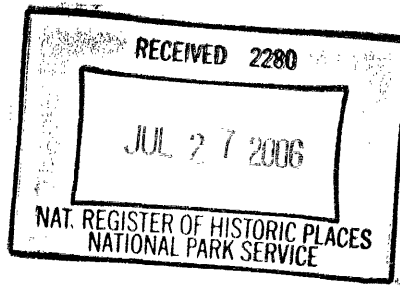


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM



1. Name of Property

historic name Rosamund

other names/site number Gideon Morgan House

2. Location

street & number 527 Seminary Avenue not for publication N/A
city or town Tahlequah vicinity N/A
state Oklahoma code OK county Cherokee code 021
zip code 74464

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ___ nationally ___ statewide locally. (N/A See continuation sheet for additional comments.)



Signature of certifying official

7-24-06

Date

Oklahoma Historical Society, SHPO

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.
(___ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official

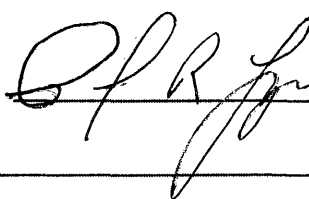
Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register ___ See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register ___ See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register

 9/6/2006

Date of Action

___ other (explain): _____

Signature of Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> structures
<u>0</u>	<u>3</u> objects
<u>1</u>	<u>3</u> Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)
N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: DOMESTIC Sub: single dwelling

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: EDUCATION Sub: research facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

OTHER: Folk Victorian/Gabled El

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE Sandstone

roof ASPHALT

walls WOOD:weatherboard

other _____

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

B removed from its original location.

C a birthplace or a grave.

D a cemetery.

E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.

F a commemorative property.

G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

ETHNIC HISTORY: Native American

Period of Significance 1890-1900

8. Statement of Significance (Continued)

Significant Dates 1893

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Gideon Morgan

Cultural Affiliation _____

Architect/Builder Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property Less than one acre

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	15	322210	3976470	3	_____	_____
2	_____	_____	_____	4	_____	_____

N/A See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Cynthia Savage, Architectural Historian, for the City of Tahlequah

organization Architectural Resources and Community Heritage Consulting date March 2006

street & number 346 County Road 1230 telephone 405/459-6200

city or town Pocasset state OK zip code 73079

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

- A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

- Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name NSU Educational Foundation

street & number 600 N. Grand telephone 918/458-2143

city or town Tahlequah state OK zip code 74464

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 9

Rosamund
name of property
Cherokee County, Oklahoma
county and state

Materials (continued from page 4)
foundation: CONCRETE

SUMMARY

Rosamund is a two-story, Folk Victorian, gabled El residence built in about 1887 for the Gideon Morgan family in Tahlequah, Cherokee County, Oklahoma. The Morgan family named the home "Rosamund" for unknown reasons. The house has a cross-gabled, asphalt-covered roof and a stone and concrete foundation. The historic, native stone foundation remains evident on the east, south and much of the west sides of the house. The foundation on the north elevation and the north part of the west elevation has been clad with concrete. The walls are weatherboard, currently painted a light blue. The two-story, gabled El house has a one-story front porch spanning the length of the wing of the house. The porch's shed roof is supported by six nonhistoric, turned, wood columns. On the north side of the house, is an entry porch. The two doors on the facade are wood, glazed, paneled. The door in the side entry porch is also wood, glazed, paneled but with a metal storm door to the front. The secondary doors on the rear of the house are wood paneled with metal storm doors. The historic windows are wood, vertical two-over-two, hung and wood, one-over-one, hung. All of the historic windows have wide wood frames with crown molds. On the second floor of the enclosed sleeping porch addition on the west elevation there is a ribbon of shorter, metal, one-over-one, hung windows. Exterior features consist of a one-story, hipped-roofed, bay window on the front gable. Decorative details include double windows, black decorative wood shutters, narrow white decorative corner pilasters, two decorative spindled wood trusses and spindled balustrades on the porch.

The house has been enlarged by three rear additions. Off the back of the wing portion of the house is a small, one-story, gabled addition with a shorter, shed-roofed addition being attached to its north side. On the north side of the west elevation of the house, attached to the south side of the two-story off-set section, there is two-story, shed-roofed addition. Unfortunately, the house was never mapped for fire insurance purposes so the exact configurations and the dates of additions are unknown. However, as all of these additions are on the rear of the house, they do not significantly impact the ability of the house to convey its significance. The stone foundations closely match the original house, indicating that they date from the earliest period of the house's history. Other alterations to the house occurred when the Northeastern State University (NSU) Educational Foundation acquired the property in the late 1980s. At that time, they changed the porch supports to the existing turned wood columns, poured new concrete steps for the porch and added the spindle work detailing to the porch and gables, as well as the decorative wood shutters. Additionally, to accommodate use by the university, black-topped parking areas were located on both the north and south sides of the house. While these changes are nonhistoric, and except for the parking areas, they are in character with the original Folk Victorian style of the house.

