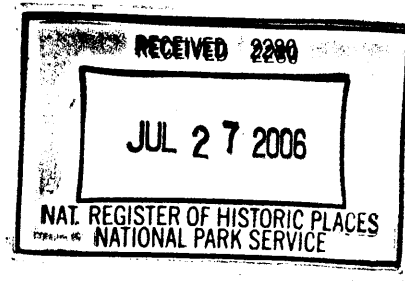


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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property

historic name Franklin, M.E., House

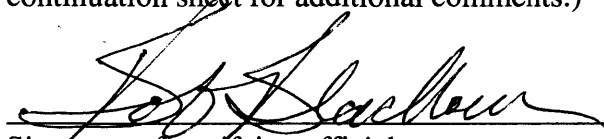
other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 415 North College Avenue not for publication N/A
city or town Tahlequah vicinity N/A
state Oklahoma code OK county Cherokee code 021
zip code 74464

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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 ___ nationally ___ statewide locally. (N/A See continuation sheet for additional comments.)



Signature of certifying official

7-24-06

Date

Oklahoma Historical Society, SHPO

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.
(___ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

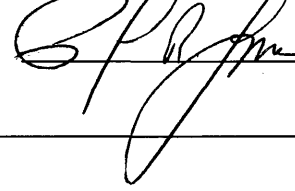
Signature of commenting or other official

Date


State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register  9/5/2006
___ See continuation sheet.
___ determined eligible for the
National Register
___ See continuation sheet.
___ determined not eligible for the
National Register
___ removed from the National Register _____

___ other (explain): _____

 _____
Signature of 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

Number of Resources within Property

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

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

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: DOMESTIC

Sub: single dwelling

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: DOMESTIC

Sub: single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19TH & EARLY 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS: Gothic Revival

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE
roof ASPHALT
walls STONE
CONCRETE
other _____

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

=====
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 a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance 1931

=====
8. Statement of Significance (Continued)
=====

Significant Dates _____

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation _____ N/A

Architect/Builder Franklin, M.E. & NSU Industrial Arts Class 1927-1931 , architects

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)
=====

9. Major Bibliographical References
=====

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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 # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data

State Historic Preservation Office

___ Other State agency

___ Federal agency

___ Local government

___ University

___ Other

Name of repository: _____

=====
10. Geographical Data
=====

Acreage of Property Less than One Acre

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	<u>15</u>	<u>322220</u>	<u>3976390</u>	3	_____	_____
2	_____	_____	_____	4	_____	_____

N/A See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

=====
11. Form Prepared By
=====

name/title Cynthia Savage, Architectural Historian, for the city of Tahlequah

organization Architectural Resources and Community Heritage Consulting date May 2006

street & number 346 County Road 1230 telephone 405/459-6200

city or town Pocasset state OK zip code 73079

=====
Additional Documentation
=====

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

=====
Property Owner
=====

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Sam and Jeanne Horton

street & number 1904 W. 4th Street telephone _____

city or town Claremore state OK zip code 74107

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 9

Franklin, M.E., House
name of property
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county and state

SUMMARY

The M.E. Franklin House was constructed in 1931 in Tahlequah, Cherokee County, Oklahoma. The Gothic Revival style house was designed by Dr. Marion E. Franklin's Industrial Arts students at Northeastern State Teachers' College over a four-year period. The house is two-stories with a visible basement level on the east, north and partially on the west sides. One of the house's most striking features is the native, uncut, stone walls. The variously-colored rubble stones are set in a random pattern. The overall appearance of the walls from a distance is an almost smooth surface which is belied upon closer examination. Originally, the front-gabled roof was covered with red ceramic tile. The roof is now covered with red asphalt shingles which, while not as quite as decorative, maintain the color of the historic cladding. The foundation of the building is stone. The entry porch is located in the large tower on the northeast corner of the house with an uncovered concrete terrace to the south. The primary door is arched, wood, batten with a round, divided light and ornamental, brass, cross-garnet hinges. Below the front terrace was the original, integral, one-car garage. The garage was converted to living space after the early 1960s and the doorway infilled with vinyl siding, a wood slab door and two-over-two, metal, hung window. The house also has a partial porch on the rear and a double full-width porch on the north side with another terrace located on the third level. The five secondary entries located on the west and north elevations are a combination of wood, glazed, paneled and metal, French doors. The majority of windows are metal, eight-pane casement, all having concrete sills and some fixed, multi-paned transoms or sidelights. Other exterior features include castellated towers of various heights on all four corners and two interior, slope, stone chimneys with concrete caps. Decorative details include exposed rafters on the north and south elevations, battlements and concrete coping. Alterations to the house include changing of the roof material from ceramic tile to red asphalt shingle; conversion of the integral garage to living space; and, placement of several air conditioning units into various windows. None of these alterations have significantly modified the unique architectural character of the building.

