

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

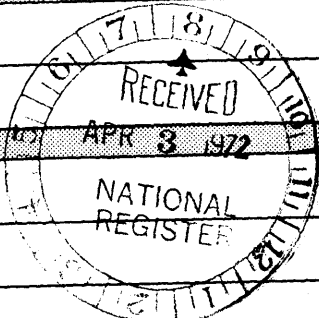
(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:  
**Oklahoma**

COUNTY:  
**Sequoyah**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY NUMBER: **1873**      DATE: **MAR 20 1973**



**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
**Dwight Mission**

AND/OR HISTORIC:

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**c. 3 m. SW of**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Marble City (NW/4 Sec. 2, T 12 N, R 23 E)**

STATE: **Oklahoma**      CODE: **40**      COUNTY: **Sequoyah**      CODE: **135**

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____ _____ _____

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
**United Presbyterian Church of Oklahoma**

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: **Marble City**      STATE: **Oklahoma**      CODE: **40**

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
**Office of the County Clerk**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**Sequoyah County Courthouse**

CITY OR TOWN: **Sallisaw**      STATE: **Oklahoma**      CODE: **40**

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
**Oklahoma Historic Sites Survey**

DATE OF SURVEY: **1958**       Federal     State     County     Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
**Oklahoma Historical Society**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**Historical Building**

CITY OR TOWN: **Oklahoma City**      STATE: **Oklahoma**      CODE: **40**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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COUNTY: **Sequoyah**

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## 7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

As indicated in No. 8, Dwight Mission started its work in Indian Territory in some log buildings purchased from Col. Webber at the settlement of Nicksville. School was opened in these buildings in the spring of 1830 and the missionaries proceeded at once to erect additional buildings. A dining room and kitchen was built of hewn logs - a two-story affair, 24 x 54 feet, with flanking chimneys. It was chinked with stones, pointed with lime mortar, and whitewashed.

Log residences were built in the traditional style: two rooms separated by open passageway or "dog-trot," all under a single hip roof that spread out to protect full-length verandas front and back. Four of these structures were a story and a half, another two-storied. The dormitory for boys was two-storied, with a gallery for each floor. Altogether, eleven buildings were completed by September and Dwight had taken on a fairly prepossessing appearance for the wilderness. Then as now, the gentle valley of Sallisaw Creek was well timbered and the location was on the idyllic side.

But fires were a constant scourge at Dwight. The first serious one was in 1840. The school, however, re-opened the following year. The Civil War destruction was more serious. Those buildings not burned were vandalized and a visiting missionary in 1867 could find "but a single pane of glass" in all the buildings. And the grounds were "littered with fragments of books, papers, letters and furniture."

The old log schoolhouse was repaired in 1884 so the Presbyterians could re-open the school. The other buildings were gradually repaired and/or replaced. Into one such "historic old building which has been the home of so many missionaries," the Cherokee Gospel Tidings moved its press in the fall of 1900. Its October issue had a picture of "The New Home of The Cherokee Gospel Tidings," and it described the building as follows: ". . . To use commercial language, we now occupy over 1400 feet of floor space while at Siloam Springs [Ark.] we had only 120 feet. The building is a four-room, story and a half log house, sealed inside and outside and well arranged for our work. The rooms are occupied as study and office, composition and press, stockroom and bindery." The Tidings found it "quite fitting" a mission press should occupy such a historic building . . . "one of the oldest in the Territory."

Fires continued to take their toll, however, in lives as well as property. Thirteen boys died in the destruction of their dormitory in 1918. A fire the next year destroyed the school's last dormitory, Shepherd Home (refurbished in 1900); it was the fourth in seven years and Dwight was closed for another three years. Reconstruction began in 1922 and continued for two years.

Since 1948, when the school closed for apparently the last time, Dwight's facilities have been used for conferences, camps, and retreats. Scattered informally over the tree-shaded grounds are a pair of two-

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Oklahoma	
COUNTY	
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	MAR 20 1973

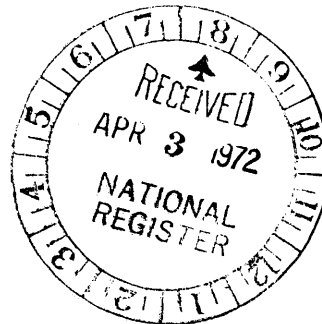
(Number all entries)

No. 7. Description

Dwight Mission

story stone dormitories, a two-story frame school building, a small frame infirmary, a log guest house, a stone caretaker's cottage, and a relatively new two-room log house with traditional dog-trot and protected gallery. Used as a museum, it was built in part with logs taken from the "Blue House," last of Dwight's original buildings.

