the Board and Mr. Coleman for a period of 10 minutes for the purpose of Attorney/Client Privilege. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Napier. The motion carried 3-0 at 11:19 AM.

The meeting reconvened at 11:29 AM.

No action was taken during the Executive Session.

Dustin Bronson appeared with Mr. Coleman concerning his request to have a family only private cemetery. Mr. Coleman stated that he has contacted the Department of Environment and the Board of Mortuary Arts. Both referred him back to county authorities. Mr. Coleman stated that he sees nothing in local regulations to prevent such a cemetery. He stated that in 2006 a similar request was granted by the Board. The cemetery would be located west of Baxter Springs on 19<sup>th</sup> St.

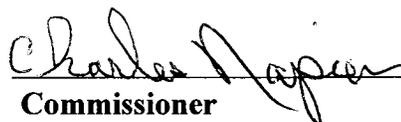
The Board had no objections to the family cemetery.

Commissioner Hilderbrand made a motion to adjourn until the next regularly scheduled meeting set for May 4, 2015 at 9:00 AM. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Collins. The motion carried 3-0 with all voting yes at 11:43 AM.

**ATTEST: Resolved and ordered this 4<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2015**

  
Cherokee County Clerk

  
Commissioner

  
Commissioner

  
Commissioner

April 27, 2015

Cherokee County Commission  
110 W. Maple  
Columbus, KS

Re: 2015 Funding Agreement

Dear Commissioners,

I have prepared a funding agreement for your review. The agreement reflects the current year's agreement for funding for mental health services. The body of the agreement is identical to prior years with only dates and amounts varying according to the approved budget amount.

The agreement specifies the commitments Spring River Mental Health and Wellness, Inc. has for serving county residents.

Please let me now if you have questions or concerns.

Thank you for your continuing support of Spring River Mental Health & Wellness, Inc.

Sincerely,



Scott Jackson  
Executive Director

**Cherokee County  
Mental Health Funding  
Agreement 2015**

This agreement made and entered into this 27<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2015 by and between the Board of County Commissioners of Cherokee County, Kansas, hereinafter referred to as "County" and Spring River Mental Health & Wellness, Inc., a non-profit corporation and Community Mental Health Center, hereinafter referred to as "SRMHW".

Witnesseth: That in consideration of the mutual promises and covenants herein contained, it is understood and agreed by and between the parties as follows:

1. SRMHW agrees to function as the mental health authority for Cherokee County. This includes performing inpatient hospitalization screenings and managing the utilization of hospital bed days assigned to Cherokee County at the State of Kansas Psychiatric Hospitals.
2. SRMHW agrees to provide mental health services for the residents of Cherokee County. Those services shall include, but not be limited to, outpatient evaluation and treatment; reintegration and community support services to those suffering from a severe and persistent mental illness; consultation services to schools, courts, health, and welfare agencies, both public and private.
3. SRMHW agrees not to deny services to any Cherokee County resident because of an inability to pay for their services and further agrees to maintain a schedule of charges for services to those who are financially able to pay.
4. SRMHW shall present an annual budget to the County, along with a summary of the previous year's services.
5. The County agrees to levy a tax of mil levy and general funds in the amount of \$111,457. Payments to be made as monies become available to the County. Total mil levy and general funds to go to SRMHW for 2015 is \$111,457.
6. The terms of this agreement shall be from January 1, 2015 to December 31, 2015. Negotiations for the renewal or termination of this contract shall be undertaken by the parties on or before July 1, 2015, in order that it may be completed prior to the time necessary for the County to complete its budget for the succeeding fiscal year. This agreement will renew annually with the agreement of both parties and will be adjusted to reflect the approved County budget for mental health center operations of that current year.

In Witness Whereof the parties hereto, by their duly authorized representative, have executed this agreement the day first written above:

**The Board of County Commissioners  
of Cherokee County, Kansas**

By: [Signature] 4-27-15  
Spring River Mental Health      Date  
& Wellness, Inc.  
Executive Director

[Signature] 4-27-2015  
Chairman      Date

[Signature] 4-27-15  
Commissioner      Date

[Signature] 04-27-15  
Commissioner      Date

Business Owners and Community Members,

Caleb Thompson, Bryson Spahn, Jake Burns, and Kyler Spahn from the Southeast High School Technology Student Association will be attending the TSA National Conference this summer from June 27<sup>th</sup> to July 2<sup>nd</sup>. These students will be competing in Digital Video Production and On Demand Video Production at the conference.

At the TSA Kansas State Conference, these students were in 2 different groups that took 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Place in the state in the Digital Video Production competition. In this event, students create a video before attending the conference based on a topic given to them by TSA. The two groups also placed 2<sup>nd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> in the state in the On Demand Video Production competition. In this competition, they were given the topic at the conference and had to script, film, and edit a video within 48 hours. They also had to produce a DVD and notebook for each of the projects.

Southeast TSA was started 3 years ago and the video students have qualified to compete at the Technology Student Association National Conference all 3 years. Last year the video production group from Southeast High School was recognized at the awards ceremony, placing 7<sup>th</sup> in the nation in Digital Video Production. This is an amazing accomplishment for students from a school of our size and proves that students from our local schools can compete with anyone in the nation.

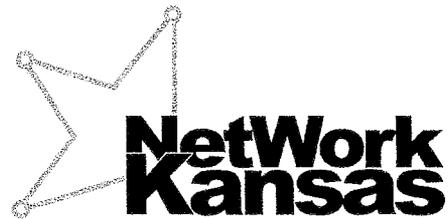
Our group is reliant on donations and fundraisers to fund the trip to the 2015 TSA National Conference. Please strongly consider helping fund our trip with a donation to give these students an opportunity to attend and compete at the national level. This is a great opportunity to travel and compete and to continue to do a great job of representing our local communities.

Thank you for your time and consideration.