The Franklin House is located on a bluff overlooking Tahlequah Creek which curves east-west through this section of town before continuing its dominant north-south trek through the community. Situated in a residential area, just about a block west of Main Street, the house is directly south of the Northeastern State University (NSU) campus. When the Franklin House was constructed, there was only a concrete footbridge over Tahlequah Creek to connect the house with campus. In the early 1960s, the city extended College Avenue north to connect with Seminary Avenue via a concrete bridge with concrete and metal railings. At that time, the city erected a concrete retaining wall and sidewalk along what was the driveway to the Franklin House. This change effectively cut off access to the original garage which was then converted to living space, complete with an air conditioning unit embedded into the original window in the lower part of the northeast tower. While the retaining wall was topped by stone similar to the house, it alters the design of this section of the house. However, as this change only effects the lower portion of the east elevation, it does not destroy the overall integrity of the house.

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Franklin, M.E., House
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Related to the change in function of the original garage, a nonhistoric double garage was constructed on the southwest edge of the property. The garage mimics the house with a front-gabled, red asphalt-covered roof with castellated towers and native stone walls. Notably, the garage was constructed almost thirty years after the house and, is therefore, less than fifty years of age; as such, it is of insufficient age to be considered contributing to the house's significance. Additionally, as the garage is connected to several other garages of various ages, designs and conditions, it has been excluded from the nominated boundaries.

EXTERIOR DESCRIPTION

The Franklin House is a unique residence within the community. While other houses in the town were constructed of stone during the same period the Franklin House was built, none match the unusual features and details of this house. Classified as Late Gothic Revival style, the house is locally referred to as the "Castle" for its distinctive, castellated towers marking all four corners of the house. The location of the house high on a bluff overlooking the creek lends to the majestic air of the building. At an unknown time, the red clay tiles of front-gabled roof were removed and were replaced with red asphalt shingles. While the material is visibly not as decorative, retention of the original color of the roof aids in the continued ability of the building to convey its historic significance. The foundation of the house is native stone, as are the walls.

The native, uncut stone walls are a prominent, defining feature of the house. Two methods of stonework were used on the house. The first involved shoving rocks sideways into the concrete as it dried. Visible on the lower portion of the northeast tower, this method resulted in a coursed rubble pattern which clearly exhibited the connecting concrete. Just at the base of the first floor, the method of rubble work changes with the stones no longer being shoved in sideways but flat instead. The rocks used were various sizes and colors, creating a indiscriminate polychromatic appearance. The stones are fitted close together with the concrete mortar not readily visible. The random rubble pattern of stonework characterizes the rest of the house.

Visible on the east elevation are all three levels of the house. The basement level of the facade has been partially obscured by the concrete retaining wall erected when the originally dead end road in front of the house was opened to through traffic. Behind the retaining wall and underneath the first floor's uncovered terrace, is the original, one-car garage. Historically, the garage had a wood, glazed, paneled, swinging door. After 1963 and the opening of the road in front of the house, the garage was converted to a basement-level apartment. The historic garage opening is now infilled with vinyl siding, a single wood slab door and a two-over-two, hung, metal window. Notably, the original size of the opening was not altered. To the immediate north of the garage, there was a square, wood, fixed window. Currently, the opening is filled with a window air conditioning unit. Just off the north side of the fixed window is a stone wall with an arched opening. The wall served as the original main staircase to the first level of the house from the street. The concrete stairs have a black, wrought iron railing. The end of the rubble staircase is now obscured with

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vegetation and the concrete retaining wall.

The historic primary entry is located in the largest of the building's corner towers. As with the other towers, the northeast tower has a crenelated top, set off by a concrete coping. This tower, however, is four stories in height, including the basement level. The tower has four carefully-placed windows. All of the windows have concrete sills and are narrow, metal, eight-pane, casement. The top window is located just below the crenelated top and aligns closely with the small, square, fixed window on the basement level of the tower. On the second floor, the tower has three metal casement windows. All three windows align with the openings in the porch directly below. In the central, second floor window, there is a window air conditioning unit taking the place of the lower two panes. The first floor of the tower contains the house's enclosed entry porch. Within the porch, the arched, wood, batten door with ornamental cross-garnet hinges is set in an arched opening on the northeast corner of the building. The inside of the porch walls are concrete with a brass mail slot to the immediate northwest of the door. Hanging from the center of the enclosed entry porch is a decorative metal and glass light. The entry porch has rubble exterior walls and three arched openings. The larger opening is centrally located and opens onto the stairway to the street described above. On either side of the porch are two narrower, arched openings; one opens onto the uncovered terrace on the east side and the other to the first level porch of the north elevation. Extending south from the porch on the first floor is an uncovered terrace. The terrace has a low wall that is crenelated to match the towers. The wall has rubble work on the outside and concrete on the inside, as well as a concrete cap like the towers. The floor of the terrace is concrete with concrete stairs on the south side. Along the stairs, there is a decorative, black, wrought iron railing. Against the east elevation of the house on the terrace, there is a small, rectangular flower bed with a low rubble work outline.

