Background

Kansas Route 66 Historic District – North Baxter Springs was listed in the National Register of Historic Places on April 14, 2015. This amendment expands the boundary to include an additional 1.1 miles of the original Route 66, beginning approximately 1/10th of a mile north of the current North Baxter Springs Historic District. This expansion also incorporates the National Register-listed Brush Creek Marsh Arch Bridge (listed March 10, 1983, KHRI #021-0000-00112) that was part of this Route 66 segment. Together with the previously listed district, these 3.2 miles are the extant remains of Route 66 between Riverton and Baxter Springs.

Section 2. Location

SE Beasley Rd (Old Route 66) west of US-69 Hwy

Section 5. Number of Resources within Property

This amendment adds 6 contributing resources (3 sites and 3 structures) plus the previously-listed Brush Creek Bridge to the six contributing resources in the original nomination. The total number of resources within the boundary of the district is 13.

Section 7. Narrative Description

This boundary expansion adds 1.1 miles to the Kansas Route 66 Historic District – North Baxter Springs along what is now called SE Beasley Road west of US-69 Hwy. Prior to 2002, the 1.6-mile stretch of historic Route 66 between Riverton and the Brush Creek Bridge was a relatively straight east-west running roadway. Upon the northern approach to the Brush Creek Bridge, the road curved to the southwest before turning south and continuing on into Baxter Springs (Figures 5 & 6). Between 1991 and 2002 the physical continuity of this roadway was interrupted when two major highway projects removed portions of the historic road. A reconstruction of the interchange between Route 66 and US-69 Hwy eliminated about a half of a mile between Riverton and SE 60th Road, and a realignment of SE Beasley Road removed the historic connection to and from the Brush Creek Bridge.

Because of the highway work, this portion of the route north of the existing northern boundary of the district contains three extant sections of the historic roadway within close visual and physical proximity. From west to east: Segment A-B includes the 0.2 miles (1040’) of the route containing the National Register-listed Brush Creek Bridge; Segment C-D contains a 0.86-mile (4532’) stretch and four culverts, and Segment E-F is a 170’ segment that was retained during the interchange reconstruction in order to allow access to two residences. In total, the three road segments contain 1.1 miles of the original 1.6 miles from Riverton to the bridge.

1 Figure numbers are continued from original nomination.
This section of the road is flat and characteristic of a farmland area. The road lowers in elevation as it approaches the Brush Creek Bridge.

Continuing the numbering from the original nomination, the following resources are added to the amended district:

7. Roadbed Segment A-B (contributing site)
   Beginning approximately 720’ due north of the existing north boundary, Segment A-B runs in a southwest-to-northeast path. The Brush Creek Marsh Arch Bridge is located at the segment’s southwestern end. Segment A-B measures 1040’ in length and, with its associated right-of-way, contains 1.2 acres.

   When the bypass was built around the Brush Creek Bridge the original section of the road approaching was not disturbed. Today motorists can travel over the road and cross through the bridge.

8. Roadbed Segment C-D (contributing site)
   The western end Segment C-D starts at the quarter section line (visible by a north-south running tree line), approximately 750’ due east of Segment A-B. The continuous roadbed extends approximately 478’ east of SE 60th Road. The 0.86-mile site contains 8.65 acres, including its associated right-of-way.

   An unknown concrete structure is located on the north side of the roadbed a few feet east of the old Kansas, Oklahoma & Gulf Railroad alignment where it formerly crossed Route 66. The poured-concrete structure does not appear to be a culvert; however, heavy vegetation at this location prevented further investigation. No concrete was visible to the south of the road. No guard rails are in place, but there is no visible evidence that rails originally existed here. The structure is approximately 20’ long.

   Also found within this stretch of roadbed are three culverts, which are described below.

9. Roadbed Segment E-F (contributing site)
   Approximately 675’ east of Segment C-D is the western edge of Segment E-F. This 170’ portion of the historic roadway was retained to allow access to two residences (only one remains as of 2016). Together with its associated right-of-way, this segment includes 0.2 acres.

   The pavement of each segment is in good condition with minimal cracking. Recently painted Route 66 signs are found on the roadbed every tenth of a mile. Like the rest of the district’s roadbed, the segments being nominated in this boundary expansion measure 25’ wide, except at the bridge itself which is a narrower 24’ width, and include a 12.5’ right-of-way on either side of roadbed. Typical grassy shoulders on both sides of the roadbed slope downward toward ditches.

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2 This is the quarter section line between the NW/4, NW/4 and the NE/4,NW/4 of Section 24, Township 34 South, Range 24 East (to the south of the road) and between the SW/4, SW/4 and the SE/4, SW/4 of Section 13 Township 34 South, Range 24 East to the north of the road.

3 This structure may be associated with the former Route 66 underpass installed by the KO&G Railroad in 1926 in order to eliminate concerns about motor traffic encountering rail traffic at this juncture [The Baxter Herald (29 April 1926): n.p.]. The road was re-graded at this point when the rail line was abandoned.