The old Dwight Cemetery is immediately to the north of the mission/school grounds. One of the oldest in Oklahoma, it contains some stones with still legible dates going back to the 1830s.



## SIGNIFICANCE

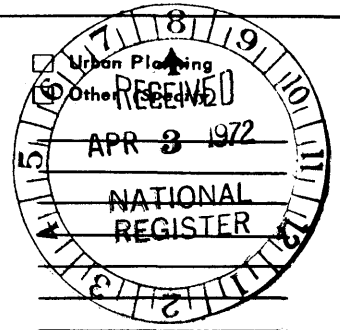
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian |  16th Century |  18th Century |  20th Century  
 15th Century |  17th Century |  19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1829 to present

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal                | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric               | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering          | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Historic       | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry             | <input type="checkbox"/> Science                        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture               | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention            | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture              | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape            | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture         | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater                        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature           | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation                 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military             |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation              | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                |   |



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Dwight was one of almost 70 missions established in Indian Territory between 1820 and 1861, most of them operating schools to broaden their "civilizing" effort and thus increase their influence. Though not the first (Union, established 1819-1820, has that distinction), it persisted longer than most -- from 1830 to 1948, with interruptions -- and must be considered one of the most important.

Dwight began work among the Cherokees near what is now Russellville, Ark., in 1821. When this highly developed tribe moved westward into Indian Territory in the late 1820s, Dwight followed. At what was known then as Nicksville, on Sallisaw Creek, some log buildings were purchased from Col. Walter Webber, a prosperous trader. The mission located here in 1829 and the school opened May 1 of the following year ... with 30 pupils and Rev. Cephas Washburn as superintendent.

(Nicksville was seat of short-lived Lovely County. It had a post office from April 25, 1828, to Oct. 2, 1829. At later dates post offices named Kidron and Marble Salt Works were located at this same site. The name honors General John Nicks, a War of 1812 hero.)

Construction continued through the summer of 1830. A two-story dining room and kitchen, of logs, was built, as were some residences and a dormitory for boys. By September there were eleven structures in use, besides a number of smaller outbuildings, and the mission premises, according to Historian Grant Foreman, "appeared as a considerable institution in the wilderness." Some 65 pupils could be accommodated and for many years, again quoting Foreman, "this institution maintained a reputation as the best school in all the Indian country." Boys and girls both were educated there to begin with, and many of its graduates became teachers in this and other Cherokee schools. Dwight had assumed "a position of considerable importance in the activities in the Cherokee Country."

The boys' school burned in 1840. Promptly rebuilt, it re-opened March 1, 1841, this time as a girls' school, with ten teachers. The Civil War disrupted life in the Cherokee Nation as it did throughout the South. Many Cherokees owned slaves, of course. And although there was little abolitionist feeling among the missionaries them-

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Foreman, Carolyn Thomas, "The Gospel Tidings of Dwight Mission," The Chronicles of Oklahoma, Vol. XII (1934), pp. 454-469  
 Foreman, Grant, The Five Civilized Tribes, University of Oklahoma Press, 1934, pp. 356-361  
 Shirk, George H., Oklahoma Place Names, University of Oklahoma Press, 1965, p. 150

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		35° 32' 51"	94° 51' 09"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **10 acres**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
**Kent Ruth, Deputy**

ORGANIZATION: **Oklahoma Historical Society** DATE: **February 1972**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**Historical Building**

CITY OR TOWN: **Oklahoma City** STATE: **Oklahoma** CODE: **40**

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION**

**NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name *[Signature]*

Title *SLO for Oklahoma*

Date \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

*[Signature]*  
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

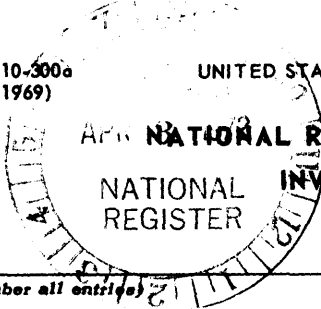
Date *3/20/73*

ATTEST:  
*[Signature]*  
Keeper of The National Register

Date *3/16/73*

*Ho*  
*UTM*  
*HT*

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



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(Number all entries)

No. 8. Significance - 2

Dwight Mission

selves, there was such feeling on many of their eastern mission boards. (Dwight was named for the Rev. Timothy Dwight, D. D., a former president of Yale.) Even the Cherokees themselves were divided in loyalties, which led to increased destructiveness. Outbreak of the war closed Dwight and most of the buildings were burned.