Above the terrace, on the larger, central portion of the east elevation, there are a total of five windows, all with continuous concrete sills. Both the first floor windows are double, eight-pane, metal, casement, each topped by a fixed, four-pane, metal transom. The two second floor windows are double, eight-pane, metal, casement with fixed, four-pane sidelights on both outside edges. The first and second floor windows are evenly spaced along the exposed portion of the central, front-gabled portion of the wall. The oversize northeast tower, however, shifts the windows to the south so the south edge of the north windows aligns with the middle of the center of the gable. High on the gable wall, the fifth window is narrow, metal, eight-pane, casement. Unlike the lower windows, this window is placed in the center of the gable.

Marking the southeast corner of the house is another tower. The tower is just two-stories in height with a crenelated top. The southeast tower has four windows on the first floor and three windows on the second, all with concrete sills. The first floor windows are metal, eight-pane, casement with two-pane transoms. The first floor windows are evenly spaced around the tower. The second floor windows are simply metal, eight-pane, casement and are also evenly spaced around the tower. The windows on the two floors are not in alignment. Beginning at the south edge of the tower, there is another rock-lined flower bed which curves out around the tower before straightening out to extend

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partially along the south elevation.

The south elevation features a central, rubble, interior, slope chimney on the roof, as well as exposed wood rafters. The first floor of the central portion of the wall has two evenly spaced windows with the three second floor windows being unevenly spaced. The first floor windows are double, eight-pane, metal, casement with multi-paned, fixed transoms and sidelights. The two outside windows on the second floor are double, eight-pane, metal, casement with fixed, four-light transoms. The middle window is just double, eight-pane, metal, casement.

Anchoring the southwest corner of the house is a third crenelated tower. Unlike the southeast tower, this tower has aligned first and second floor windows. The windows are evenly spaced around the tower. There are three windows on the first floor and two on the second floor. The first floor windows are metal, eight-pane, casement with two-light transoms and concrete sills. Located just above sill level between the eastern two windows on the first floor of the southeast tower, there is a small, metal door. The door served as coal chute for the original central heating plant located in the basement. The second floor windows are metal, eight-pane, casement with concrete sills.

The west wall has a single, metal, eight-pane, casement window towards the north side on the second floor and a wood vent high in the gable. Below this, on the first floor, there is a partial, concrete porch with a wood and fiberglass, low-pitched, shed covering. The nonoriginal shed roof has wood supports. Below the covering, the porch has a low, rubble work wall with a concrete cap. The porch wall cuts east about two-thirds of the way in from the south. It then turns back north about halfway along the concrete porch floor, creating a cut-out showing the basement door below. Immediately to the north of the southwest tower on the first floor of the west elevation, under the partial porch roof, there is a double, metal, six-pane, casement window. Below the lone second floor window on the west elevation, there is an entry with a wood, glazed, paneled door and a metal, paneled, screen door. To the north of the door on the first floor, in a squared-off area which serves as a terrace on the floor above, there is a double, eight-pane, metal, casement window with a four-pane transom. Around the squared corner to the north, there is another double, eight-pane, metal, casement window, also with a four-pane transom. Directly below the first floor entry on the main west wall, there is a basement-level entry. This entry also has a wood, glazed, paneled door. To the north of this and below a corresponding first floor window, there is a double, metal, eight-pane, casement window. There is a piece of board over one of the middle panes on the south side.

The tower on the northwest corner of the house is shorter than the other towers. This tower extends only to slightly above the first floor level. It is two-stories, however, as the basement level is visible on the north side. Like the other towers, the northwest tower is crenelated. Roughly in the center of the tower, the first and basement level windows are aligned. The first floor window is six-pane, metal, casement with a two-pane transom. A metal louvered vent has been inserted in the lower two panes of the first floor window. The basement window is eight-pane, metal, casement. Around the corner, near the north wall, the tower has two more aligned windows. The first floor window is again

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eight-pane, metal, casement with a two-pane transom. The basement level window is, likewise, eight-pane, metal, casement.