4 The width of rights-of-way is based upon typical measurements for similar roads. A 12.5’ right-of-way is assumed for both sides of the roadway, making the entire linear corridor 50’ wide.
10. Culvert #6 (contributing structure) 37.075299, -94.731306
   This concrete box culvert is located a few feet east of a tree line marking the half section of Section 24 (to
   the south) and Section 13 (to the north). No guard rails are in place, but there is no visible evidence that
   rails were ever installed. The culvert has concrete wing walls that angle away from the box and are below
   road level. The structures measures approximately 6’-0” tall by 9’-0” wide.

11. Culvert #7 & #8 (contributing structures)
   These two identical concrete box culverts are at the intersection of SE 60th and Route 66, below road
   level. These small culverts run under SE Beasley Road with one on the east side of SE 60th and one on
   the west side. They are intact other than the guardrails that have been removed. The culverts have
   concrete wing walls and each measure approximately 3’-0” tall by 7’-0” wide (similar to Culvert #4 in the
   original nomination).

Integrity

These six resources retain a high degree of integrity in terms of location, setting, feeling, and association, and fair
integrity of materials and workmanship, mostly due to the removal of small sections of the continuous roadbed.
Together with the original portion of this district, the resources comprising the Kansas Route 66 Historic District –
North Baxter Springs meet the registration requirements outlined in the multiple property nomination for their
contribution to the cultural landscape of Route 66.

Section 10. Geographical Data

The original nomination gives the nominated acreage as 26.5. Based on right-of-way information (25’ roadbed
plus 12.5’ right-of-way on both sides), the total acreage of the original nomination equals 12.7 acres.

The boundary expansion adds 6.6 acres

The total acreage for the entire district is 19.3

See associated boundary maps for coordinates (Figures 8 through 10).

Verbal Boundary Description

The 1.1-mile linear boundary expansion includes the 25-foot roadway (SE Beasley Road), its associated historic
culverts, the National Register-listed Brush Creek Bridge, and the road’s right-of-way (measured at 12.5 feet on
either side of roadway). The west boundary point (A: 37.073270, -94.741051) begins approximately 1/10th of a
mile north of the district’s original north boundary. The east boundary point (F: 37.075016, -94.717785) is the
eastern-most point of the historic Route 66 west of US-69 Hwy. The nominated expanded boundary is entirely
owned by Cherokee County.

Boundary Justification

Along with the original 2.1 miles of Route 66 north of Baxter Springs, this 3.2-mile roadway contains all extant
remains of Route 66 between Riverton and Baxter Springs.
Name of Property: Kansas Route 66 Historic District – North Baxter Springs (Boundary Expansion)
City or Vicinity: Riverton vicinity
County: Cherokee
State: Kansas
Photographer: Amanda K. Loughlin (KSHS)
Date Photographed: September 8, 2016

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

001 of 010: Looking south at north boundary point of original nomination.
002 of 010: Looking north toward Brush Creek Bridge and Segment A-B, and showing the newer section of road that bypasses the bridge.
003 of 010: Looking NE from Point A through Brush Creek Bridge along Segment A-B
004 of 010: Looking SW from middle of Segment A-B
005 of 010: Looking east from Point B. Segment C-D is visible in background
006 of 010: Looking west from near Point C
007 of 010: Culvert #6 along Segment C-D, looking NE at south side of culvert
008 of 010: Looking WSW along Segment C-D, showing unknown concrete structure
009 of 010: Looking east along Segment C-D toward intersection with SE 60th St
010 of 010: Looking west along Segment C-D from near Point D
**Figure 5.**

1991 Google aerial image showing the path of Route 66 before road realignment near Brush Creek Bridge.
Kansas Route 66 Historic District – North Baxter Springs (Boundary Increase)  Cherokee County, Kansas
Name of Property
County and State

Figure 6.
1991 Google aerial image showing the path of Route 66 before road realignment near Brush Creek Bridge.
Kansas Route 66 Historic District – North Baxter Springs (Boundary Increase)
Cherokee County, Kansas

Name of Property

County and State

Figure 7.
ESRI Aerial, showing extent of boundary expansion
Kansas Route 66 Historic District – North Baxter Springs (Boundary Increase)  Cherokee County, Kansas
Name of Property  County and State

Figure 8.
Segment A-B.

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates
Datum WGS84
A: 37.073270, -94.741051
B: 37.075493, -94.738810
Kansas Route 66 Historic District – North Baxter Springs (Boundary Increase)  Cherokee County, Kansas
Name of Property County and State

Figure 9.
Segment C-D.

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates
Datum WGS84
C: 37.075442, -94.736231
D: 37.075044, -94.720687
Kansas Route 66 Historic District – North Baxter Springs (Boundary Increase)
Name of Property

Cherokee County, Kansas
County and State

Figure 10.
Segment E-F.

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates
Datum WGS84
E: 37.075015, -94.718368
F: 37.075016, -94.717785
Kansas Route 66 Historic District – North Baxter Springs (Boundary Increase)
Cherokee County, Kansas

Name of Property

County and State

Photo Key (West End).
Kansas Route 66 Historic District – North Baxter Springs  (Boundary Increase)

Name of Property

Cherokee County, Kansas

County and State

Photo Key (East End).