A missionary visiting the site in 1867 noted: "It was all desolation. Some of the buildings were standing, but the stillness of death reigned there. Not an inhabitant was there. I saw but a single pane of glass in all the buildings. The yard was covered with scattered fragments of books, papers, letters and furniture."

In 1884 the Rev. W. C. Roberts, secretary of the Presbyterian Board of Home Missions, was approached by a Cherokee delegation seeking a teacher for Dwight. The Indians promised to repair the old log school-house and in time the mission school was again open.

A few years later Dwight expanded its influence with appearance of a small magazine, or paper, called the Cherokee Gospel Tidings. First printed on the Presbyterian Mission Press at Siloam Springs, Ark., it moved to Dwight in August 1900. The Rev. Frederick L. Schaub served as both school superintendent and editor, remaining for eleven years. Printed in English and Cherokee, the Tidings mirrored life at Dwight, ran selections from the Bible, contained news items from others Presbyterian missions, churches, and Sunday Schools in the territory. After a few years a rival, also printed in part in Cherokee, ceased publication and the Tidings boasted it was "the only paper of the kind in the world." Other publications from the press included a Cherokee Hymn Book, English and Cherokee religious tracts, and a Cherokee Song Book.

Fires continued to plague Dwight. The boys' dormitory burned on Jan. 12, 1918, claiming the life of 13 boys. The next year the last remaining dormitory, Shepherd Home, also burned. This fourth fire in seven years was too much and Dwight closed.

In 1922, with new buildings not yet complete, the school re-opened, accepting only twenty girls. The buildings were formally dedicated in 1924 and enrollment had climbed to 85 by 1926. The mission then contained a church center for the surrounding community and provided schooling through two years of high school.

For a time Dwight continued to enroll from 80 to 90 Indian boys and girls. Eight or more tribes were usually represented, with Cherokees and Choctaws predominating. Along with academic subjects homemaking and

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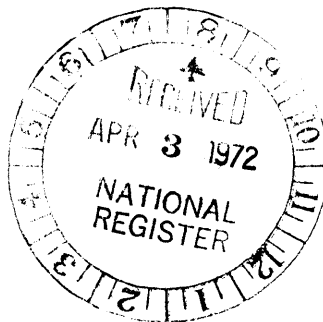
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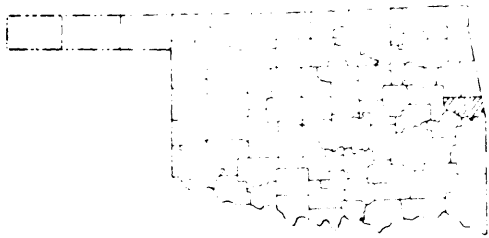
No. 8. Significance - 3

Dwight Mission

job-oriented crafts were stressed. An Indian girl whose brother had just finished the eighth grade at Dwight said: "He run the farm this summer. He raised more crop than Papa ever saw, and he made money than Papa ever heard of."

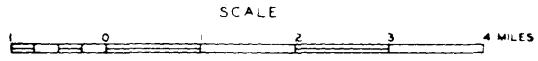
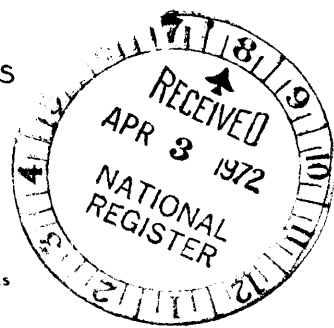
But more modern schools were opening in the area. In June 1<sup>9</sup>48 the Board of National Missions voted finally to close the school. Its century of service to the Indians has not been forgotten, however. The mission grounds and its half-dozen well cared for buildings, now owned by the United Presbyterian Church Synod of Oklahoma, are used pretty much year-round for assemblies, conventions, and retreats.