Brad Coots  
Southeast High School  
TSA Advisor





## **NetWork Kansas E- Community Youth Entrepreneurship Challenge - Southeast Region**

April 29, 2015 | 10:00 A.M. – 2:45 P.M.  
4-H Building  
114 W. Country Rd.  
Columbus, KS 66725

### **9:00-10:00 Participants arrive and check-in, set up booths**

- *Breakfast / snacks available*

### **10:00 Semi-Final Round**

- *Tradeshow*
- *Elevator Pitches*

### **11:00 E-Fair open to general public and students**

- *Judges meet and tabulate scores from preliminary round*
- *Students remain at their tradeshow booths*

### **11:30 Break**

- *Voting for people's choice awards*

### **11:45 Lunch**

- *Lunch provided*
- *Keynote speaker: Mike Bosch, Reflective Group*
- *Instructions for finalist round*

### **1:00 Break**

- *Students prepare for final presentation*

### **1:15 Final Round**

- *Students make final presentations to judges & audience*

### **2:15 Break**

- *Judges meet and tabulate scores from finalist round*
- *Coffee and dessert served*

### **2:30 Presentation of Awards**

Bureau of Waste Management  
Curtis State Office Building  
1000 SW Jackson, Suite 320  
Topeka, KS 66612-1366



Phone: 785-296-1600  
Fax: 785-296-8909  
bwmweb@kdheks.gov  
www.kdheks.gov/waste

Susan Mosier, MD, Secretary

Department of Health & Environment

Sam Brownback, Governor

April 24, 2015

Flora Charles  
City of Galena  
211 W. 7th St.  
Galena, KS 66739

RE: Permit Renewal for Permit No. 0738, for the following types of permits:  
Construction/Demolition; Cherokee County

Dear Ms. Charles:

The Department of Health and Environment is in receipt of your updated liability insurance certificate and financial assurance documentation for your solid waste facility as required by K.S.A. 65-3407.

This letter will serve as the permit renewal for the period of May 7, 2015 through May 06, 2016.

All conditions, requirements and conformity with plans and specifications referred to and shown on permit 0738 remain in effect. Your continuing cooperation with the solid waste management program is appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dennis A. Degner".

Dennis A. Degner, Ph.D., P.E.  
Chief, Solid Waste Permits Section

c Cherokee County Commissioners

April 24, 2015

Richard Hilderbrand, Chairman  
Cherokee County Commission  
Cherokee County Courthouse  
110 W Maple Street  
Columbus, KS 66725

Re: Kansas Route 66 Historic District - North Baxter Springs – Cherokee County

Dear Chairman Hilderbrand:

We are pleased to inform you that the Kansas Route 66 Historic District - North Baxter Springs was listed in the National Register of Historic Places on April 14, 2015. The National Register is the country's official list of historically significant properties and Kansans can feel proud to have a large and growing representation of these tangible links to our past. A copy of the nomination is enclosed for your records and is available on our website at this link: [www.kshs.org/14638](http://www.kshs.org/14638).

Listing of this property provides recognition of its historic importance and assures that the significance of the property will be considered in federal planning, when applicable. Construction projects involving this property will benefit from review at the state level in accordance with the Kansas Historic Preservation Act (K.S.A. 75-2724 – 75-2725). For more information about state and federal preservation law, please visit our website at [kshs.org/14658](http://kshs.org/14658). Contact your local permitting authority to learn of any applicable local preservation ordinances.

In addition to the prestige of inclusion in the National Register, owners of listed properties enjoy a number of other benefits:

- Owners of buildings listed in the National Register may be eligible for a federal rehabilitation tax credit if they are rehabilitated for income-producing purposes. A state tax rehabilitation credit is also available for the rehabilitation of both income and non-income producing properties listed in the State or National Registers of Historic Places. Please contact Marsha Longofono or Kristen Johnston at 785-272-8681 ext. 240 for applications and more information.
- National Register listing qualifies a property for the Heritage Trust Fund grant program. Please contact KSHS grants manager, Katrina Ringler, at 785-272-8681 ext. 215 or [kringler@kshs.org](mailto:kringler@kshs.org) for applications and more information.
- The Kansas State Historical Society offers free technical advice to owners of historic properties to help them maintain their properties in a historically accurate manner.

Thank you for your interest in our state's historic resources. If you have any questions concerning this nomination, please contact Sarah Martin at 785-272-8681 ext. 216 or [smartin@kshs.org](mailto:smartin@kshs.org). We invite you to join us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/KSHPO](http://www.facebook.com/KSHPO) and follow us on Twitter at [twitter.com/kansashistory](https://twitter.com/kansashistory) or using the handle [@kansashistory](https://twitter.com/kansashistory).

Sincerely,

Jennie Chinn  
State Historic Preservation Officer



Patrick Zollner  
Director, Cultural Resources Division  
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

PZ/sjm

cc: Cherokee County Commission  
Baxter Springs City Council  
Cherokee County Historical Society  
Marla Larison, Kansas Route 66 Historic Byway  
Linda Kennedy, Director, Baxter Springs Historical Society

APR 14 2015

# 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. Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).

## 1. Name of Property

Historic name Kansas Route 66 Historic District – North Baxter Springs

Other names/site number US Highway 66; KHRI # 021-0390-00063

Name of related Multiple Property Listing Historic Resources of Route 66 in Kansas

## 2. Location

Street & number North Willow Avenue / S.E. 50<sup>th</sup> Street (North of Baxter Springs) not for publication

City or town Baxter Springs vicinity

State Kansas Code KS County Cherokee Code 021 Zip code 66713

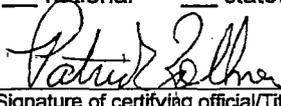
## 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

I hereby certify that this  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  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 Patrick Zollner, Deputy SHPO Date 2-20-15

Kansas State Historical Society  
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

Kansas Route 66 Historic District – North Baxter Springs  
Name of Property

Cherokee County, Kansas  
County and State

**5. Classification**

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

**Category of Property**  
(Check only one box.)

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

<input type="checkbox"/>	private
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	public - Local
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - State
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Federal

<input type="checkbox"/>	building(s)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	district
<input type="checkbox"/>	site
<input type="checkbox"/>	structure
<input type="checkbox"/>	object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
		buildings
1		sites
5		structures
		objects
6	0	<b>Total</b>

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

0

**6. Function or Use**

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

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

TRANSPORTATION: Road-related (vehicular)

TRANSPORTATION: Road-related (vehicular)

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

No Style

foundation: Concrete

walls: N/A

roof: N/A

other: Asphalt Roadbed

Kansas Route 66 Historic District – North Baxter Springs  
Name of Property

Cherokee County, Kansas  
County and State

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### **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**

Route 66 passes through a small portion of southeast Kansas in Cherokee County. All 13.2 miles of the historic Route 66 roadbed in Kansas are extant and remain drivable, although modern bypasses carry the majority of traffic around some of the older segments. This nomination covers a 2.1-mile linear section of the original route in a rural area north of Baxter Springs, between the National Register-listed Brush Creek bridge on the north and Willow Creek bridge on the south. (See Figures 1 through 3.)

