

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: <b>Oklahoma</b>	
COUNTY: <b>Okmulgee</b>	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER <b>APR 13 1972</b>	DATE

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
**Nuyaka Mission**

AND/OR HISTORIC:

**2. LOCATION**

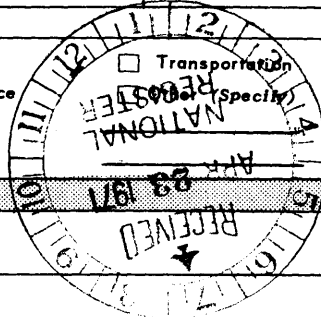
STREET AND NUMBER:  
**c. 11 m. West of**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Okmulgee (SW/4 NE/4 Sec. 32, T 14 N, R 11 E)**

STATE <b>Oklahoma</b>	CODE <b>40</b>	COUNTY: <b>Okmulgee</b>	CODE <b>111</b>
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**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input checked="" 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)			Yes:
<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)			<input type="checkbox"/> Comments



**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
**Mr. & Mrs. W. L. Spears**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**Rural Route #4**

CITY OR TOWN: <b>Okmulgee</b>	STATE: <b>Oklahoma</b>	CODE <b>40</b>
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**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

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

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**Okmulgee County Courthouse**

CITY OR TOWN: <b>Okmulgee</b>	STATE: <b>Oklahoma</b>	CODE <b>40</b>
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**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 Historic Society**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**Historical Building**

CITY OR TOWN: <b>Oklahoma City</b>	STATE: <b>Oklahoma</b>	CODE <b>40</b>
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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

Among the early gifts sent to Nuyaka Mission from supporters back East were barrels of clothing, some fruit trees, 100 Bibles . . . and a set of fire extinguishers for each of the mission buildings. Perhaps it is to such thoughtfulness we owe the survival of one original structure of this important latter-day educational effort among the Creeks.

Four frame buildings were erected. The first contained a chapel or assembly room and school rooms. The second housed the boys and the Superintendent. The third and fourth were smaller cottages for the girls and the teachers in charge of them. Each of the last three buildings was complete in itself - with kitchen, dining room, and bath room. Also on the grounds were a barn, silo, laundry, commissary, shop building and other structures.

It is the Superintendent's home that stands today in nearly original condition. It is a comfortable, relatively plain, two-story frame structure. A tall stone chimney has been added to the south end of the house to accommodate a downstairs fireplace. Of native stone, it blends well with the original home. Only a few partitions have been changed inside. The upstairs is entirely unchanged. The house is a private home and the present owners, appreciating and respecting its historic importance, have preserved it carefully.

On the mission site is the original well dug by the missionaries, a large cistern, an extremely commodious storm cellar, and part of one of the other buildings.

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**SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                       |  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century                      | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century  | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century<br>(late) |                                       |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1882-1923

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"/> Urban Planning  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric    | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering          | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi- | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic       | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry             | losophy :   | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture    | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention            | <input type="checkbox"/> Science                  | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture   | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape            | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture                | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art            | Architecture                                  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social/Human- | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce       | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature           | itarian   | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater                  | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation   | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation           | _____                                    |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Nuyaka, established in 1882 to fill the vacuum created by the fire the previous year that destroyed Tullahassee Mission (for which National Register status is also being sought), served the educational needs of the Creek Nation for some 40 years. It is remarkable for the dedicated efforts on its behalf by two notable missionary families.

Alice M. Robertson was largely responsible for raising the money needed to build Nuyaka. She was the daughter of William S. Robertson, the most famous teacher, and later superintendent, at Tullahassee. Her mother, in turn, was the daughter of Samuel Austin Worchester, missionary to the Cherokee and founder of the Park Hill Press. Her sister Augusta, Mrs. N. B. Moore (Judge Moore later served as treasurer of the Creek Nation), was principal and superintendent when the school first opened April 16, 1885. She served through the 1891-1892 school year. Miss Alice Robertson, after statehood, became Oklahoma's first Congresswoman. The Oklahoma Historical Society proposes to acquire the last surviving original Nuyaka building and maintain it as a memorial to Miss Robertson and her remarkable family. Almost her entire life was spent in service to the Creek Nation and to the State of Oklahoma.

The Robe family took over at Nuyaka from the Robertsons. William B. Robe, who came to Indian Territory as a Presbyterian missionary in 1882, assumed the office of superintendent at Nuyaka September 6, 1892. His wife was appointed matron at the mission and a daughter, Maria Frances Robe, was a teacher. By 1897 three other members of the Robe family were active in the work at Nuyaka. Though the elder Robes retired the following year, two sons and three daughters continued to be active in missionary school work. John M. Robe, their son, took over as superintendent. Maria Frances stayed on as a teacher until 1910.

Nuyaka was authorized by the Creek National Council "for the special benefit of the full bloods in the western part of the Muskogee Nation." The Council appropriated \$2,500 to match the \$10,000 the Presbyterian Church agreed to provide. It was eventually located near Deep Fork River about a mile west of the settlement of

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Foreman, Carolyn Thomas, "Augusta Robertson Moore, A Sketch of her Life and Times," The Chronicles of Oklahoma, Vol. XIII, No. 4 (Winter 1935-36), pp. 399-420

Jackson, Joe C., "Survey of Education in Eastern Oklahoma from 1907 to 1915," The Chronicles of Oklahoma, Vol. XXIX, No. 2 (Summer 1951), pp. 200-227

Reed, Ora Eddleman, "The Robe Family - Missionaries," The Chronicles of Oklahoma, Vol. XXVI, No. 3 (Autumn 1948), pp. 301-312

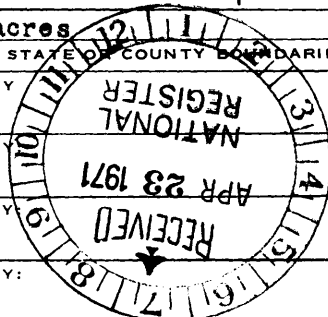
**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	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° 38' 59"	96° 09' 46"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **c. 5 acres**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



*No  
UTM  
NF*

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**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

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

ORGANIZATION: **Oklahoma Historical Society** DATE: **March 1971**

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 *John W. Shu*

Title *Liaison Officer for OKLA*

Date \_\_\_\_\_

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

*Robert M. Utley*  
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date *4/13/72*

ATTEST:  
*William H. Huntley*  
Keeper of The National Register

Date **APR 13 1972**

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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
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(Number all entries)

No. 8. Significance

Nuyaka Mission

Nuyaka. (The name is apparently an Indian rendition of "New York" or "New Yorker" and goes back to the late 1770s when Creeks in Alabama so named one of their settlements.) The Council desired it to be a school " . . . as nearly as possible in the nature of a christian family . . . [with] the boys and girls in separate buildings under the care of teachers who should exercise a parental care over them." When a principal chief proposed calling the new school Robertson Institute, Mrs. Moore gratefully declined the honor. "Our father, during his life-time, sought no distinction save that of entire and self-sacrificing devotion to the Muskokees." The name Nuyaka resulted.

According to terms of the Curtis Act of 1898, the Federal government appointed a superintendent for Indian Territory and proceeded to take control of the schools in the area. His first report noted that the Creek Nation then possessed eight boarding schools, one of which was Nuyaka. At first the government intended closing all of these as soon as public school facilities became available. Indian protests over abandonment kept some of the schools in operation until well after statehood in 1907. By 1914 the number of boarding schools in all of what had been Indian Territory was down to 11. Nuyaka was finally abandoned in 1923.