Located within the spacious front yard of the house are three noncontributing objects. A black, metal, Victorian-style

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 10

Rosamund
name of property
Cherokee County, Oklahoma
county and state

light has been placed on a concrete pad just east of the concrete sidewalk in front of the bay window. South of this, is a metal flagpole, also set on a concrete foundation. Directly in front of the house, is a wood sign which reads "NSU/Rosamund House." As none of these objects have any historic associations with the house, they are considered noncontributing.

The house is located in a residential area immediately southwest of Northeastern State University. The east elevation of the house faces Seminary Avenue, the historic road connecting the historic Cherokee National Female Seminary (NR 1973) with downtown Tahlequah. The house is setback considerably from the road with a small stream to the rear forming a barrier to the grassy area to the west. The house is now owned by the NSU Educational Foundation, a charitable organization founded in 1971 to support the university. The residences to the sides of Rosamund were built in the twentieth century. The university has greatly expanded since construction of the schools' first building in the late 1880s. Due to the careful landscaping which obscures the parking areas to the sides, the house maintains the feeling and association of a residence located in proximity to an institution of higher education.

EXTERIOR DESCRIPTION

Rosamund is a good example of a Folk Victorian style house. The basic form of Rosamund is a two-story, gabled el. The original L-shaped house, however, has been altered by three rear additions. Off the northwest side of the house, attached to the setback rear wing of the house is a two-story, shed-roofed addition which likely functioned as a sleeping porch before being enclosed. To the south of this, also on the west elevation, is a one-story, front-gabled addition with a small, shed-roofed addition being attached to its north side. Located on the rear of the house, none of the additions are visible from the facade and they do not interfere with the ability of the house to convey its historic significance. All of the additions match the historic materials and are of compatible design and scale to the house and likely date from the first occupation period of the house, with the exception of the alterations to the sleeping porch.

The house has a cross-gabled, asphalt-covered roof. The secondary roofs are all front-gabled, asphalt-covered. The foundation of the building is native stone, except for the north elevation and sections of the west side which have been clad with concrete. The fenestration pattern of the house is slightly asymmetrical with the openings on the first and second floors frequently not in alignment. The corners of the house are marked by narrow corner boards with capitals. The corner pilasters have also been painted white to contrast with the light blue of the walls.

The east elevation of the house is composed of two sections, the gable-front section on the north and the longer wing portion to the south. The front-gabled section features the three-sided, single story bay window on the first floor. The bay window has an asphalt-covered, hipped roof which begins immediately below the second floor window. The wood windows in the bay window are vertical two-over-two, hung. The side sections of the bay window contain single windows with the center section having paired windows. Dividing the center paired windows is a metal drain spout.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 11

Rosamund
name of property
Cherokee County, Oklahoma
county and state

On the second floor of the front-gabled section are paired, wood, vertical two-over-two, hung windows. Above the windows, on the gable end, is a decorative wood truss filled with turned wood spindles. The truss, as well as the decorative corner boards marking the corners of the elevation, have been painted a contrasting white. On the south wall of the front-gabled portion of the east elevation, there are two windows. Tucked in below the porch roof on the first floor, there is a single, off-center, square, fixed, stained glass window. Above this, on the second floor, is a centrally located, single, wood, vertical two-over-two, hung window with decorative wood shutters.

The wing portion of the facade contains the one-story porch which extends the full width of this section of the house. The porch floor is wood, although the stairs on both the east and north sides have been changed to concrete. Like the bay window, the roof of the porch begins immediately below the second floor windows. The porch's shed roof is covered with asphalt. Supporting the porch roof are six nonhistoric, turned, wood columns. In between the columns, on both the top and bottom, are wood spindled balustrades consisting of six narrow turned spindles except above the oversize main opening which has fourteen spindles. Underneath the large opening, on the east wall, there is a wood, glazed, paneled door. Next to this on the wall is a large, black, metal mail box. To the immediate south of the mailbox is a single, wood, vertical two-over-two, hung window with decorative wood shutters. Located farther to the south of this, is another single, wood, glazed, paneled door. South of this door is a single, wood, vertical two-over-two, hung window, also with decorative wood shutters. Above the porch, on the second floor, are three evenly spaced windows. All of the windows are wood, vertical two-over-two, hung with decorative wood shutters.