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### **Elaboration**

The nominated stretch of Route 66 passes through rural Cherokee County, between Riverton to the east and Baxter Springs to the south. The 2.1-mile segment is oriented on a north-south path. The south portion of the two-lane road passes through an open terrain with farm fields and the occasional residence on either side. The north part of the nominated road is flanked by groves of trees on either side. The highway retains its early 20<sup>th</sup> century character, due in part to the construction of a new bypass connecting Riverton and Baxter Springs in the early 1960s.

This nomination includes one contributing site (the historic road) and five contributing structures. There are two large box bridge/culverts, two small box culverts, and one weir/culvert combination. The paving and the construction of the ancillary structures took place in 1923. Most of the original concrete railings flanking the various small culverts have been removed; those associated with the larger culverts have been replaced with modern guardrails.

### *Inventory of Resources*

#### 1. Roadbed (contributing site)

This section of road is approximately 25 feet wide, with virtually no paved shoulder areas. This is very much in keeping with the character of the original 24-foot wide historic roadbed. Both sides have narrow grassy shoulders that slope downward from the edge of the roadbed into ditches that carry rainwater runoff. The existing layer of pavement is in fair condition with typical minimal cracks.

The road includes several ancillary features that were built as part of the improvements in 1923. These various culverts have a common design and are constructed of reinforced poured coarse concrete with a gritty, sandy aggregate. The function of the culverts was (and remains) to carry water beneath the roadway and to the creeks and streams.

#### 2. Culvert #1 (contributing structure; 37.067901 / -94.740954)

This structure is a single-bay box culvert measuring 26 feet wide and 20 feet tall. It has angled wingwalls that extend outward from the culvert, below road level. There are modern guardrails on either side of the road.

#### 3. Culvert #2 (contributing structure; 37.062806 / -94.740834)

Kansas Route 66 Historic District – North Baxter Springs  
Name of Property

Cherokee County, Kansas  
County and State

This structure is a single-bay box culvert measuring 23½ feet wide and 13 feet tall. It has angled wingwalls that extend outward from the culvert, below road level. It has modern guardrails on either side of the road.

4. Culvert #3 (contributing structure; 37.059235 / -94.740797)

This is a single-bay box culvert measuring 9 feet wide and 6 feet tall. It has angled wingwalls that extend outward from the culvert, below road level. It has a weir 14 feet wide stretching from end to end of the wingwalls.

5. Culvert #4 (contributing structure; 37.057752 / -94.740797)

This is a single bay culvert measuring 9 feet wide and 6 feet tall. It has angled wingwalls that extend outward from the culvert, below road level.

6. Culvert #5 (contributing structure; 37.045974 / -94.740775) – KHRI # 021-0390-00064

This culvert is located at an intersection of two paved roads (North Willow Avenue/S.E. 50<sup>th</sup> Street and North 10<sup>th</sup> Street. Specifically, it crosses under 10<sup>th</sup> Street on the east side of Willow/50<sup>th</sup>. This is a single-bay culvert measuring 3 feet deep and 7½ feet wide. Each side features one angled wingwall extending outward from the culvert below road level. The concrete railing is still in place at the southwest corner of the intersection, but it is damaged. The railing posts have recessed panels on the outward faces. The rails connecting the posts have chamfered edges.

*Integrity*

The district retains a high degree of integrity, particularly of setting, feeling, location, and association. The roadway retains its original width, with only limited grassy shoulder space in some areas. This stretch of roadway includes several original concrete box culverts, though their integrity has been lessened with the loss of most of the concrete railings. This collection of resources meets the registration requirements outlined in the multiple property nomination for their contribution to the cultural landscape of Route 66.

Kansas Route 66 Historic District – North Baxter Springs  
Name of Property

Cherokee County, Kansas  
County and State

**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.)

Property is:

- 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.

**Areas of Significance**

TRANSPORTATION

**Period of Significance**

1923-1961

**Significant Dates**

1923, 1961

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Builder: Koss Construction Co., Des Moines, IA

**Period of Significance (justification)**

The period of significance begins with the federal designation of Route 66 and ends in 1961 with the completion of the Interstate 44 bypass, which routed the highway away from this area.

**Criteria Considerations (justification)**

N/A

Kansas Route 66 Historic District – North Baxter Springs  
Name of Property

Cherokee County, Kansas  
County and State

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### **Narrative Statement of Significance**

(Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

#### **Summary**

A 2.1 mile section of Kansas Route 66 roadbed north of Baxter Springs is nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for its local significance in the area of transportation. The district is nominated as part of the *Historic Resources of Route 66 in Kansas* multiple property nomination as examples of the Roadbed and Culvert property types.

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#### **Elaboration**

##### *Baxter Springs History<sup>1</sup>*

Baxter Springs is located in the extreme southeast section of Cherokee County in Spring Valley township near the Kansas border with both Oklahoma and Missouri. It is a short distance west of Spring River and 11 miles southeast of Columbus, the county seat. Cherokee County has unique beginnings as it was so closely located to then-pro-slavery Missouri and Indian Territory during its formative years in the mid-19th century. Euro-Americans were settling in the area by the 1850s, but Cherokee County did not officially form until after the Civil War in 1867. The U. S. military built rudimentary posts in the area, which was along a route connecting Fort Scott, Kansas to the north with Fort Smith, Arkansas to the south.

