

PHO369764

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED FEB 24 1976  
DATE ENTERED JUL 12 1976

# 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  
 AND/OR COMMON  
Isparhecher Home and Grave

## 2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER *off OK16*  
CITY, TOWN *c. 4 m. W of (NW/4 Sec. 34, T 15 N, R 11 E)*  NOT FOR PUBLICATION  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
VICINITY OF *Beggs* No. *2*  
STATE CODE COUNTY CODE  
*Oklahoma* *40* *Okmulgee* *111*

## 3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK (in ruins)
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

## 4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME  
*Carl Lee*  
STREET & NUMBER  
*Rt. 2*  
CITY, TOWN *Beggs* STATE *Oklahoma*  
VICINITY OF

## 5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.  
*Office of the County Clerk*  
STREET & NUMBER  
*Okmulgee County Courthouse*  
CITY, TOWN *Okmulgee* STATE *Oklahoma*

## 6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE  
*Oklahoma Historic Sites Survey*  
DATE  
*1958*  FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL  
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS  
*Oklahoma Historical Society*  
CITY, TOWN *Oklahoma City* STATE *Oklahoma*

## 7 DESCRIPTION

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

---

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

This second and last home of Isparhecher, built around 1890, was T-shaped, a one-story frame structure with an open porch across the front (facing the southeast) and a screened-in back porch on the west side of the T. Across the front were two rooms (one 14 x 16 feet, the other 18 x 16 feet) separated by a narrow entrance hallway that led to two smaller rooms (12 x 15 feet and 12 x 9 feet) along the shaft of the T (see enclosed floor plan). To the right of the first of these rooms was a sixth 8 x 15-foot room. From the hallway a stairway, protected by hinged trap door, led down to a stone-walled basement under the eastern of the two front rooms.

Outside walls were of lapsiding. A scalloped siding to simulate shingles, according to the fashion of the day, ornamented the two gable ends of the house. The roof was shingled. Inside ceilings and walls of the three front rooms were covered with beaded ceiling material. The other rooms had beaded ceilings with shiplap on the walls. Woodwork trim on doors and windows had decorative corner insets. Floors throughout were of six-inch-wide boards, unpainted.

Except for the front porch, which is now gone, the house remains basically as it was, though in dilapidated, semi-ruined condition. Neglect and vandalism have both contributed. Windows are out, ~~doors~~ doors unhinged, walls broken, floors ripped up. The native stone basement walls have partly crumbled, leaving a good part of the east corner of the house supported only by floor joists. Everything is unpainted and decaying.

There was an arched cellar, made of brick, just off the back porch. It is still in good condition, although the steps and entrance, of stone, are deteriorating. A dug well stands about 40 feet from the east corner of the house. It is covered with a large stone (about 4-1/2 feet square), skillfully dressed and ornamented, that lies flat on the ground. In the center is a circular opening to the well approximately two feet in diameter. All of the stone work was expertly done and is still in excellent condition. The story is that a stone mason came into the area years ago, stayed long enough to leave similar examples of his workmanship.

Isparhecher's grave, about 125 yards southwest of the house in a grove of trees, has a tall slender tombstone. A story circulated after his death had him buried with a silver-mounted saddle. As a result his grave was vandalized, the stone toppled. It is now upright and a slab of native stone, also bearing an epitaph, has been laid across the grave itself.

# 6 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES c. 1890

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Isparhecher -- also Isparhechar, Ispahitca, Ispaheche, and Spahecha -- was one of the best known, and most controversial, of the elected principal chiefs of the Choctaw Nation in its last half-century of existence. "The old lines of cleavage between the Upper and Lower Creek, intensified during the Civil War," writes the late Indian historian Muriel H. Wright, "carried over into the political life of the nation in the postwar period. There was often bitter partisanship in the elections, the council meetings, and the administration of public affairs." And Isparhecher, as much as any other Creek leader, was involved in that tragic cleavage. Though he tried all his life to influence the course of these disruptive events, he was in the end shaped by them ... the personal tragedy of his life a sad reflection of the greater tragedy experienced by the divided tribe itself.

\* \* \*

Born in 1829 in the old Creek Nation in Alabama, Isparhecher came to Oklahoma with one of the many immigrating caravans. His parents settled at Cussetah town near present Okmulgee. When they died a few years later, the young Isparhecher took up farming and stock raising. Except when engaged in various public services for his people he remained on the land the rest of his life. He died in 1902 and was buried near the house he'd had built around 1890. This house, the second he lived in on this site, and his grave, are both included in this nomination.