The south wall features three centrally-located windows, two in the original wing portion and one in the small, one-story, rear addition. The front porch also opens off the south elevation, with concrete stairs providing access to the wood porch floor. The foundation in both sections of the elevation are native stone. The front portion features a single, wood, vertical two-over-two, hung window on the first floor and paired, wood, vertical two-over-two, hung windows on the second. Both openings are flanked by decorative wood shutters. Above the second floor windows in the gable is a decorative wood truss, matching the truss on the east elevation. The south wall of the one-story addition features only a single, wood, vertical two-over-two, hung window.

The west elevation, the rear of the house, has little ornamental detail. It features a setback wing on the north side with a dropped, front-gabled, asphalt-covered roof. Attached to the south side of the setback wing is a shed-roofed addition. The foundation on the north side of this portion of the house, as well as the west side of the addition's foundation, has been covered with concrete. On the south side of the addition through the remaining part of the west elevation, including the one-story addition on the south side of the wall, the foundation is native stone. There are no visible openings on the principal west wall of the house. On the west wall of the setback section of the elevation, there is a single, second floor window towards the south side. The window is wood, one-over-one, hung. Attached to the south side of the setback section is the shed-roofed, two-story, sleeping porch addition. On the asphalt-clad roof of the addition, there is a tall, metal, heater vent. Within the attached addition on the first floor, there is a single, wood,

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 12

Rosamund
name of property
Cherokee County, Oklahoma
county and state

paneled door covered with a metal storm door. The stairs below the door are concrete. To the north of the door is a metal light. On the ground north of the door is a free-standing heating/cooling unit, as well as various other utility boxes. Above the door, on the second floor, there is a pair of metal, one-over-one, hung windows. These windows are shorter than the historic windows of the house. On the south side of the addition, there are four of the shorter, metal, one-over-one, windows, extending the length of the wall. Below this, on the first floor, there is a single, off-center, wood, vertical two-over-two, hung window.

Attached to the back of the wing portion of the gable-front-and-wing house, is a one-story addition. The addition has a front-gabled roof, clad with asphalt. The addition is flush with the south elevation. It extends only about a quarter of the way along the west elevation with another small, dropped, shed-roofed addition attached to the north side. On the west side of the smaller addition, there is a single, wood, four-over-four, hung window which was squeezed in with the frame extending onto the wall coping. The only opening on the west side of the main addition is a single, pedestrian door above concrete stairs. The wood paneled door has a small, central light and is covered with a metal storm door.

The foundation along the north elevation has been clad with concrete. In the wall above, including the setback section, there are five openings per floor. The four openings on both floors in the main section of the house are aligned, although they are unevenly spaced. Consisting of four windows on the second floor and three on the first, the windows in this portion are all wood, vertical two-over-two, hung. Only the three windows on the first floor are flanked by the decorative wood shutters. On the west corner of the larger section of the west elevation, there is an entry porch. The porch has a front-gabled, asphalt-covered roof, supported by turned wood columns. To the outside of both porch columns are metal drain sprouts. The door to the porch is wood, glazed, paneled with a metal storm door in front. To the west of the door, there is a wood NSU plaque with a metal light above this. The porch floor is concrete which attaches to the concrete sidewalk that extends around the front of the house. In the off-set section of the house, there is a single window on both floors. The first floor window matches the other windows, being wood, vertical two-over-two, hung with decorative wood shutters. The second floor is narrower and matches the second floor window in this section of the house on the west elevation. The window is wood, one-over-one, hung. On the roof of this section, there is a small, metal vent.

ADDITIONS/ALTERATIONS

The rear additions to the house have been described above. The date of the additions are unknown as the house was never mapped for fire insurance purposes and no historic photographs of the house or documents describing the house were located. However the additions appear to be historic, possibly from the period of significance and do not effect the integrity of the house as they are confined to the rear, match the historic materials and are compatible in design and scale with the overall house.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 13

Rosamund
name of property
Cherokee County, Oklahoma
county and state

In the late 1980s, the house was rehabilitated by the local university. Alterations to the house which likely occurred as part of this rehabilitation include the placement of the decorative wood shutters on the majority of windows, the two decorative wood trusses on the main elevation gables, the stickwork ornamentation on the porch and replacement of the porch columns. Additionally, all of the stairs going up to the house are now concrete. Overall, these changes are in keeping with the Folk Victorian style of the house. Built in the late 1880s for an affluent Cherokee farmer, businessman and politician, the house likely featured ornamentation similar to the existing decorative detail. Notably, the house is being nominated for its historic association with an important person and not its architectural significance.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 14

Rosamund
name of property
Cherokee County, Oklahoma
county and state

SUMMARY

Rosamund is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion B for its association with Gideon Morgan during the time period of 1890-1900. During this period, Morgan was "...more responsible than any other man of his race for the convincing arguments that led the Cherokees to consent to the dissolution of their tribal government and the allotment of their lands in severalty."¹ An affluent landowner and businessman with familial ties to other prominent Morgans at the national level, Morgan visibly took up the cause of allotment in about 1890, believing that it would happen eventually anyway and that initiating the process would be better for the Cherokees as individuals and as tribe. Morgan was also a strong advocate of statehood which was not politically feasible with tribally-held lands.