Officially incorporated in 1868, Baxter Springs, was named for John L. Baxter, who settled 160 acres near the Spring River in 1849. During the Civil War the Union established Fort Blair where a noteworthy confrontation occurred with Confederate guerilla troops lead by William Quantrill. After the war, the budding community became the first frontier cattle town on the southern border of Kansas. Higher prices for beef in the north made it cost effective for Texas cattle raisers to drive herds north. In 1868 a stockyard association offering corrals, water and grazing area for 20,000 head of cattle was established. The cattle trade spurred a considerable amount of activity in Baxter Springs with the community growing to over 4,000 by 1870. One account describes that "at least 80 carpenters were working in Baxter Springs with a backlog of work at least two weeks for each worker." By the mid-1870s, railroads in Texas replaced the need for cattle drives north and the town's population quickly dwindled to a mere 800 by 1876. During the 1880s, the community promoted the health benefits of the springs for which the community drew its name and sustained itself by promoting a sanatorium and bath house that attracted many visitors.

The next building boom for the community would not occur until the early 1900s when lead and zinc mining took hold as the leading industry. As early as 1876, lead and zinc deposits were discovered in nearby Joplin, Missouri and Galena, Kansas. A historical account of Baxter Springs notes that, "The mining district was extended from Sunnyside to Lincolnville then to Hattenville; from there to Cardine, Pitcher, Treece, Hockerville, and lastly to the doors of Baxter Springs...the foremost town of the entire mining district."<sup>2</sup> This region of rich lead and zinc deposits located in Kansas, Oklahoma, and Missouri became known as the Tri-State mining district.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> This general history of Baxter Springs also is included in the recently approved state register nomination for the Ritz Theatre.

<sup>2</sup> "City of Baxter Springs Older than Newspaper," *Baxter Springs Citizen*, 30 May 1946.

<sup>3</sup> Baxter Springs Historical Society, *A Pictorial History of Baxter Springs, Kansas* (Marceline, MO: Heritage House Publishing, 1994), 74.

Kansas Route 66 Historic District – North Baxter Springs  
Name of Property

Cherokee County, Kansas  
County and State

The Kansas City, Fort Scott & Gulf Railroad developed through the city in 1870, connecting it with Joplin and Kansas City and bringing considerable opportunity for business.<sup>4</sup> The city eventually became the junction of two divisions of the St. Louis & San Francisco Railroad.<sup>5</sup> Later in the 1920s, U.S. Route 66 developed through the city. According to the multiple property nomination, "hard-surfaced roads came relatively early to Cherokee County compared with other areas of Kansas," due in large part to the success of the mining industry in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.<sup>6</sup>

Once established, Cherokee County's population grew steadily and was heavily influenced by the surrounding mining industry at the turn of the 20th century. The U.S. Federal census recorded 11,038 residents in Cherokee County in 1870, with the population peaking in 1900 at 42,694 and steadily declining throughout the 20th century.

#### Cherokee County Population<sup>7</sup>

1870: 11,038	1920: 33,609
1880: 21,905	1930: 31,457
1890: 27,770	1940: 29,817
1900: 42,694	1950: 25,144
1910: 38,162	1960: 22,279

Today, Baxter Springs has a population of just over 4,000.

#### *Transportation History*

The Federal Highway Act of 1921 ushered in a widespread and coordinated effort to build roads. State legislatures, including the Kansas Legislature, passed similar legislation promoting improved roads. According to the *Historic Resources of Route 66 in Kansas* multiple property documentation form, "Through the end of 1925, federal and state authorities had supervised the construction of 460 miles of concrete roads, 350 miles of earth roads, 285 miles of gravel roads, 130 miles of brick roads and 60 miles of macadam roads for a total cost of nearly \$39 million. Of this amount \$16 million was federal funds."<sup>8</sup>

The Federal Highway Commission designated U.S. Highway 66 as part of a new national interstate highway network on November 11, 1926. Route 66 was an east-west highway connecting Chicago to Los Angeles and included approximately 2,300 miles that traversed eight states. The route crossed a small portion of southeast Cherokee County, Kansas, connecting Missouri with Oklahoma. This path carried cross-country traffic until 1961 when the Interstate 44 bypass was completed and routed the highway away from this area. U. S. 66 was removed from the U.S. Highway System on June 27, 1985.<sup>9</sup>

<sup>4</sup> William Cutler, *History of the State of Kansas, vol. 2* (Chicago: Andreas Publishing Co., 1883), 1161.

<sup>5</sup> Frank Blackmar, *Kansas: A Cyclopedic of State History, vol. 1* (Chicago: Standard Publishing Co., 1912), 160-162.

<sup>6</sup> Elizabeth Rosin, *Historic Resources of Route 66 in Kansas*, National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form (Topeka: Kansas Historical State Historical Society, 2003), E8.

<sup>7</sup> Historical Census Browser. Retrieved 28 July 2014 from the University of Virginia, Geospatial and Statistical Data Center: <http://mapserver.lib.virginia.edu/>.

<sup>8</sup> Rosin, *Historic Resources of Route 66 in Kansas*, E7, quoting W. V. Buck, "Kansas Highway Development and Road Legislation," in *The History of the State of Kansas*, ed. William E. Connelley, (Chicago: American Historical Society, Inc. 1928), 984.

<sup>9</sup> A detailed history of U.S. Route 66 through Kansas can be found here: Rosin, *Historic Resources of Route 66 in Kansas*.

Kansas Route 66 Historic District – North Baxter Springs

Cherokee County, Kansas

Name of Property

County and State

*Development of Route 66 through Baxter Springs*

Route 66 entered Cherokee County east of Galena, passing the Eagle-Picher Smelter, turning south proceeding along Galena's Main Street. The road turned west toward Riverton and eventually curved south at the Brush Creek bridge headed toward Baxter Springs. In town, the road followed Military Avenue through downtown, proceeding south to the Oklahoma State line. Figure 3.