The north wall of the Franklin House has three visible levels. The lower two levels, consisting of the basement and first floor, have full-width, covered porches. The lower porch has a concrete floor and flat concrete roof supported by large, black, metal, round supports. There are three basement level openings on the main wall of the north elevation. Centrally located are metal, double, French doors with a wood screen door behind. To the east of the door, high on the basement wall, there is a collection of utility boxes with some conduit extending to the west side of the door, as well as along the upper wall around the northwest tower. Evenly spaced to both sides of the basement door are double windows. Both windows are double, metal, eight-pane, casement. The full-width, first floor porch on the north elevation has a concrete floor and a wood, low-pitched, shed roof. Barely visible on the west side of the porch roof are some of the original ceramic tiles. The porch roof overlaps onto both corner towers. The first floor porch roof is supported by round, metal supports which are slightly narrower than the porch columns on the basement porch. Between the porch supports on the first floor, there is a decorative, wrought iron, black railing. Located in the southwest corner of the north elevation, there is an additional metal support which extends along both the basement and first floors. Just off center on the first floor there is a double window and a wood French door. The window is double, eight-pane, metal, casement with a four-pane transom. One pane of the window on the east side and one of the panes in the door have been covered with wood. To the west of the door on the first floor, there is a double, eight-pane, casement window with a four-pane transom. East of the centermost window on the first floor, there is a small, fixed, four-pane, metal window which is situated just below the porch roof. Like all the windows on the house, this small window has a concrete sill. East of this, almost to the northeast tower, there is another double, eight-pane, metal, casement window with a four-pane transom. A window air conditioning unit has been inserted in the middle portion of the easternmost first floor window.

The second floor of the north elevation is not readily visible as sections of the wall are set back and the ground drops significantly along the north side of the house. Towards the west side of the second floor, there is a terrace area. The terrace wall has battlements and is slightly shorter than the battlements on the northwest tower. East of the terrace, there is a section of the rubble-clad wall that is part of the second floor gable on the east elevation. Within this wall section, there is a second floor window located directly above the easternmost window on the first floor. The second floor window is double, eight-pane, metal, casement with a four-pane transom. South of the rubble wall and around the second floor terrace, the other sections of wall are concrete painted white. In the east section of wall there is a vent located high on the gable. The southernmost section of wall is partially obscured by the crenelated terrace wall but an entry and a small, covered opening are visible. The entry has a wood, glazed, paneled door with a metal storm door in front. On the western edge of the gabled roof, there is a stone chimney with a concrete cap.

The house is encircled by a concrete walk. On the southeast side of the house, there are two landscaping beds,

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outlined by rubble work. Along the front of the house, there is a concrete and rock retaining wall which separates the yard from the concrete sidewalk below. In addition to the nonoriginal retaining wall along the east elevation, there is an historic stone retaining wall on the north side which overlooks the bluff. Below the retaining wall, the slope is fairly steep and covered with vegetation.

ALTERATIONS

The house has been modified by placement of several air conditioning units in various windows and replacement of the original ceramic tile roof material with asphalt shingles. The air conditioning units are of little consequence to the house's ability to convey its significance. The roof modification is more notable but, due to the retention of the original color scheme, it does not destroy the integrity of the home. In the early 1960s, the basement level garage was converted to living space with a new concrete and stone retaining wall being constructed in front of the house. While these changes effect the original design of the basement level of the facade, they do not compromise the general design integrity of the house. Overall, the M.E. Franklin house retains a good degree of integrity, including location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association.

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SUMMARY

The M.E. Franklin House is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C for its architectural significance as a unique, Late Gothic Revival style house in Tahlequah, Oklahoma. Constructed in 1931, the house was designed by the students of Dr. Marion E. Franklin over a four-year period. Franklin headed the Industrial Arts Department at Northeastern State University for nearly forty years. The native stone house with crenelated towers on each corner is without parallel in the community.

BACKGROUND

The city of Tahlequah was initiated in 1839 following the removal of the Eastern band of the Cherokee tribe from sections of Georgia, South Carolina, Tennessee and Alabama. While members of the Western band of Cherokees moved to what is now southeast Oklahoma beginning in 1828, the forced removal of the Eastern branch of the tribe began in late 1835 and was complete by 1839. That same year, Tahlequah came into existence as the new capital of the Cherokee nation.¹