BACKGROUND

Gideon Morgan was born in Athens, Tennessee on April 3, 1851, the first son and second child of George Washington Morgan and Martha Keziah Mayo. George Washington Morgan was born on December 1, 1819 in Calhoun, Tennessee. George W. Morgan was the first son and second child of Gideon Morgan and Mary Margaret Sevier. In 1862, George Washington Morgan, an officer in General John Hunt Morgan's command, was killed in action at the battle of Lexington, Kentucky. Gideon Morgan's grandfather and namesake was Colonel Gideon Morgan, born in 1776 in Preston, New London, Connecticut. The elder Gideon Morgan married Mary Margaret Sevier, "...a granddaughter of General Sevier who was half Cherokee through his family connection with the Lowreys...", on October 27, 1813 in Saratoga Springs, New York. During the Creek War of 1812-1814, Colonel Morgan commanded the Cherokee forces under Andrew Jackson. By 1815, the family resided in Tennessee.²

Notably, Morgan's great-grandfather was also named Gideon Morgan. Born on June 15, 1751 in Springfield Massachusetts, this Gideon Morgan, also a Colonel, fought in the Revolutionary War. In 1809, Morgan moved to

¹F.S. Barde, "Gideon Morgan," (unpublished manuscript located in Box 19, Folder 8 of the Frederick Samuel Barde Collection, 1890-1916, Research Library, Oklahoma Historical Society, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, n.d.), 1.

²H.F. and E.S. O'Beirne, The Indian Territory: Its Chiefs, Legislators and Leading Men, (Saint, Louis: C.B. Woodward Company, 1892), 427. See also "Gideon Morgan," Ancestry Library, <http://trees.ancestrylibrary.com/owt/persons.aspx?pid=2208294&st=1> and <http://trees.ancestrylibrary.com/owt/person.aspx?pid=25075923>, both retrieved 31 January 2006; and, John P. Brown, "Eastern Cherokee Chiefs," The Chronicles of Oklahoma, 16:1 (March 1938), 30.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 15

Rosamund
name of property
Cherokee County, Oklahoma
county and state

Roane County, Tennessee to establish a trading post on the Tennessee-Cherokee frontier. Morgan's house, located in Kingston, Roane County, Tennessee, is also listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Setting an important family tradition, this Gideon Morgan "Throughout his life,...was involved in U.S.-Cherokee relations...". Among Colonel Morgan's famed descendants was his grandson John Tyler Morgan, son of George Washington Morgan and Frances Irby, who rose to the rank of Brigadier General in the Confederate Army during the Civil War and served as United States Senator from Alabama from 1877 until his death in 1907.³

Gideon Morgan, subject of this nomination, lived in Monroe County, Tennessee until about 1871 when he moved to Fort Gibson, Indian Territory, with his younger brothers and sisters. Three years later at the age of twenty-three, Morgan married Mary Llewellyn Payne, a 1/16th Cherokee. To this union, eight children were eventually born: Houston Mayo, born in 1875; Mary Llewellyn in 1877; Martha Lelia in 1879; Margaret Elizabeth in 1882; Amanda Payne in 1885; Sallie Mayo in 1888; Gideon Morgan, Jr. in 1890; and, Ellen Payne Morris in 1896. The Morgan's lost only one child as an infant, Gideon Morgan Jr., who passed away in 1891 at about one year of age.⁴

The Morgans lived in Tahlequah for the first time in the early 1880s. By December of 1881, Mary Llewellyn Morgan was received into the First Presbyterian Church of Tahlequah, which formed only in September of that year. Gideon Morgan was accepted into the church in mid-1882 and elected to the Eldership the following year. However, Morgan moved away before he was ordained. The Morgans returned to Tahlequah in 1887 and were reinstated into the church by July 19, 1887.⁵

³"Roane County, Tennessee, the Gideon Morgan House," The Roane Alliance, http://www.roanealliance.org/visitors_bureau/virt/virt3.html, retrieved 25 January 2006. See also "Ancestry of Tennessee Williams: Sixth Generation," Genealogy.com, <http://www.genealogy.com/famousfolks/tenneeseew/d0/i0000032.htm>, retrieved 9 February 2006 and "MS2386: The Gideon Morgan Letter to John C. Calhoun, 1820," The University of Tennessee: University Libraries, <http://www.lib.utk.edu/spcoll/manuscripts/ms2386fa.html>, retrieved 10 February 2006.