This nominated segment of U. S. Route 66 north of Baxter Springs, located between the Brush Creek bridge on the north and Willow Creek bridge on the south, was a portion of Federal Highway Project #142. The project had an estimated total of \$142,000. The breakdown was presented as follows in *The Baxter Springs Herald*:<sup>10</sup>

Federal Aid:	\$69,000
State Aid	\$30,000
Joplin & Baxter Road boosters	\$10,000
Donated by others to the District	\$15,750

The estimated cost of the bridges was to be \$44,000. But, after applying the various donations and Federal Aid, the county's part totaled about \$13,000. Federal Aid on the proposed extension of the Spring Valley concrete road, west of Riverton, was available in the sum of \$15,000 per mile.<sup>11</sup>

The Cherokee County Commissioners signified that the type of road to be used shall be of uniform thickness of coarse concrete and be 18 feet wide.

Bids were advertised and then opened on March 12, 1923. The Koss Construction Company of Des Moines, Iowa, was selected as the lowest bidder for the construction of the road. The project called for a uniform seven-inch slab extending 4 ½ miles for a total of \$164,817.17. The Maxwell Construction Company of Columbus, Kansas was awarded the contract for the construction of four bridges as follows: 130-foot rainbow arch bridge, \$25,937.40; 18-foot bridge, \$5,933.96; 16 foot bridge, \$3,118.21; and an 80-foot bridge, \$11,467.70. The bridge contract totaled \$46,457.17.<sup>12</sup> (The 80-foot Willow Creek bridge and the rainbow arch Brush Creek bridge are at the north and south ends, respectively, of the nominated area. The Brush Creek Bridge is listed in the National Register, but the Willow Creek bridge was replaced with a newer structure.)

The March 15, 1923 edition of the *Baxter Springs Citizen* includes editorial remarks about the route chosen for the important new highway. It had been determined that the route would reach Baxter Springs from the east, but, as the editorial pointed out, it would be more beneficial to the city if the highway connected with Military Avenue, the main thoroughfare, and proceeded through the downtown. The editorial advocated working with the communities of Hockerville and Quapaw in Oklahoma because they stood to benefit if the route came south out of Baxter Springs. Indeed, this is the route the highway would take.

The development of the road brought high hopes for economic development and prosperity. Evidence of this come with one particularly interesting newspaper reference in the *Baxter Springs Citizen*, which referenced an article published in the *Kansas City Star* recalling a convention of Ford dealers where an unnamed speaker noted that "four cities of the United States were destined to experience unusual growth in industry and population during the year 1924. Los Angeles was the first city he named,

<sup>10</sup> "Concrete Road Now Assured," *The Baxter Springs Herald*, 8 February 1923.

<sup>11</sup> Ibid.

<sup>12</sup> "Des Moines Firm to Build Road," *Baxter Springs Citizen*, 12 March 1923.

Kansas Route 66 Historic District – North Baxter Springs

Cherokee County, Kansas

Name of Property

County and State

Long Beach was the second, the third was a city in the East and the fourth was Baxter Springs, Kan.<sup>13</sup>

This stretch of highway was part of the original segments designated by the federal government on November 11, 1926. The route largely bypassed Kansas, due to the considerable lobbying for a southern route by Tulsa resident and long-time Good Roads advocate Cyrus Avery. He served on the Federal Highway Commission's Joint Board, which developed the initial concept of this interstate highway.<sup>14</sup>

Route 66 through Kansas was featured as part of Tour 7 in the New Deal-era auto-touring guide to Kansas. The Work Projects Administration's *Kansas: A Guide to the Sunflower State* was published in 1939 as part of the American Guide Series that included a travel volume for each state. The guide focused less on the road itself and more on its setting, noting the Galena Smelter and the various lead and zinc mines surrounding Baxter Springs. The details about Baxter Springs give little information on tourist accommodations along the route, instead focusing on the area's 1860s-era history.<sup>15</sup>

This section of road remained an integral part of Kansas Route 66 until a bypass was completed in the early 1960s, which was part of a comprehensive road improvement project that included the construction of the Interstate 44 bypass. As a result, the road has largely served local traffic and tourists traveling the old route. The Kansas Department of Transportation designated Kansas Route 66 a Kansas Historic Byway in 2011.<sup>16</sup>

<sup>13</sup> "Nation's Eyes are on Baxter," *Baxter Springs Citizen*, 28 February 1924.

<sup>14</sup> Rosin, *Historic Resources of Route 66 in Kansas*, E4.

<sup>15</sup> James R. Shortridge, ed., *The WPA Guide to 1930s Kansas: Compiled and Written by the Federal Writers' Project of the Work Projects Administration for the State of Kansas* (Lawrence: University Press of Kansas, 1984): 439-442.

<sup>16</sup> "Kansas Historic Route 66 Byway receives state designation," Kansas Department of Transportation news release, 29 November 2011. Copy on file with nomination.

Kansas Route 66 Historic District – North Baxter Springs  
Name of Property

Cherokee County, Kansas  
County and State

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

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

*The Baxter Springs Citizen*. 8 February 1923; 28 February 1923; 12 March 1923; 15 March 1923. (Baxter Springs, KS.)

*The Baxter Springs Herald*. 8 February 1923. (Baxter Springs, KS.)

Blackmar, Frank. *Kansas: A Cyclopaedia of State History, vol. 1*. Chicago: Standard Publishing Co., 1912.

Cutler, William. *History of the State of Kansas, vol. 2*. Chicago: Andreas Publishing Co., 1883.

Cherokee County Commission. Meeting Minutes for January 29, 1923; February 6, 1923; 12 March 1923; 21 May 1923. Cherokee County Genealogical and Historical Library, Columbus, KS. (Copies on file with nomination.)

Historical Census Browser. Retrieved 28 July 2014 from the University of Virginia, Geospatial and Statistical Data Center: <http://mapserver.lib.virginia.edu/>.

*The Joplin Globe*. 8 February 1923. (Joplin, MO.)