GENERAL HIGHWAY MAP  
**SEQUOYAH COUNTY**  
 OKLAHOMA

PREPARED BY THE  
 OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAYS  
 PLANNING DIVISION  
 IN COOPERATION WITH THE  
 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
 FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION  
 BUREAU OF PUBLIC ROADS

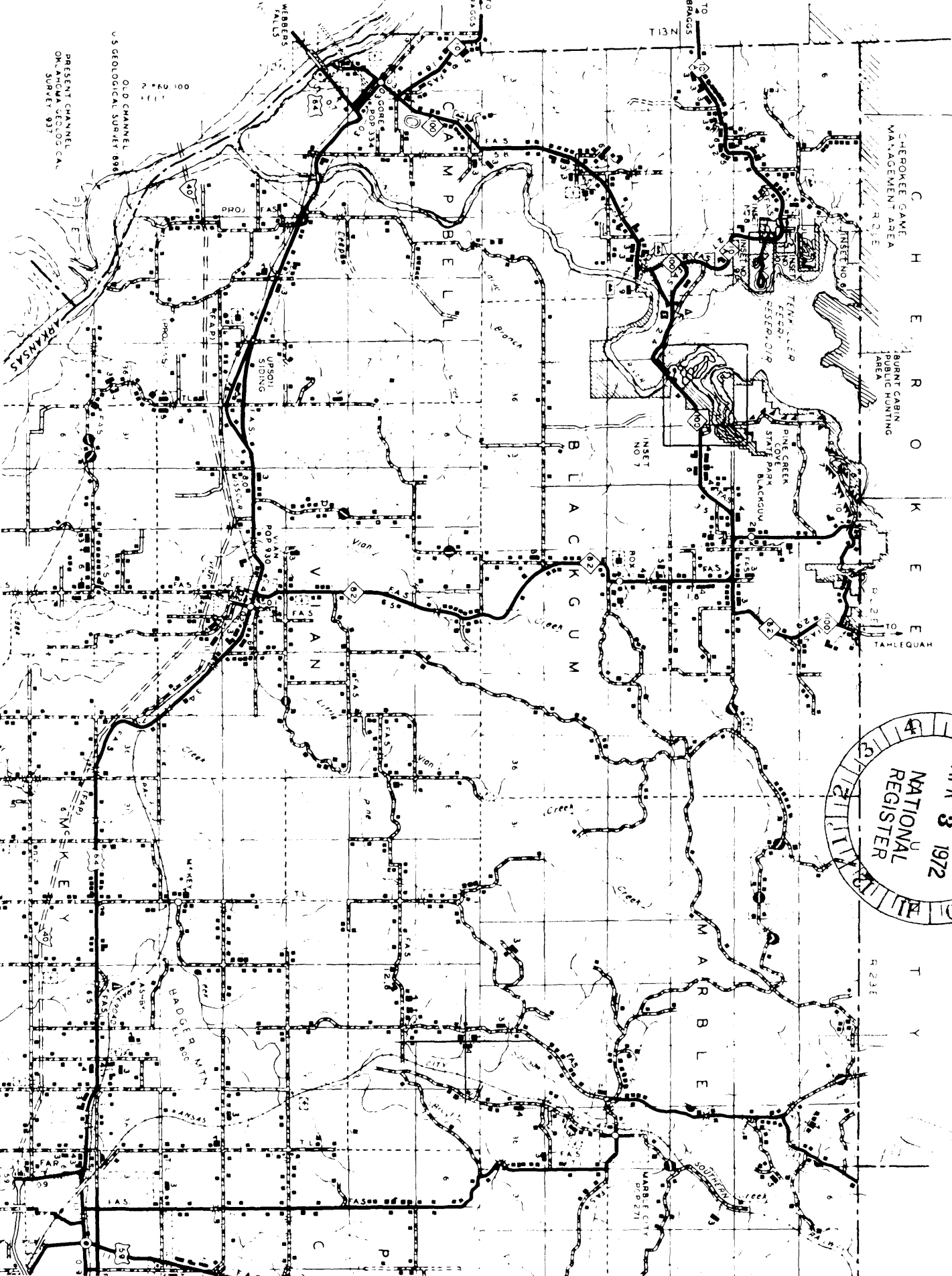


LAMBERT CONFORMAL CONIC PROJECTION U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY DATA 20,000  
 FOOT GRID BASED ON PLANE COORDINATE SYSTEM SOUTH PROJECTION ZONE.

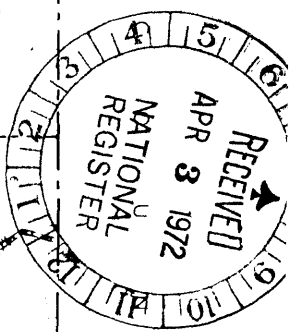
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2460,000  
FEET



OLD CHANNEL  
U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY 898  
PRESENT CHANNEL  
OKLAHOMA GEOSURVEY  
SURVEY 931



T Y  
R 23E