⁴O'Beirne, The Indian Territory, 428. See also "Descendants of U-lu-tse," Family Tree Maker's Genealogy Site: User Home Page Book: Cherokee Lineages: Register, <http://www.genealogy.com/users/h/i/c/James-R-Hicks-VA/BOOK-0001/0031-0090.html>, retrieved 26 January 2006.

⁵O'Beirne, The Indian Territory, 427. See also The Reverend Eldon L. Seamans, Seventy-Five Years A Colony of Heaven: A Short History of the First Presbyterian Church, Tahlequah,

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 16

Rosamund
name of property
Cherokee County, Oklahoma
county and state

By the early 1890s, Morgan owned 70 acres of land near Fort Smith, 100 plus acres twelve miles from Tahlequah and the Capital Hotel and Baptist Mission House in Tahlequah. This was in addition to the four acres of land Rosamund was situated on. The Fort Smith holdings were particularly significant for the Morgan family as Morgan sold one acre for the princely sum of \$370. These land holdings, along with Morgan's family connections, allowed Morgan to occupy an esteemed position in the Cherokee Nation. In December 1888, the local Tahlequah newspaper described Morgan as "...physically...a little man but when it comes to hard grit and business he is a sure-enough man. We admire such men."⁶

Shortly after returning to Tahlequah, Morgan served as secretary of the building committee constructing a new building, aptly named Seminary Hall (NR 1973), for the Cherokee National Female Seminary. The original female seminary, located in nearby Park Hill and opened in the early 1850s, burned in the late 1880s, allowing movement of the school to the more populated community of Tahlequah. Morgan was instrumental in construction of the \$63,000 building which became the Northeastern State Teachers College in 1909. Morgan received little public attention for his role but his persuasiveness and foresight resulted in lasting changes. In 1887, the survey of the proposed building site threatened a walnut tree planted by Morgan. Reluctant to see the tree demolished, Morgan "...persuaded the surveyors to make another survey twenty feet north." The tree remained a campus attraction through the 1920s.⁷ Morgan was also active in other local political endeavors, serving as postmaster in 1895 and possibly on the local school board as well. The papers donated by the family to the Northeastern State University Archives contain numerous receipts for public school-related expenditures. Apparently in recognition of Morgan's contributions to Tahlequah, a road in the community was named Gideon Morgan Road on September 25, 1893.

HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE

Until after the turn-of-the-twentieth-century, the Cherokee Nation held their lands communally. This was a common practice and belief among all native tribes of North America. The change to private land ownership began in Indian Territory in the late 1880s as the federal government was increasingly pressured to open the area to non-Native American settlement. The process took decades and was extremely complicated as it is overlapped with a multitude of other political, social and economic issues of the time. While settlement needs figured prominently in conversion of title to the land, the issue of statehood also played a significant role. The bottom line for achievement of statehood for

Oklahoma, (n.p., 1955), 4-5.

⁶Ibid., 427. See also The Cherokee Advocate, (Tahlequah, Oklahoma), 13 December 1888.

⁷The Daily Oklahoman, (Oklahoma City, Oklahoma), 2 August 1925.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 17

Rosamund
name of property
Cherokee County, Oklahoma
county and state

either Oklahoma and/or Indian territories was division of the land into private ownership.

Allotment became part of the federal government's "Indian Policy" in 1887 with passage of the Dawes Severalty Act. Sponsored by Massachusetts Senator Henry M. Dawes, the act allowed the government to divide the lands of any tribe so that each household head received 160 acres and other family members lesser amounts. The land was to be held in trust for twenty-five years, after which the Native American owner would gain legal title and United States citizenship. Although allotment was suppose to benefit the Native Americans, it also heightened corrupt practices which resulted in dramatic loss of land and no monetary benefits for the tribe members.⁸

While allotment was strongly resisted by the Cherokee National Government, as with the other tribal governments of the Five Civilized Tribes, there were members of the tribe who advocated the change. In the early 1890s, Morgan was known as a vocal progressionist who "...believes in allotment." Further, Morgan "...was convinced that United States citizenship was the only salvation for the Cherokees." Notably, it was in 1890 that a federal law permitted members of the Five Civilized Tribes to apply for citizenship at the federal court in Muskogee. Although Morgan had previously expressed little interest in politics, by 1892, it was predicted that "He can, however, and probably will, in the future, take an active part in the all-absorbing question of allotment, in which he appears greatly interested."⁹