Rosin, Elizabeth. *Historic Resources of Route 66 in Kansas* National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form. Topeka: Kansas State Historical Society, 2003.

\_\_\_\_\_. *Kansas Historic Resources Inventory Reconnaissance Form # 021-0390-00063*. Topeka, Kansas State Historical Society, 2002.

Rowland, Mary. "Kansas and the Highways, 1917-1930," in *Kansas History: A Journal of the Central Plains* 5, 1 (Spring 1982): 33-51.

Shortridge, James R., ed. *The WPA Guide to 1930s Kansas: Compiled and Written by the Federal Writers' Project of the Work Projects Administration for the State of Kansas*. Lawrence: University Press of Kansas, 1984.

**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): \_NA\_

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreeage of Property** 26.5

**Provide latitude/longitude coordinates OR UTM coordinates.**

(Place additional coordinates on a continuation page.)

**Latitude/Longitude Coordinates**

Datum if other than WGS84: \_\_\_\_\_ (enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1	<u>37.071274</u> Latitude:	<u>-94.741156</u> Longitude:	3	_____	_____
2	<u>37.040590</u> Latitude:	<u>-94.740587</u> Longitude:	4	_____	_____

**Verbal Boundary Description** (describe the boundaries of the property)

The 2.1-mile linear boundary includes the 25-foot-wide roadway, its associated historic culverts, and the adjacent right-of-way, all of which is owned and maintained by Cherokee County. The north boundary

Kansas Route 66 Historic District – North Baxter Springs

Cherokee County, Kansas

Name of Property

County and State

point (37.071274, -94-741156) is located just south of the Brush Creek Bridge, where a new/modern road has been installed. The south boundary point (37.040590 -94.740587 is at the north edge of Baxter Springs where a modern bridge crosses Willow Creek.

**Boundary Justification** (explain why the boundaries were selected)

This linear boundary includes the historic roadbed and associated features within a 2.1-mile stretch. This section represents the portion of the road with the highest integrity.

---

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Marla Larison (with KSHS staff edits)

organization Kansas Rt. 66 Historic Byway

date July 15, 2014

street & number 3306 SE Boston Mills Road

telephone 620-674-8449

city or town Columbus

state KS

zip code 66725

e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

---

**Property Owner:** (complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO)

name Cherokee County Commissioners

street & number 110 W. Maple St.

telephone 620-429-3256

city or town Columbus

state KS

66725

**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.

Kansas Route 66 Historic District – North Baxter Springs  
Name of Property

Cherokee County, Kansas  
County and State

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**Additional Documentation**

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Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Photographs**

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each digital image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to a sketch map or aerial 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.

**Photograph Log**

Name of Property: U.S. Route 66 Historic District – North Baxter Springs

City or Vicinity: Baxter Springs

County: Cherokee State: KS

Photographer: Sarah J. Martin

Date Photographed: July 2, 2013

Description of Photograph(s) and number (see figure 4 for photo directions):

- 1 of 10: Modern road sign at north edge of district
- 2 of 10: Route 66 roadway at north end of district where old road bypasses NR-listed Marsh Arch bridge, camera facing N
- 3 of 10: Route 66 roadway near north end of district, north of bridge/culvert #1, camera facing N
- 4 of 10: Route 66 roadway, just south of bridge/culvert #2, camera facing S
- 5 of 10: Route 66 roadway at south end of district, camera facing N
- 6 of 10: Roadway at bridge/culvert #1, showing modern guardrails, camera facing S
- 7 of 10: Bridge/culvert #1, camera facing S
- 8 of 10: Bridge/culvert #2, camera facing S
- 9 of 10: Bridge/culvert #4, camera facing N
- 10 of 10: Bridge/culvert #5, camera NW