Although construction of homes and businesses started immediately, the city was not surveyed and platted until 1843. Despite the lack of rail connections, the community quickly flourished, becoming the commercial, as well as political, center of the Cherokee Nation. In 1852, the town incorporated under Cherokee law, becoming the first incorporated town in Indian Territory. While the town thrived through the 1840s and 1850s, the 1860s proved to be a decade of disruption for Indian Territory. With the Cherokee tribe divided between the Union and Confederate efforts, sympathizers on both sides fled Tahlequah and the Cherokee Nation. With pro-Union families taking refuge in Kansas or congregating at Forts Gibson and Smith, pro-Confederate families sought refuge along the Red River. During the war, the Cherokee government buildings in Tahlequah were burned, as were homes across Indian Territory. Furthering the cost of war, at the conclusion of the conflict, the Cherokee Nation, along with the other Five Tribes, were forced to negotiate new treaties with the United States government. Although not as harsh as originally feared, the Reconstruction Treaty of 1866 required the Cherokees to cede title to lands in Kansas and control of the

¹D.C. Gideon, Indian Territory: Descriptive Biographical and Genealogical, Including the Landed Estates, County Seats, etc., etc., (New York: The Lewis Publishing Company, 1901), 171. See also W. David Baird and Danney Goble, The Story of Oklahoma, (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1994), 130-131 and 140-141.

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eastern one-third of the Cherokee Outlet to the federal government.²

With a new capital building constructed by 1870, the Cherokees slowly regained political and economic stability. As a precursor to the Territorial Fair and the subsequent State Fair, the Cherokee Nation began holding an annual national fair in Tahlequah in 1870. These popular gatherings attracted ranchers, farmers and others interested in showing their livestock, farm products, crafts and handiwork. These fairs, in combination with the scenic sites of the area, aided in the growth of an early tourism industry for the town.³

As the Cherokee capital, Tahlequah continued to flourish through the remaining decades of the nineteenth century. Following the turn-of-the-century, Tahlequah's population grew to number about 2,000. Electricity, a public water works and public sewer system quickly enhanced the town's amenities. With the advent of Oklahoma statehood in 1907, Tahlequah became the county seat of Cherokee County. Three years later, the number of residents in Tahlequah reached a high of 2,891. By 1920, with losses of residents from both service in the "Great War" and the devastating influenza epidemic of 1918, Tahlequah's population fell to 2,271. Rebounding slightly, in 1930 Tahlequah claimed just under 2,500 citizens. Growing noticeably over the ensuing decade, by 1940, Tahlequah's population reached just above the three thousand mark to 3,027.⁴

In the late 1880s, the Cherokee National Female Seminary, opened in the early 1850s near Park Hill, burned. The school was then moved to Tahlequah with an impressive building, Seminary Hall (NR 1973), being constructed. The school had a lasting impact on Tahlequah as it has provided a continuous educational institution for the community to the present time. Shortly after statehood, the school became Northeastern State Teachers' College and, subsequently, Northeastern State University. In addition to being an educational boon for Tahlequah, the school also served as an economic mainstay for the town. For example, growth of the school in the 1930s helped sustain the town during the trying years of that decade.

²Ibid., 173. See also Baird and Goble, The Story, 170-185 and The WPA Guide to 1930s Oklahoma, (Lawrence, Kansas: The University Press of Kansas, 1986), 258-259 and 418.

³Arrell Morgan Gibson, Oklahoma: A History of Five Centuries, 2nd edition, (Norman, Oklahoma: University of Oklahoma Press, 1991), 135-136.

⁴The Cherokee County Democrat-Star, (Tahlequah, Oklahoma), 15 January 1937. See also Meacham and Associates, "Historic/Architectural Reconnaissance Survey, Tahlequah, Oklahoma" (Available Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; 1997), 22-26.

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In 1921, the State Board of Education hired Marion Edmund Franklin as the manual training teacher for Northeastern State Teachers' College. Manual training, termed industrial arts by the school bulletin for the first time in 1920, had been a mainstay at Northeastern since the school's founding in 1909. Although the program was popular during the early years, by the late teens, it suffered from frequent faculty turn-overs and rundown equipment. Under Franklin's leadership, the program doubled enrollment within a year and continued to expand. The department changed its name to Industrial Arts in about 1924 and moved into the first separate industrial arts shop building on any Oklahoma normal campus in the spring of 1925. By 1950, the department had three full-time faculty members and its own departmental building on the Northeastern campus.⁵