The issue of allotment for the Cherokee Nation became more pressing around that time with the appointment of a three man commission authorized by the Springer Amendment of the 1889 Indian Appropriation Bill. In addition to creating the commission, the Springer Amendment allowed the opening of the Unassigned Lands in what is now central Oklahoma to non-Native American settlement. President Harrison appointed David H. Jerome as the chairman of the commission and Warren G. Sayre and Alfred M. Wilson as its other members. The purpose of the commission was to secure agreements with the tribal governments to allow allotment of the reservation lands occupied by the various Native American tribes in what is now western Oklahoma. Notably, the commission was not authorized to negotiate allotment of tribal lands in Indian Territory, or what is now eastern Oklahoma. In general, the commission and tribal governments reached agreements in which each man, woman and child listed on the tribal roll was to receive an 160-acre allotment. Any tribal land remaining after allotment was declared surplus. The surplus land was then available for purchase by the federal government for homesteading purposes. The commission became known as both the Jerome Commission, for its chairman, and as the Cherokee Commission due to the significance of the Cherokee-owned strip of

⁸George Brown Tindall, America: A Narrative History, 2nd edition (New York, New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 1988), 766-767.

⁹Ibid., 427-428. See also Arrell Morgan Gibson, Oklahoma: A History of Five Centuries, 2nd edition, (Norman, Oklahoma: University of Oklahoma Press, 1991), 176-180.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 18

Rosamund
name of property
Cherokee County, Oklahoma
county and state

land in what is now northern Oklahoma.

The Cherokee Strip was part of the original settlement of land given to the Cherokee Nation by the federal government in the late 1820s. The Strip, a vast section of prairie land, extended across what is now northern Oklahoma, excluding the panhandle. The Cherokees originally used the land, commonly termed the Cherokee Strip or Cherokee Outlet, as hunting grounds. Following the Civil War, as part of the Reconstruction Treaty of 1866, the Cherokee Nation conveyed the eastern one-third of the Strip to the federal government for the purposes of relocating various other Native American tribes. The Cherokee tribe retained control of nearly six million acres of prime grassland to the west. Beginning in the 1870s, these grasslands became popular with cattlemen. The Cherokee tribe quickly began collecting grazing fees, allowing the Strip to become a major economic support for the Cherokee government. In 1883, a group of cattlemen established the Cherokee Strip Live Stock Association to gain exclusive grazing rights in the Cherokee Strip. Signing a five year lease, the Cherokee tribe was paid \$100,000 per year. Renegotiation of the lease in 1888 upped the Cherokee's fees to \$200,000.¹⁰

Importantly, many Cherokees, like Morgan, believed the leasing of the Cherokee Strip to the Cherokee Strip Live Stock Association laid the foundation for white encroachment and corruption of the Cherokee Nation. Subleasing the land for as much as a million dollars a year, the cattlemen also maintained "...an almost invincible lobby in Washington...". In addition to protecting their grazing rights, Morgan believed this lobby was one of "...the most formidable opponents to the opening of Oklahoma Territory..." as settlement by farmers and townspeople would doom the open range grazing enjoyed by the cattlemen.¹¹

In 1893, Morgan became "...convinced that the Cherokee National Council would never consent to allotment, because of the overpowering influence of the cattlemen." Morgan then went to Washington, D.C. to make an appeal to Congress. While he was in Washington, Senator George Vest of Missouri proposed a rider to the 1893 Indian Appropriation Bill creating yet another presidentially-appointed commission. This commission was authorized to negotiate with the Five Civilized Tribes for allotment of their tribal lands in what is now eastern Oklahoma. According to The Daily Oklahoman in 1903,

"It was this gentleman (Gideon Morgan) who first laid the foundation of the (F)ive (C)ivilized tribes—the Dawes Indian commission. Being a second cousin to United States Senator Morgan, of Alabama, and his wife a close relative of Senator Butler, the suggestion of a commission such as was eventually

¹⁰Gibson, Oklahoma, 169-170.

¹¹Barde, "Gideon Morgan," 2.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 19

Rosamund
name of property
Cherokee County, Oklahoma
county and state

established was made and it may be truthfully said that to Senator and Mrs. Gideon Morgan, of the Cherokee nation, the Dawes commission owes its existence.”¹²

While the Dawes Commission was in the process of being created and only after “...many difficult session at Tahlequah...,” an agreement was reached between the Jerome Commission and the Cherokee Nation concerning the Cherokee Strip. In exchange for \$8,595,736, the tribe gave ownership of the Cherokee Strip to the federal government. Two other tribes living in the Strip, the Tonkawas and Pawnees, also reached agreements with the Jerome Commission allowing allotment of their lands. The surplus lands of the Tonkawas and Pawnees were then included in the Cherokee Strip land run of September 16, 1893. Notably, the agreement with the Cherokees did not include any allotment provisions of their land in the Cherokee Strip. It was strictly a land-for-cash exchange.¹³