The divided loyalties of the Creeks in the Civil War were echoed in Isparhecher. He enlisted for service in the Confederate army in 1861. When his term of enlistment ended, he switched his allegiance to the Federal cause, volunteering for service in the Union army in 1863. After the war he returned to the farm and in 1867 he began a 30-year political career as member of the House of Warriors in the Creek National Council. He was thus a part of the session that adopted the constitution that was to prove so divisive in the years ahead. From 1872-1874 he served as judge of the Muscogee district. The following year he was a trustee of the Salt Creek School and in 1877 he was appointed principal judge of the Okmulgee district.

It was during this period that he became more and more associated with the so-called unprogressive Creeks who refused to send representatives to the councils. Because of their Federal affiliations during the Civil War they referred to themselves as the "loyal" Creeks. Finally joining forces with them, Isparhecher repudiated the constitution he'd helped to create, led his followers into a number of bloody clashes that constitute what is generally referred to as the Green Peach War (because the first skirmish in 1881 was fought when the peaches were still green). The federal

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Gibson, Arrell M., Oklahoma: A History of Five Centuries, Harlow, 1965, p. 288  
 Ruth et al., Oklahoma: A Guide to the Sooner State, University of Oklahoma Press, 1957, p. 218  
 Wright, Muriel H., A Guide to the Indian Tribes of Oklahoma, University of Oklahoma Press, 1951, pp. 128-145

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 5 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

 B 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

  
 C 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

 D 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

  
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING ZONE EASTING NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Coordinates: USGS topo quads not yet available for this area, hence use of Oklahoma Highway Department county map that does not have UTM tics.

Lat.: 35° 44' <sup>15"</sup> 59.3"  
 Long.: 96° 00' 39"  
           7' 50"

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Kent Ruth, Deputy

ORGANIZATION

Oklahoma Historical Society

STREET & NUMBER

Historical Building

CITY OR TOWN

Oklahoma City

DATE

November 1975

TELEPHONE

405/884-5456

STATE

Oklahoma

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

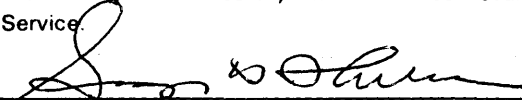
NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I 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



TITLE

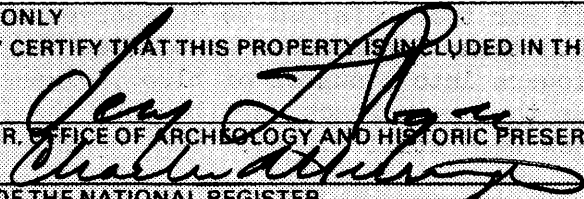
DATE FEB 20 1976

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

ACTING DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:



DATE

7/12/76

ACTING CLERK OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

8-25-76

RBR for WJM 7/8/76

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
FEB 24 1976
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

