

OLD SPENCER ACADEMY OPENED HERE IN JANUARY 1844

This noted school for Choctaw boys, established by the Choctaw Council, was named for John C. Spencer, U.S. Secretary of War. Subjects through High School were taught. The first graduates went to eastern colleges in 1848. Large buildings were erected in a quadrangle here including Jones Hall, Pitchlynn Hall, Armstrong Hall, a school building and dining hall, with houses for employee, storehouses and barns adjacent.

It was here at Old Spencer Academy that "Steal Away to Jesus," "Roll, Jordan Roll," "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot," spirituals now sung throughout America, were composed by the old Negro, Uncle Wallace who first sang them with his wife, Aunt Minerva to the delight of all who heard them. The two old slaves were hired out by their owner to work for the Rev. Alexander Reid, Superintendent of Spencer Academy 1851-61.

OKLAHOMA HISTORICAL SOCIETY 1959

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Spencer Academy

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN

Fort Towson

___ VICINITY OF

Spencerville

COUNTY

Choctaw

STATE

Oklahoma

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT

Rampp

DATE OF PHOTO

1969

NEGATIVE FILED AT

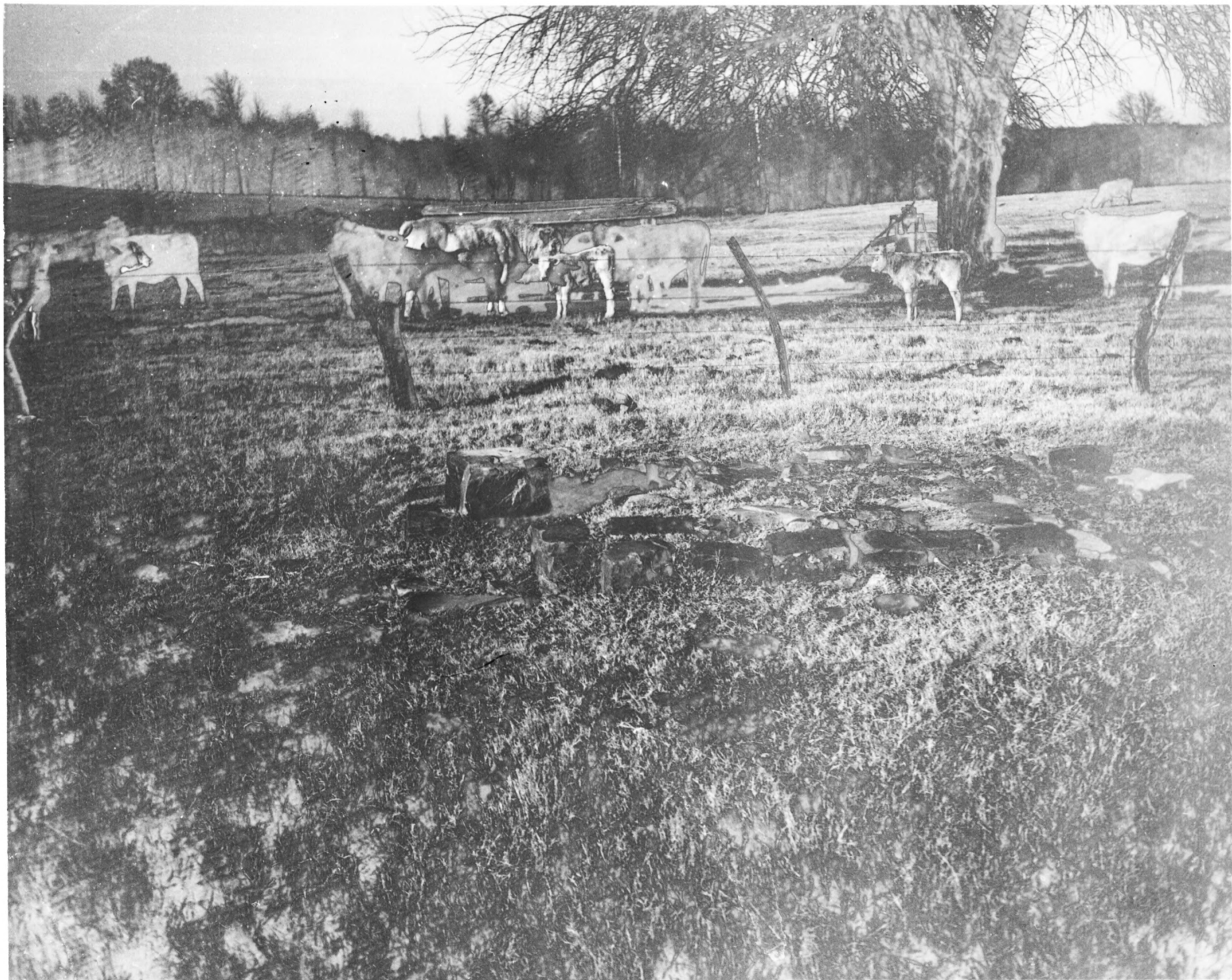
Oklahoma Historical Society

4 IDENTIFICATION

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

PHOTO NO. 1

On site marker.



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Douglas D. Scott

NEGATIVE FILED AT

Box 68 Fort Towson, OK 74735

DATE OF PHOTO

1974

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PHOTO NO. 2

Foundation of fireplace. Stones are well cut and shaped. This is probably area of storehouses and slave quarters. View is to the South.

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PHOTO NO. 3

View to west of grounds of Old Spencer. Area of main buildings is noted by lines of rubble, unfortunately not well noted in the photo.

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Form No. 10-301a
(Rev. 10-74)

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HISTORIC
Spencer Academy
AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION
CITY, TOWN VICINITY OF COUNTY STATE
Fort Towson Spencerville Choctaw Oklahoma

3 PHOTO REFERENCE
PHOTO CREDIT DATE OF PHOTO
Douglas D. Scott 1974
NEGATIVE FILED AT
Box 68 Fort Towson, OK 74735

4 IDENTIFICATION
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Westerly view of the cemetery. Note pothunting of grave and broken slab.

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PHOTO NO. 5

View of cemetery from the north. Pothunting at grave is in evidence.

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