Named after its senior member, retired Senator and sponsor of the 1887 Dawes Severalty Act, Henry L. Dawes of Massachusetts, the Dawes Commission set to work in February 1894. The Dawes Commission was generally opposed by the tribal governments of the Five Civilized tribes. However, many prominent tribal members campaigned for acceptance of allotment. Along with Dennis W. Bushyhead, Morgan “...stumped the northwest portion of the Cherokee Country,” while George Bengé “...campaigned for allotment among the fullbloods in the northeastern portion of the Nation.” Despite their efforts, the Dawes Commission remained unsuccessful in negotiating treaties with the tribes. As such, in 1896, Congress authorized the commission to survey the lands and enroll tribal members without tribal agreement. Although the Choctaw and Chickasaw tribes reached an agreement in 1897 allowing for allotment, Congress further depleted tribal government authority in 1898 with passage of the Curtis Act. Among other actions, the Curtis Act abolished tribal courts, bringing all persons in Indian Territory under authority of federal law. In 1901, the Cherokee tribe finally came to terms with the Dawes Commission, accepting allotment of their lands. The actual process of allotment continued through 1907, despite the termination of the Dawes Commission in mid-1905.¹⁴

As part of his pro-allotment activities, Morgan authored many articles in area newspapers. In February 1890, the Cherokee Telephone of Tahlequah noted “Honorable Gideon Morgan ventilated his views in a manly way in the (Indian) Arrow last week...”. The Indian Arrow was also published in Tahlequah but the referenced article was not microfilmed as part of the Oklahoma Historical Society’s newspaper collection. More significantly, Morgan’s January

¹²Barde, “Gideon Morgan,” 3. See also Gibson, Oklahoma, 194-195 and The Daily Oklahoman, 9 January 1903.

¹³Gibson, Oklahoma, 180.

¹⁴Gibson, Oklahoma, 193-194.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 20

Rosamund
name of property
Cherokee County, Oklahoma
county and state

19, 1893, article in the Indian Chieftain, entitled "Changes are Needed," merited recognition of Morgan in A Biobibliography of Native American Writers, 1772-1924, published in 1981.¹⁵

In the article, marked Washington, January 10, 1893, Morgan encourages acceptance of allotment on the basis that it was going to happen anyway and the Cherokees would derive greater benefits in initiating the process, rather than waiting for it to be imposed upon them. Additionally, Morgan advocated "By concerted action now we can avoid a territorial government and become one of the richest states of the Union – lands all our own, schools and public buildings already erected and paid for – and if we sell a piece of land it is our own; we shall look out for it individually and certainly will get the money for it." Morgan further notes that "We have invited into our country white citizens of the United States to work for us under permit, and today they out number us about five to one." Morgan expressed concern about the lack of educational opportunity for children of the permitted workers who, therefore, were "...growing up in ignorance and at the same time inter-marrying with our sons and daughters." That Morgan did not have great faith in the Cherokee government was apparent in several places. Early in the article, Morgan states "Our council and executive officers have had very little to do with and for our wishes or love for the people." The zeal Morgan brought to the issue is apparent in his concluding remarks:

Out of over fourteen million acres of land deeded to us, at one sale we parted conditionally with over one-half of it; 6,022,000 acres of it we are begging the United States to pay us for. Where is our home tract of seven million acres? Only five million of it left and that to be divided amongst Delawares, Shawnees, Creeks and Negroes. Who did all of this? Well, it is done and now let us profit by the past, assert our manhood, allot all of our lands and moneys and become a state; no more buying our representatives on the floor of congress; every citizen provided for, peace and happiness in our home. Happy will be our people with such a state.¹⁶

After the turn-of-the-century, Morgan moved from Rosamund and Tahlequah to Bartlesville. He continued to be active in politics, being elected Senator from the Tahlequah District in 1901, along with George Bengé. In 1903, Morgan was named the permanent chairman of the Indian Territory delegates at the single statehood convention, held in Oklahoma City. Following statehood in 1907, Morgan moved to his allotment on the Grand River in Mayes County.

¹⁵The Cherokee Telephone, 5 February 1890. See also Daniel F. Littlefield, Jr. and James W. Parins, A Biobibliography of Native American Writers, 1772-1924, (Metuchen, New Jersey: The Scarecrow Press, Inc., 1981), 108.