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

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 1

Isparhecher Home and Grave

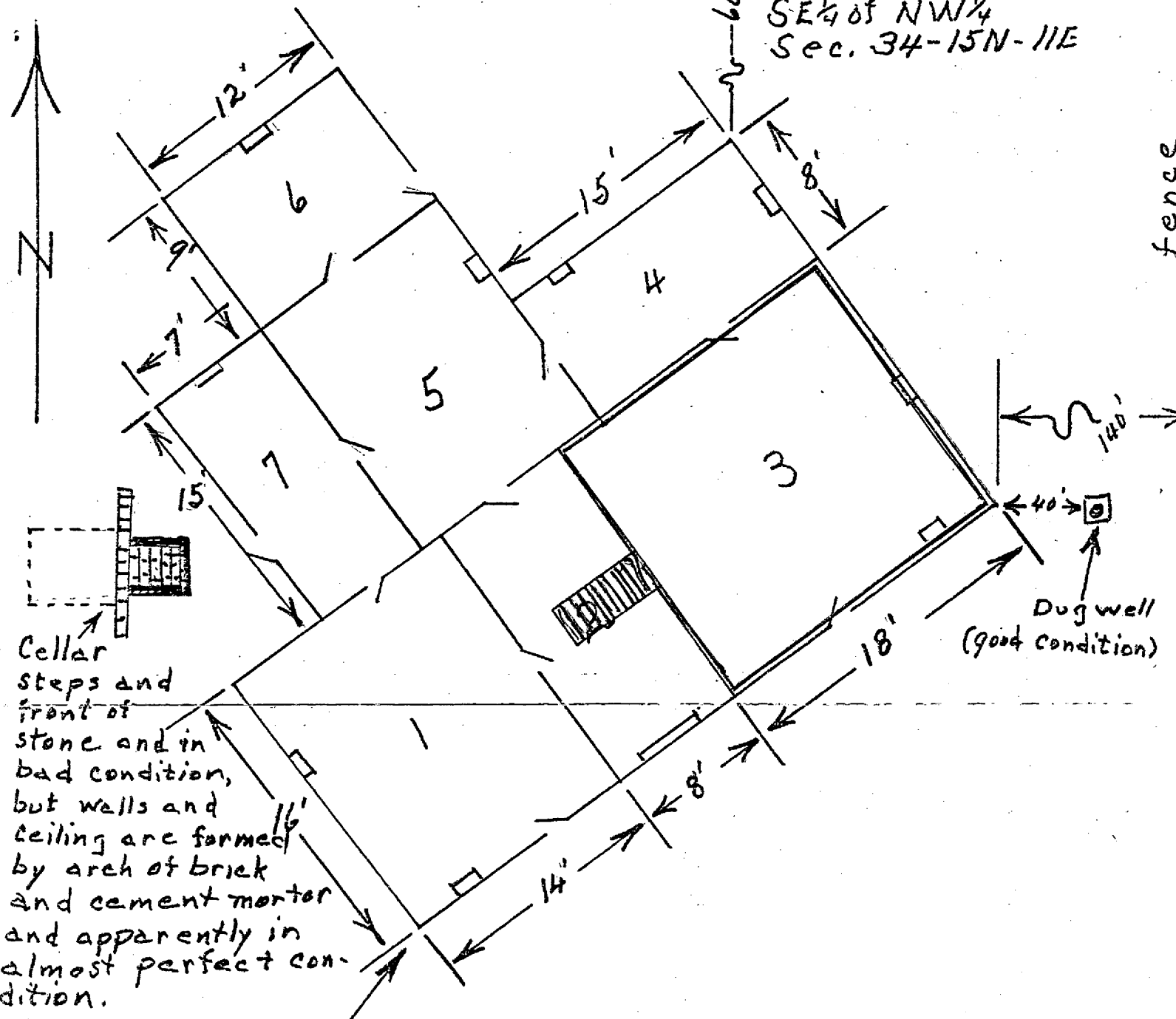
government finally secured peace between the two factions (Southern-sympathizing forces were led by Chief Checote). In 1895, after three unsuccessful races, Isparhecher was finally elected principal chief.

Ironically, he won the battle at about the time the war itself was being lost. His election reflected the opposition of a majority of the Creeks to the allotment of lands and the break-up of the Nation. And his platform pledged him to fight the plan. But its implementation was by this time inevitable. Younger leaders recognized this, gradually swung a majority of the Creeks over to grudging acceptance of the Dawes plan. Isparhecher continued to oppose it, however, and lost his bid for re-election to Pleasant Porter, the Nation's last elected chief. Old and defeated in purpose, Isparhecher retired to his farm, which he sought and obtained as his allotment. Here Dec. 22, 1902, he died.

\* \* \*

It is an interesting comment on Isparhecher - and the Creeks - that even while seemingly at odds with the tribe he was able to serve. Though unsuccessful three times as candidate for principal chief, he served the successful administrations as delegate from the Nation in Washington. And no matter how his treatment of his political opponents, he had a great love for children, especially those in need. For much of his life he took in and cared for a large number of Creek boys and girls who had been orphaned or were otherwise in need of help. And this in addition to a number of children of his own.

N.E. Corner of  
SE 1/4 of NW 1/4  
Sec. 34-15N-11E

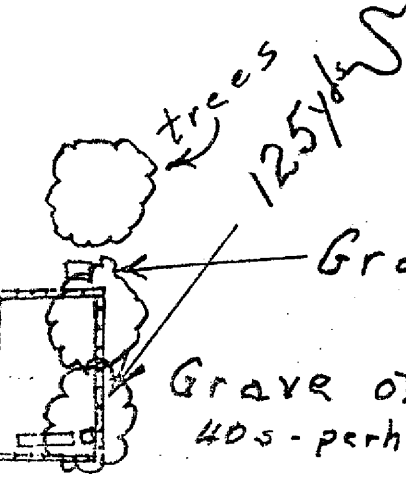


# Floor plan of home of Isparechar

Basement and stairway in red

Grave of child (Has been vandalized)

Grave of Isparechar (Was vandalized in early  
40s - perhaps late 30s)



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

FEB 24 1976  
RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

JUL 12 1976

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- ENCLOSE WITH PHOTOGRAPH

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Isparhecher Home and Grave

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

CITY, TOWN

Beggs

X VICINITY OF

COUNTY

Okmulgee

STATE

Oklahoma

**3 PHOTO REFERENCE**

PHOTO CREDIT

William Spears

NEGATIVE FILED AT

DATE OF PHOTO

1975

**4 IDENTIFICATION**

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

PHOTO NO

Rough floor plan prepared to help explain No. 7 descriptions.