Born in Atwood, Kansas, on November 5, 1890, Franklin moved with his family to Oklahoma in 1895. Attending rural schools in Indian Territory, Franklin took high school work in the preparatory department of the University of Oklahoma (OU) in Norman. Franklin began his teaching career in 1911 at the age of 21 in a rural Oklahoma school. In about 1913, Franklin enrolled at the State Teachers College in Edmond. The same year he started school at Edmond, Franklin married Jessie Marvin Stanford. During the years 1916-1918, Franklin taught manual training at Rodman, Iowa, as well as served as Superintendent of Schools. Returning to Oklahoma, Franklin continued teaching manual training at the El Reno High School for the next two years. In 1920, he attended Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical College in Stillwater, graduating with a Bachelor of Science degree the following year. Ten years later, Franklin graduated again from Oklahoma A & M with a Master of Science degree. In 1952, Franklin completed his doctorate studies at OU. The title of his doctoral thesis at OU was "A History of Industrial Education in Oklahoma Up to 1950," which was subsequently published in book form. Previous to his studies at OU, he had done graduate work at Colorado State College of Education, Iowa State College and Bradley University. While maintaining his association with Northeastern, Franklin also apparently joined the OU faculty as assistant professor in industrial education in 1949. Franklin retired from Northeastern following the spring 1960 semester and passed away on February 19, 1968.⁶

Franklin was a charter member of the state's first State Manual Training Teachers Association, subsequently called the Oklahoma Industrial Arts Association. He served as president several times and as secretary for over seventeen

⁵Marion Edmund Franklin, A History of Industrial Education in Oklahoma up to 1950, (Tahlequah, Oklahoma: Northeastern State College, 1954), 112-114.

⁶Ibid., 77. See also The Northeastern, (Tahlequah, Oklahoma), January 21, 1932 and 15 January 1960; The Daily Oklahoman, (Oklahoma City, Oklahoma), 31 January 1960; and, "Marion Edmund Franklin," Ancestry Library Edition, <http://trees.ancestrylibrary.com/owt/person.aspx?pid=26648751&st=1>, retrieved 31 January 2006.

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years for the State Advisory Committee on Industrial Arts in Oklahoma Schools. Other organizations Dr. Franklin was affiliated with include Kappa Pi Kappa, Kappa Delta Pi, Iota Lambda Sigma, as well as state and national education associations. On the Northeastern State campus, Franklin served "...on numerous committees and councils and has served as sponsor of three organizations." The three organizations sponsored by Franklin at Northeastern were the Phi Sigma Epsilon social fraternity, the Industrial Arts Club and the Northeastern Industrial Arts Alumni Association. Notably, Franklin was "...instrumental in organizing..." the industrial arts alumni association, which aided the development of "...a most extensive followup program of any department or division of the campus."⁷

Among the major committees Franklin served on at Northeastern was that of the Building and Grounds Committee. In addition to being its first chairman, Franklin served on this committee for thirty-eight years. During this time, he was also superintendent of all construction on the campus. Buildings constructed under Franklin's supervision on campus included apartments for married student housing, constructed in 1946 behind the library and demolished in about 1972, and various buildings for Northeastern's Industrial Arts Department. Among the Industrial Art Department buildings were the 1925 shop building, the 1947 metal work shop unit and the 1950 Industrial Arts building.⁸

SIGNIFICANCE

In 1924, Franklin purchased the easterly 17 feet of Lot 4, all of Lot 5 and the easterly 50 feet of Lot 6 in Block 42 from Emily J. Thompson, her husband W.A. Thompson and widows Rosanna McDaniel and Lena Algeo. Franklin paid a total of \$1,000 for the land. The property site was located "...on the high bank of Spring Creek at the junction of Seminary Avenue and Spring Creek southwest of the Big Springs on the campus of Northeastern." When Franklin bought the property, it was located at the west end of North College Avenue. North College, at that time, did not have a vehicular bridge across Tahlequah Creek so the road effectively dead ended at the Franklin property. There was, however, a concrete pedestrian bridge connecting this section of town with the area across the creek.⁹

Three years after Franklin acquired the property, his advanced architectural drawing classes began working on a

⁷The Northeastern, 15 January 1960. See also The Daily Oklahoman, 31 January 1960.

⁸Ibid., 15 January 1960. See also The Daily Oklahoman, 4 August 1946; and, Franklin, History of Industrial Education, 77.

⁹General Warranty Deed, Available County Clerk's Office, Cherokee County Courthouse, Tahlequah, Oklahoma. See also The Northeastern, 24 December 1931.

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design for the house. According to family legend, when Franklin asked his wife what kind of house she wanted, she said "Oh, just build me a castle." This is what he did. Franklin's students toiled on the project for four years with each class working on different aspects of the building.¹⁰

Construction on the house started on August 31, 1931, and was complete by Christmas time of that year. Reportedly, Franklin's students worked on the construction of the house as part of their classwork. However, this was not noted in either the town or school newspaper at the time. Additionally, due to the rapid construction of the building, it does not seem likely that student labor would have been sufficient to erect the complicated design in such a meticulous manner. Undoubtedly, Franklin supervised construction of the property and used the project as a learning tool for his students. The family, including Franklin's wife Jessie and their three children, moved into the house over the holiday break. Family members retained ownership of the house until 2004 when Franklin's daughter-in-law sold the house to move closer to family in Kansas. Two years previous, Althea Franklin also sold the Redmen Shoppe, a downtown soda shop and bookstore operated by the Franklin family since shortly before the Franklin House was constructed.¹¹