¹⁶The Indian Chieftain, (Vinita, Oklahoma), 19 January 1893.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 21

Rosamund
name of property
Cherokee County, Oklahoma
county and state

active in politics, being elected Senator from the Tahlequah District in 1901, along with George Bengé. In 1903, Morgan was named the permanent chairman of the Indian Territory delegates at the single statehood convention, held in Oklahoma City. Following statehood in 1907, Morgan moved to his allotment on the Grand River in Mayes County. In 1912 and again in 1918, Morgan was elected to the state legislator, representing Mayes County.¹⁷

Morgan passed away on March 22, 1937 at the family home, known as Morgan's Inn, on Grand River. In addition to various highlights, Morgan was noted as being "...instrumental in helping get several bills through congress for the Cherokees...".¹⁸ While Morgan continued his political activities after leaving Rosamund and Tahlequah, it was during those years he lived at Rosamund that Morgan rose to prominence in Cherokee politics, particularly concerning allotment issues. *The house remains the only standing resource specifically identified in Tahlequah for its association with Morgan. The Female Seminary building is also frequently mentioned in connection with Morgan but the association is not as direct, nor does it have connection to his allotment activities.*



Gideon Morgan

NSU Archives

¹⁷Emmet Starr, History of the Cherokee Indians and Their Legends and Folk Lore, (Oklahoma City, Oklahoma: The Warden Company, 1921), 636-637. See also Jack Gregory and Rennard Strickland, editors, Starr's History of the Cherokee Indians, (Fayetteville, Arkansas: Indian Heritage Association, 1967), 269; The Daily Oklahoman, 9 January 1903; and, The Tulsa (Oklahoma) Tribune, 21 September 1959.

¹⁸The Pryor (Oklahoma) Jeffersonian, 25 March 1937.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 9 Page 22

Rosamund
name of property
Cherokee County, Oklahoma
county and state

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- “Ancestry of Tennessee Williams: Sixth Generation.” Genealogy.com.
<http://www.genealogy.com/famousfolks/tenneseew/d0/i0000032.htm>. Retrieved 9 February 2006
- Barde, F.S. “Gideon Morgan.” Unpublished manuscript located in Box 19, Folder 8 of the Frederick Samuel Barde Collection, 1890-1916, Research Library, Oklahoma Historical Society, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, n.d.
- Brown, John P. “Eastern Cherokee Chiefs.” The Chronicles of Oklahoma, 16:1 (March 1938), 3-35.
- The Cherokee Telephone. Tahlequah, Oklahoma. 13 December 1888 and 5 February 1890.
- The Daily Oklahoman. Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. 9 January 1903 and 2 August 1925.
- “Descendants of U-lu-tse.” Family Tree Maker’s Genealogy Site: User Home Page Book: Cherokee Lineages: Register. <http://www.genealogy.com/users/h/i/c/James-R-Hicks-VA/BOOK-0001/0031-0090.html>. Retrieved 26 January 2006.
- Gibson, Arrell Morgan. Oklahoma: A History of Five Centuries. 2nd ed. Norman, Oklahoma: University of Oklahoma Press, 1991.
- “Gideon Morgan.” Ancestry Library. <http://trees.ancestrylibrary.com/owt/persons.aspx?pid=2208294&st=1> and <http://trees.ancestrylibrary.com/owt/person.aspx?pid=25075923>. Both retrieved 31 January 2006.
- Gregory, Jack and Rennard Strickland, editors. Starr’s History of the Cherokee Indians. Fayetteville, Arkansas: Indian Heritage Association, 1967.
- The Indian Chieftain. Vinita, Oklahoma. 19 January 1893.
- Littlefield, Daniel F. and James W. Parins. A Biobibliography of Native American Writers, 1772-1924. Metuchen, New Jersey: The Scarecrow Press, Inc., 1981.
- “MS2386: The Gideon Morgan Letter to John C. Calhoun, 1820.” The University of Tennessee: University Libraries. <http://www.lib.utk.edu/spcoll/manuscripts/ms2386fa.html>. Retrieved 10 February 2006.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 9 Page 23

Rosamund
name of property
Cherokee County, Oklahoma
county and state

O'Beirne, H.F. and E.S. The Indian Territory: Its Chiefs, Legislators and Leading Men. Saint Louis: C.B. Woodward Company, 1892.

The Pryor (Oklahoma) Jeffersonian. 25 March 1937.

"Roane County, Tennessee, the Gideon Morgan House." The Roane Alliance.
http://www.roanealliance.org/visitors_bureau/virt/virt3.html. Retrieved 25 January 2006.

Seamans, The Reverend Eldon L. Seventy-Five Years A Colony of Heaven: A Short History of the First Presbyterian Church, Tahlequah, Oklahoma. n.p., 1955.

Starr, Emmett. History of the Cherokee Indians and Their Legends and Folk Lore. Oklahoma City, Oklahoma: The Warden Company, 1921.

Tindall, George Brown. America: A Narrative History. Second Edition. 2 volumes. New York, New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 1988.

The Tulsa (Oklahoma) Tribune. 21 September 1959.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 10 Page 24

Rosamund
name of property
Cherokee County, Oklahoma
county and state

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Lots 5, part of 6, 8 through 10, Block 22, Tahlequah Lots, Tahlequah, Cherokee County, Oklahoma.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundaries include the remaining property historically associated with the house.