

# DATA SHEET

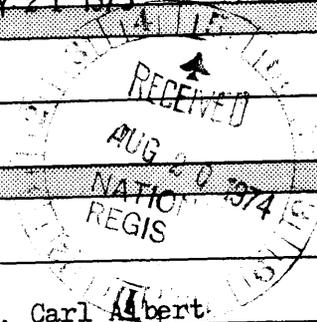
Form 10-300  
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Oklahoma	
COUNTY: Johnston	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	MAY 21 1975



**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
Tishomingo City Hall

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
Bank of the Chickasaw Nation

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
West Main Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
Tishomingo

STATE: Oklahoma      CODE: 40      COUNTY: Johnston      CODE: 069

No. 3. Hon. Carl Albert.

**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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious	Fraternat	
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
City of Tishomingo & Tishomingo Masonic Lodge (No. 91)

STREET AND NUMBER:  
West Main Street

CITY OR TOWN: Tishomingo      STATE: Oklahoma      CODE: 40

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

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

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Johnston County Courthouse

CITY OR TOWN: Tishomingo      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

STATE: Oklahoma

COUNTY: Johnston

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)

Excellent   
  Good   
  Fair   
  Deteriorated   
  Ruins   
  Unexposed

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(Check One) **Basically**

Altered   
  Unaltered

(Check One)

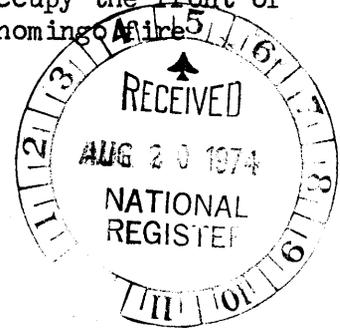
Moved   
  Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Chickasaw Bank was built in 1902. Granite for its construction came from the Harris Granite Quarries, located on Pennington Creek northwest of town. The two-story building was designed, constructed, and finished under the direction of J. A. Shannon, an architect who was also superintendent of the quarries.

The unusual corner entranceway and ornate tower are noted in No. 8. A somewhat less elaborate arched entrance, serving the stairway leading to the second floor, is in roughly the center of the 25 x 140-foot structure. Only significant exterior change in the building today, from early pictures and sketches, is a large metal eagle, wings outstretched, perched atop the column in front of the corner belfry tower. No one knows what happened to the eagle.

The second floor, extensively remodeled over the years, now contains a large lodge room, kitchen and dining areas, other facilities used by several of the town's organizations. City offices occupy the front of the ground floor, while the back part serves the Tishomingo Fire department.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

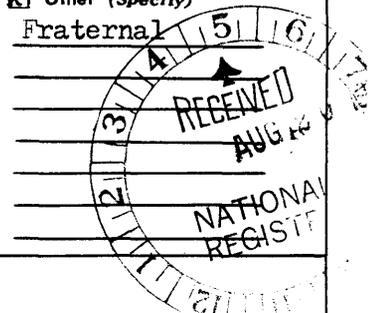
- |  |                                       |                                       |  |
|--|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century |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

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

1902 to the present

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

A promotional flyer on the Bank of the Chickasaw Nation hails it as "The Handsomest, Most Complete, and the MOST SECURE Bank Plant in the Two Territories." How complete were its services one has no meaningful way of determining today. How secure it was, alas, can be determined. On October 25, 1910, a Denison (Tex.) bank recovered a foreclosure judgment against R. M. Harris, the president, who had opened the institution with such proud fanfare just eight years before. As for the third claim, one can -- if he's willing to give a little to the changing winds of architectural styling -- give a measure of agreement. Despite a few signs of age and an unsightly modernity or two, the two-story structure, now Tishomingo's City Hall and Masonic Building, is still definitely handsome.

An act by the Legislature of the Chickasaw Nation -- passed by both the House and Senate on November 7, 1901 -- designated "the Tishomingo Bank of Tishomingo" as the "Depository of the Chickasaw Nation" and specified that all officials were "hereby requested, empowered and instructed to deposit in said bank such funds as come into their hands . . ." Undoubtedly this official blessing helped make financing possible and the bank opened in 1902. It presumably served as the official depository until the Chickasaw Nation was dissolved with Oklahoma Statehood in 1907. Yet another interesting tie with the Chickasaw Nation should be noted. In style of architecture as well as in building material -- heavy gray granite -- the bank strongly resembles the last Chickasaw National Capitol, now the Johnston County Courthouse and itself on the National Register. The two nearby buildings thus lend a certain eye-pleasing integrity to the small town's modest business district.

Tishomingo, it should be remembered, was an extremely important town at the time the bank was established. In addition to being the Chickasaw capital, it was location for the citizenship court, the land office, the county seat of Tishomingo County (of the Chickasaw Nation), and the site of the United States Court. All this brought the city a great amount of business and the resulting flow of money tended to make it the financial as well as the governmental center of the Nation. Statehood, of course, altered this promise of future power and influence. But a strong contributing factor to the bank's decline was a crooked

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

-----, Tishomingo: An Historical Guide to the Capital City of the Chickasaw Indian Nation 1855-1907, Tishomingo's Daughters Study Club, 1972

"Tishomingo City Hall," The Capital-Democrat, Tishomingo, Feb. 14, 1974

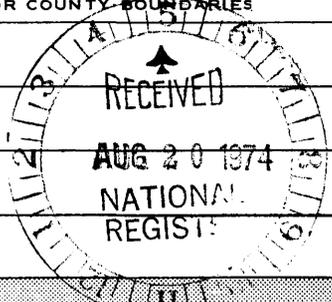
**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

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	° ' "	° ' "		34° 14' 13"	96° 40' 53"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Less than one acre

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE: Kent Ruth, Deputy

ORGANIZATION: Oklahoma Historical Society DATE: June 1974

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 Dorinda P. Coffey

Title SNPO

Date 1-6-75

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

Ewert A. Connally  
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

MAY 21 1975

Date \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:

W. M. [Signature]  
Keeper of The National Register

Date 5/20/75

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Oklahoma	
COUNTY	
Johnston	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	MAY 21 1975

(Number all entries)

No. 8. Significance

Tishomingo City Hall

cashier, who ran off with much of the institution's money. (Legend has pegged the amount at \$40,000, although the official was never caught.)

With the Chickasaw bank defunct, a sheriff's sale of the property was ordered and a public auction was held in front of the building on June 8, 1911. The Denison bank bought in the property, but after a series of complicated financial arrangements had been agreed to it finally came under joint ownership of the City of Tishomingo and Lodge No. 91 A. F. & A. M. of Tishomingo. It has remained so ever since, the Lodge occupying the second floor, the City the ground floor.

The Lodge, one of the oldest in the state, has remodeled its floor considerably. The facilities are also used by the Tishomingo Order of Eastern Star and the International Order of Odd Fellows. Many well known figures in Oklahoma history -- as a Territory and as a State -- have passed through these lodge rooms over the years. They include Douglas H. Johnston, last governor of the Chickasaw Nation; William H. "Alfalfa Bill" Murray and his son, Johnston Murray, both state governors; and Clive E. Murray, president of Tishomingo's Murray College for three decades. Several prominent state attorneys rented office space at the back of the building until the 1930s when it was required by the fire department.

The Chickasaw Bank's "Granite Home" is a fine example of the stone-cutter's art at the turn of the century. Unusually fine features include the strong tower and the elaborate main entranceway arch with its overhanging saucer-like platform. One final feature should be mentioned. Implanted in the side of the building is the bronze stake from which the town of Tishomingo was originally surveyed.