While the house was designed to look like a "...feudal castle...", it was modern in every aspect. Containing nine rooms, plus the basement, the two-story house had an "...underground garage built in conjunction with the house." Also in the basement was the central heating plant that included a coal-burning furnace. Another amenity in the house was a laundry chute.¹²

Despite the economic hard times sweeping the nation since the 1929 stock market crash, Tahlequah was enjoying a small boom in building activity in late 1931 and early 1932. In addition to the Franklin house, four other houses were complete or nearing completion when the Franklins moved into their new home. This included Raymond Linville's new six room house, M.D. Maloney's new cobblestone house, Mrs. Beavers' duplex apartment and W.E. Stanford's just finished "modern" house. Several homes were also being remodeled, as well as the Hugh Simpler building in downtown Tahlequah. Construction was anticipated shortly of a new dormitory at the Sequoyah Training School and a new waterline connecting the school to the city water plant. The surge in building activity was credited to the low

¹⁰Ibid., 24 December 1931. See also The Tahlequah (Oklahoma) Daily Press, 21 November 2004.

¹¹Ibid., 24 December 1931. See also The Tahlequah (Oklahoma) Daily Press, 21 November 2004.

¹²Ibid., 24 December 1931. See also The Tahlequah (Oklahoma) Daily Press, 21 November 2004.

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price of materials, combined with a drop in labor costs fueled by a need for work. The nationwide depression also apparently changed the size of the Franklin House. According to Franklin's daughter-in-law, the house was designed to be two feet larger on all sides but, due to the economic conditions of the time, the finished size of the house was reduced.¹³

The house is classified as overall being in the Late Gothic Revival style. This style was never popular in domestic construction, being reserved primarily for religious or academic buildings. The castellated Gothic Revival was at its height in the mid nineteenth century; a domestic example constructed this late (1931) is rare. With its round towers, round arched batten door with ornamental hinges, and metal casement windows, the Franklin House is evocative of a English castle. Castellated towers are a frequent architectural feature of the castellated Gothic Revival style.

In fulfilling his wife's wishes for a "castle," M. E. Franklin chose a variation of the Gothic Revival that reflects medieval roots. The rough stonework and towers evoke an age of fortresses and castles. The term "gothic," which literally means "of the Goths," was coined during the renaissance to refer to those activities and objects that reflected the less enlightened era of the pre-Enlightenment period. It was considered a derogatory term, meaning old-fashioned. As the Renaissance looked to classical Rome and Greece for its artistic and architectural influence, the pointed arches of early cathedrals and the fortress-like massing of medieval castles fell out of favor. It was the Romantic period of the early 19th century that brought these styles back into favor. The pointed arch version of the Gothic Revival was most popular, but the castellated version could be found as well.¹⁴

Houses constructed between the World Wars are often referred to as "period houses." The advent of inexpensive techniques that allowed the placement of a stone or brick veneer to balloon-framed houses created an explosion of architectural interest in European and Colonial American landmark building styles and features. Additionally, popular interest in historical periods was reflective of the unsettling events of the time. Related to the unrest of the nation following World War I, the excess of the Roaring 20s with rapid changes in societal norms and the nationwide economic distress of the late 1920s and 1930s, "...many people craved the cultural reassurance of established architectural styles, with their connotations of tradition and achievement." As architectural training had developed a more thorough study of historical sources, combined with more extensive travels by people in general, architects working in the 1920s "...could design altogether original plans, based on contemporary living arrangements and their

¹³The Cherokee County Democrat, (Tahlequah, Oklahoma), 12 February 1932. See also The Tahlequah Daily Press, 21 November 2004.

¹⁴ Strother Memorial Chapel, National Register of Historic Places nomination, August, 2003 on file at OK/SHPO.

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clients' desires, and yet make these houses look authentic, as if they had come from a particular historical "period"...". Notably, the resulting buildings were typically picturesque and very romanticized.¹⁵

Although not designed by a licensed architect, the design of the Franklin House was an academic undertaking. The students in Franklin's advanced architectural drawing classes were preparing to seek gainful employment in such fields as architecture and engineering. Additionally, Franklin obviously had a certain degree of professionalism that allowed him to supervise construction of buildings on the Northeastern campus. Otherwise, as a state institution, the school would have been able to draw upon the professional services of others in the construction of the school buildings.



