

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED APR 21 1980  
DATE ENTERED NOV 6 1980

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Skullyville County Jail, Choctaw Nation

AND/OR COMMON

**LOCATION**

*W of Panama*

STREET & NUMBER

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Panama

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

003

VICINITY OF

STATE

Oklahoma

CODE

40

COUNTY

LeFlore

CODE

079

**CLASSIFICATION**

**CATEGORY**

**OWNERSHIP**

**STATUS**

**PRESENT USE**

DISTRICT

PUBLIC

OCCUPIED

AGRICULTURE

MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

PRIVATE

UNOCCUPIED

COMMERCIAL

PARK

STRUCTURE

BOTH

WORK IN PROGRESS

EDUCATIONAL

PRIVATE RESIDE

SITE

**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**

**ACCESSIBLE**

ENTERTAINMENT

RELIGIOUS

OBJECT

IN PROCESS

YES: RESTRICTED

GOVERNMENT

SCIENTIFIC

BEING CONSIDERED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

INDUSTRIAL

TRANSPORTATION

NO

MILITARY

OTHER: Storage

**OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Sam A. and Joy Young

STREET & NUMBER

P.O. Box 347

CITY, TOWN

Panama

VICINITY OF

STATE

OK

**LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Office of the County Clerk

STREET & NUMBER

LeFlore County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Poteau

STATE

OK

**REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Oklahoma Comprehensive Survey

DATE

1979

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Preservation Office, Oklahoma Historical Society

CITY, TOWN

Oklahoma City

STATE

OK

# DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This early jail, a small native sandstone structure, is located near a section road in a pasture. The walls are a solid two feet thick and the stones are laid so they lap the joints at both the outside and inside edge of the wall. There are only two sources of ventilation, the door and a window. The window is on the south side of the building and is only 12 by 6 inches with two sets of iron bars; one set closer to the outer side of the wall and the other closer to the inner. These sets of iron bars are offset. The door is made of iron strips placed in a criss-cross fashion creating a lattice-work effect. Each strip is approximately 1/2 inch thick and 1 1/2 inch wide. At each criss-cross a rivet is inserted to provide strength and stability. The door is still perfectly balanced. Hinges are mounted in the stone wall and when the door is closed a slotted iron strap that is attached to the door closes over an iron staple that is also embedded in the wall on the left side. At the top of the door is a lintel of sandstone, the largest piece of stone in the body of the jail.

The floor appears to be the original dirt one, however, the roof appears to have been replaced. The present roof is of corrugated tin.

# SIGNIFICANCE

RIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
0-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
0-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
0-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
0-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
0-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
0-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
	<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			Indian history

CIFIC DATES                      1888-1907                      BUILDER/ARCHITECT Eliza Fannon

TEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The significance of this structure is in its historic connection with the Choctaw Nation. It is the only remaining feature of the Skullyville County Government in the Choctaw Nation.

Originally a courthouse, an execution tree, and a jail were located in this vicinity. The courthouse was supposedly located to the north of this jail but burned in 1949 and no traces remain. In 1884 a contract was awarded by the Choctaw Nation to build a jail at this location and that contract was fulfilled in 1888. It appears that the courthouse and jail were constructed at the same time. The courthouse was to be the home of the county administration offices, the court and judges' chambers, and legal arm of the Choctaw Nation.

County facilities were erected shortly after the Choctaw Nation moved to their new home in what is now southeastern Oklahoma. When the government of the Choctaw people arrived in Indian Territory, they divided their new nation into counties. Each county was in charge of collection and distribution of money, law enforcement, and carrying out judicial decisions made concerning the breaking of the law.

In February, 1894 another contract was made for the erection of a jail and in March of the year the old jail was sold. The new jail, this structure, was built by Elija W. Fannin. A firm by the name of Sengel and Shulte was paid \$55.65 for the iron door that is still part of this jail.

Today, few public structures remain that date to the days when this part of Oklahoma was Indian Territory. This building is the only known extant jail in southeastern Oklahoma that was associated with the government of the Choctaw Nation.

# MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

"Kiamichi Vacationland," Master Brochure. Poteau Chamber of Commerce, LeFlore County Tourist Association.  
Oklahoma City Times, December 11, 1972. p. 9.  
Oklahoma Landmarks: A Selection of Noteworthy Structures. School of Architecture, OSU, 1967.

(continued)

**UTM NOT VERIFIED**  
**ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED**

## GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY under 1 acre

QUADRANGLE NAME Panama, OK

QUADRANGLE SCALE 7.5'

UTM REFERENCES

A 15 343580 3893460

B         

C         

D         

E         

F         

G         

H         

### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

T8N R24E Sec 13 NE 1/4, NE 1/4, NE 1/4, NE 1/4

### LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

## FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Diane Everman Directed by Dr. Annetta L. Cheek

ORGANIZATION

Oklahoma Historic Preservation Survey

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

Oklahoma State University

TELEPHONE

405-624-5678

CITY OR TOWN

Stillwater

STATE

OK

## STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL   

STATE   

LOCAL   

I, the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

*Glenn Jordan*

TITLE

DATE

NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

*Beth Gussner*

DATE

11/6/80

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ST:

DATE

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 1

Peck, Henry, L., Proud Heritage of LeFlore County: A History of an Oklahoma County. VanBuren, Ark., The Press Argus, 1963.

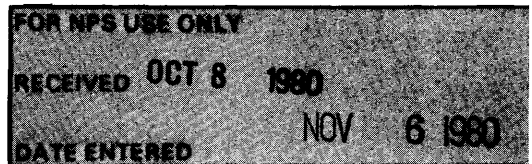
Oklahoma Historical Society:

Indian-Pioneer Papers, Vol 7, p. 106;

Indian Archives: "Skullyville County" Choctaw, Vol. 221, p. 90;  
Vol. 220, p. 3; Vol. 200, p.5,7,48,49; Vol. 218, p. 83.

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Skullyville County Jail, LeFlore Co.  
**CONTINUATION SHEET**

ITEM NUMBER 10

PAGE 1

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Verbal boundary description

From the benchmarker 500 at the NW corner of section 12 proceed south along unpaved road for 1 mile, then turn east and continue to follow road for 1200 meters, turn right with the road for 150 meters, then turn left and proceed east again bearing 85 degrees for 320 meters and observe nominated site on the left. Establish point A, turn north and proceed 10 meters, turn east and proceed 10 meters, turn south and proceed 10 meters and follow roadway back west for 10 meters to arrive at point A.