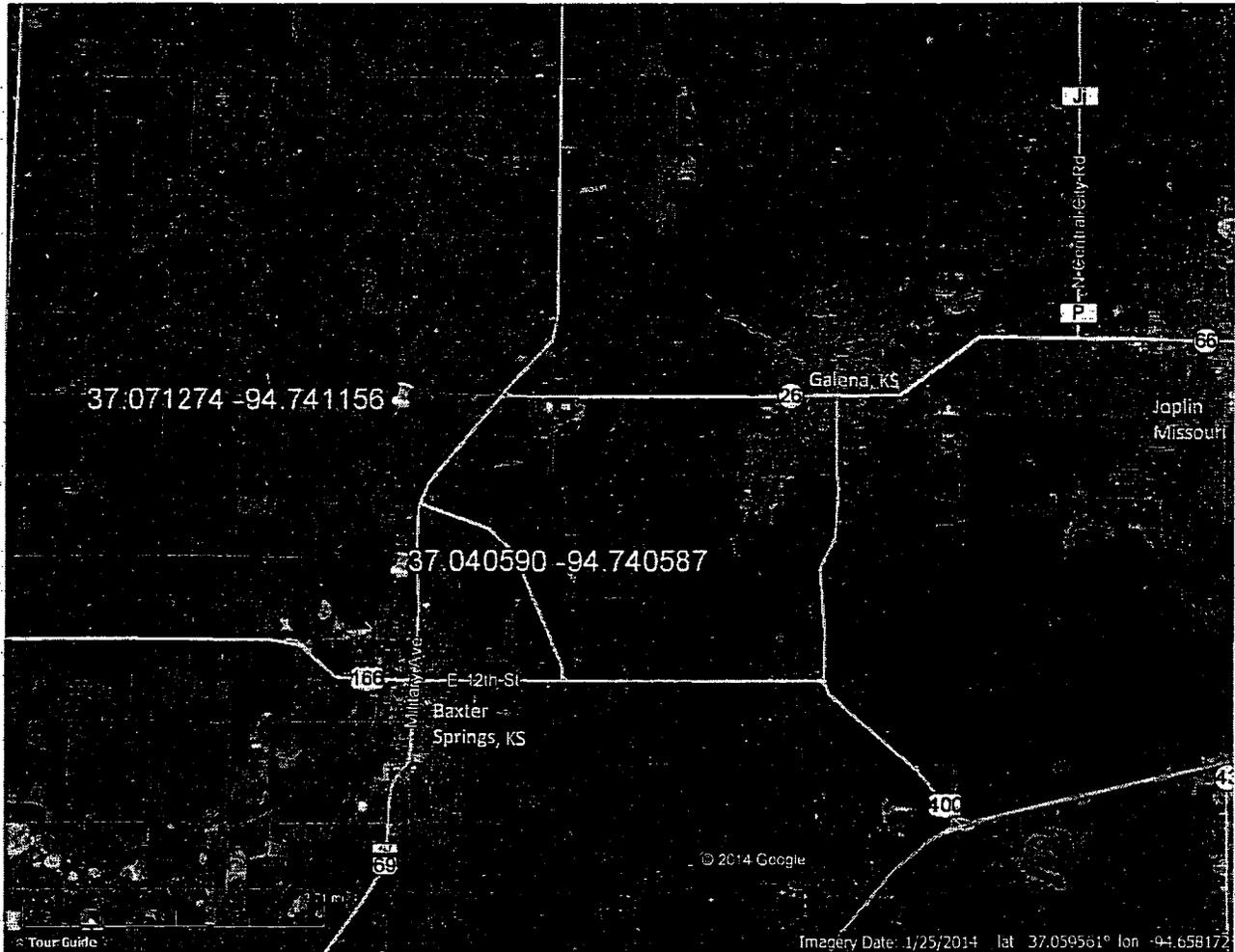
**Figures**

Include GIS maps, figures, scanned images below.

Kansas Route 66 Historic District – North Baxter Springs  
Name of Property

Cherokee County, Kansas  
County and State

Figure 1: Contextual Aerial Image showing the nominated section of Route 66 north of Baxter Springs.  
Google Earth 2014.



Kansas Route 66 Historic District – North Baxter Springs

Cherokee County, Kansas

Name of Property

County and State

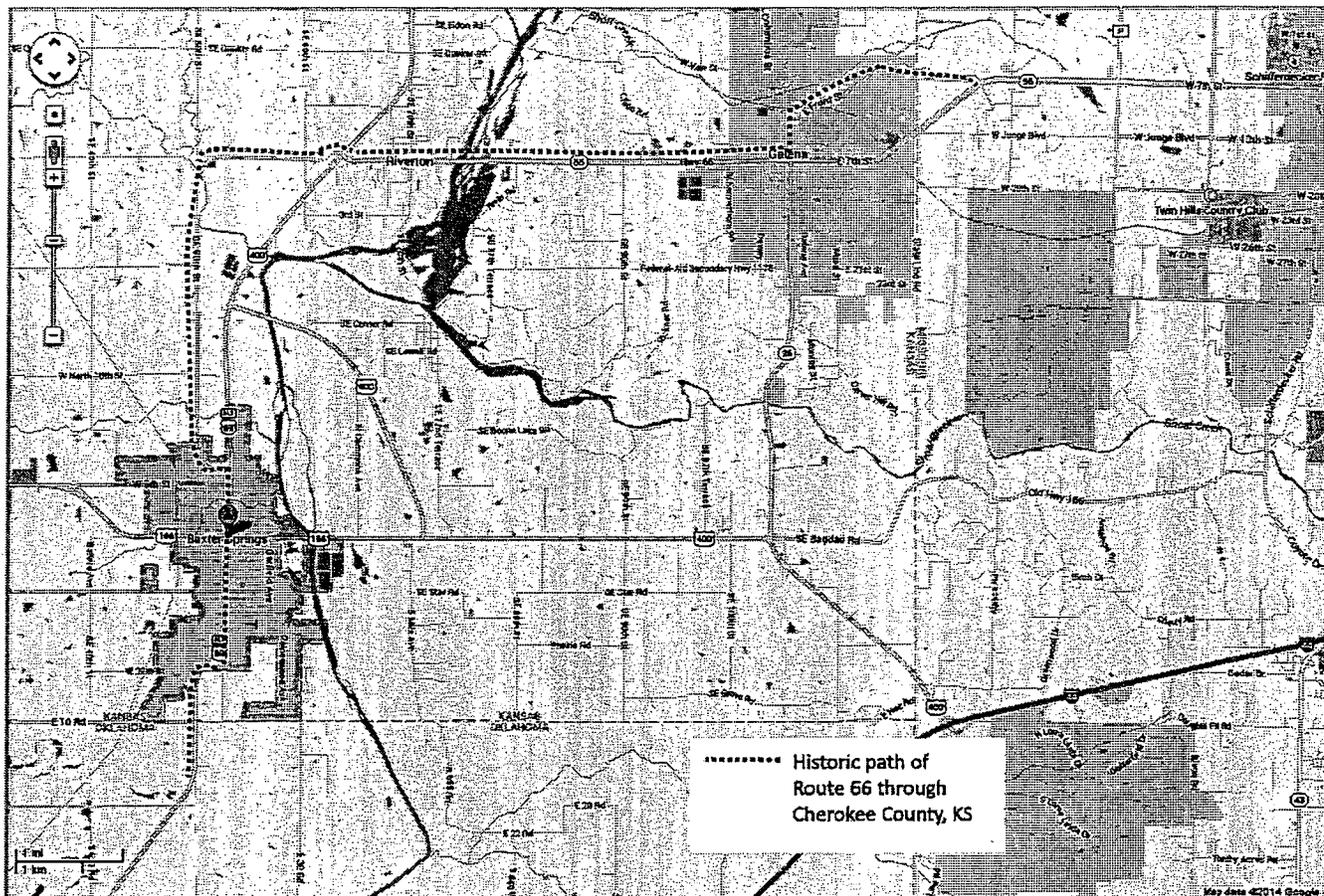
Figure 2: Close-in Aerial Image showing the nominated section of Route 66 north of Baxter Springs. Google Earth 2014.



Kansas Route 66 Historic District – North Baxter Springs  
Name of Property

Cherokee County, Kansas  
County and State

Figure 3: Map showing historic path of Route 66 through Cherokee County. Google Maps, 2014.