Franklin House

Courtesy NSU Archives

The design of the Franklin House combined romance and fortitude, a combination particularly appropriate for the time. The crenelated towers and porches evoke a Medieval feeling fit for armored Knights and jeweled

Ladies. The location of the house atop the bluff overlooking the creek was obviously a design consideration from the beginning. The site, particularly from the north side, reinforces the remote, majestic air of the building. The two-level porch that opens above the creek bank also enhances the connection between the house and its unusual surroundings. Additionally, overlooking both downtown Tahlequah and the Northeastern campus, the house provided a pivotal connection between the owner's professional endeavors. Co-owner of a downtown establishment, Franklin was



Franklin House

le, 319. See also Leland M. Roth, American Architecture: A History, (Boulder, Colorado: Westview Press, 2001), 350 and 346.

Courtesy NSU Archives

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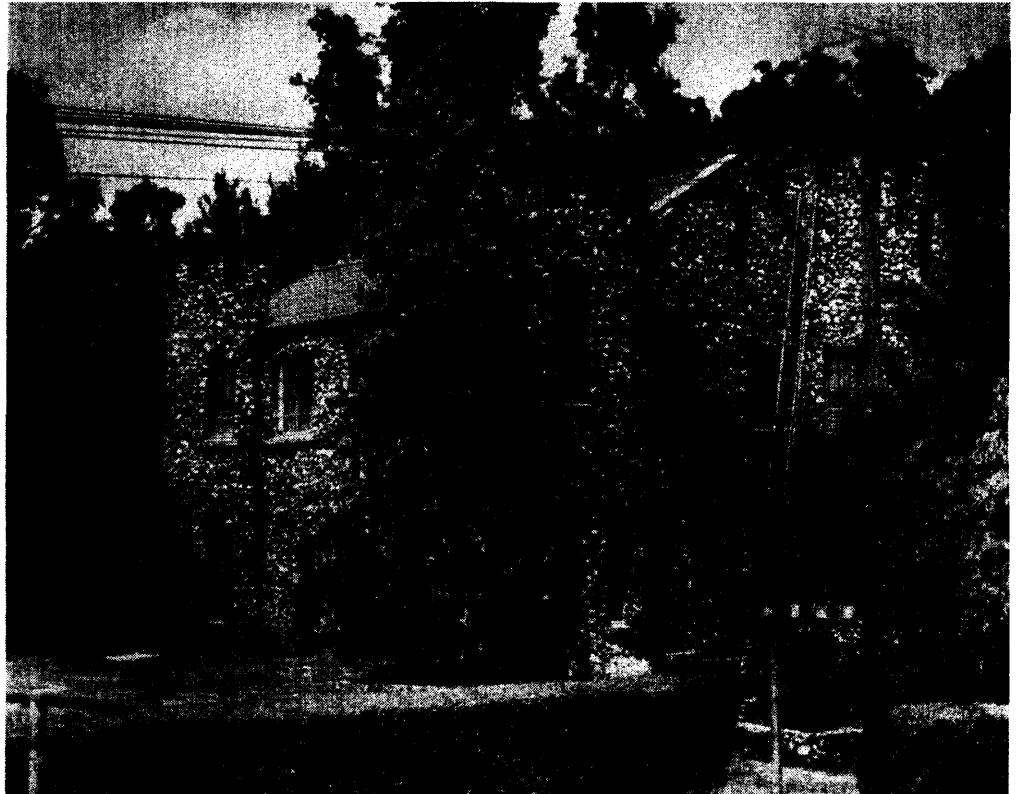
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also a department head at the college.

The use of native stone set in concrete for building material sets the Franklin House apart from the run-of-the-mill construction of the time. There were other houses constructed in Tahlequah using stone, such as M.D. Maloney's cobblestone house, also erected in late 1931 and early 1932. Unfortunately, the location of the Maloney's house was unspecified so a direct comparison of the properties is not possible. However, the technique and pattern of the rubble work on the Franklin House is sufficiently outstanding that, in combination with the unique design of the house, it creates a singularly noteworthy resource.

When the Franklin home was newly complete, the school newspaper noted "Another artistic dwelling has been added to the residences of Tahlequah....". Due to the combination of its lofty location, unique design and atypical building material, the house quickly became, and continues to be, a Tahlequah landmark. It is without parallel within the community. As such, its architectural significance is worthy of recognition by listing on the National Register of Historic Places.



Franklin House

Courtesy NSU Archives

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

All Lot 5, Block 42, Tahlequah Lots, Tahlequah, Cherokee County, Oklahoma.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundaries include the area historically immediately associated with the property. It excludes the nonoriginal garage which, although built to match the house, is of insufficient age to contribute to the significance of the Franklin House and is attached to multiple other garages of various conditions and styles.