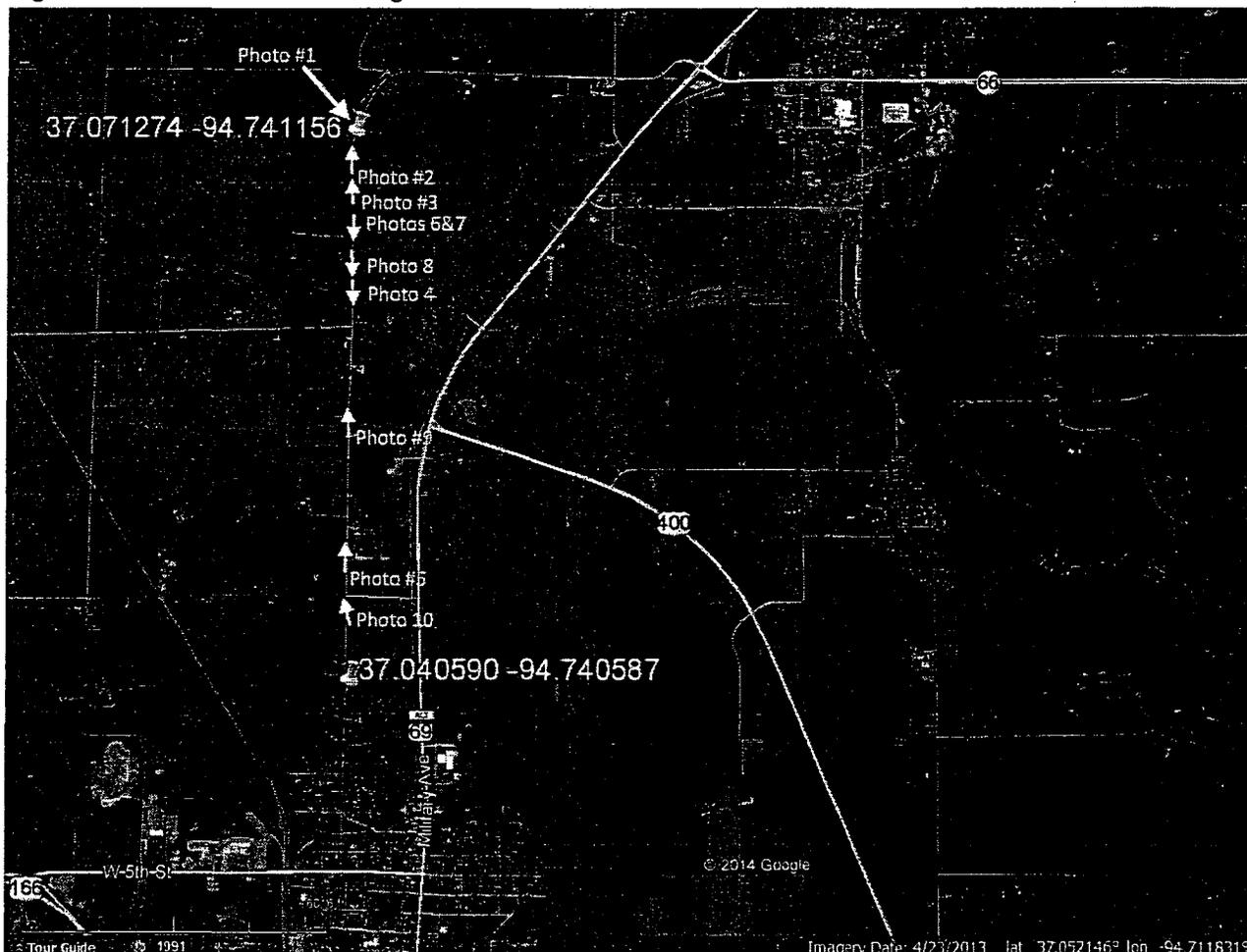
Kansas Route 66 Historic District – North Baxter Springs

Cherokee County, Kansas

Name of Property

County and State

Figure 4: Photo directions. Google Earth 2014.



6425 SW 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Topeka, KS 66615



phone: 785-272-8681  
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cultural\_resources@kshs.org

Kansas Historical Society

Sam Brownback, Governor  
Jennie Chinn, Executive Director

## Information about Plaques for Historic Properties

Owners of properties that are listed in the National Register of Historic Places and/or the Register of Historic Kansas Places may wish to display a plaque on their building noting its significance. Although our office encourages owners to display a plaque recognizing their property's history, we do not sell or distribute plaques. Below is a list of several reputable sources that you can contact for information. These companies have catalogs with the different styles of plaques. There may be some local companies in your area that sell custom plaques, too.

If you have any questions about this or other historic preservation matters, please do not hesitate to contact the State Historic Preservation Office at 785-272-8681 or e-mail at [cultural\\_resources@kshs.org](mailto:cultural_resources@kshs.org).

Degginger's Foundry  
<http://deggingers.com/>  
436 NW Crane Street  
Topeka, KS 66603  
785-232-4788

Eagle Sign & Design  
901 E Liberty Street  
Louisville, KY 40204  
888-561-0007  
<http://www.eaglesign.com>

Erie Landmark Company  
14110 Sullyfield Circle Suite 100  
Chantilly, Virginia 20151  
1-800-874-7848  
<http://erielandmark.com/>

Colonial Brass Co.  
<http://www.colonialbrass.com/>

Healy Brothers Foundry  
P.O. Box 4  
Manville, Rhode Island 02838  
1-800-626-3229

Smith-Cornell, Inc.  
1545 Holland Road Suite K  
Maumee, Ohio 43537  
1-800-325-0248

Franklin Bronze Plaques  
191 Howard Street  
Franklin, PA 16323  
1-866-405-6623  
[www.franklinbronzeplaques.com](http://www.franklinbronzeplaques.com)

Custom Historical Accessories  
[www.customhomex.com](http://www.customhomex.com)  
1-800-265-0041

Metallic Arts  
914 N Lake Road  
Spokane Valley, WA 99212  
1-800-541-2300  
[www.metallicarts.com](http://www.metallicarts.com)

