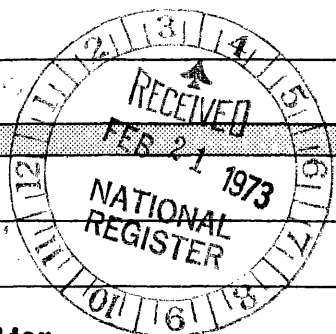


NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: <b>Oklahoma</b>	
COUNTY: <b>Canadian</b>	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
<b>106</b>	<b>1 4 1973</b>



1. NAME

COMMON:  
**Darlington - State Game Farm**

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
**Darlington - Darlington Agency**

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**NW/4 Sec. 25, T.13 N., R.8 W**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**El Reno (c. 6 miles NW)**

STATE: **Oklahoma** CODE: **40** COUNTY: **Canadian** CODE: **017**

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input type="checkbox"/> Building <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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Religious <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Comments <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <b>State Game Farm &amp; Hatchery</b>

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:  
**State of Oklahoma**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**State Capitol**

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

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
**Dep't of Wildlife Conservation, Game Division**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**1801 Lincoln Boulevard**

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

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
**Theodore H. Barrett**

DATE OF SURVEY: **1872**  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:	<b>Oklahoma</b>
COUNTY:	<b>Canadian</b>
ENTRY NUMBER	<b>106</b>
DATE	<b>1 4 1973</b>

FOR NPS USE ONLY

## 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input 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

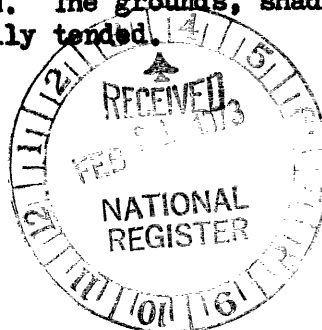
In the official report covering his December 1876 inspection, S. A. Galpin, chief clerk of the Office of Indian Affairs, described Darlington as follows:

The agency buildings are well arranged upon two streets or roads, one running east and west parallel to the river, the other crossing it. They are all, though plainly and cheaply constructed, in good condition. The commissary buildings are two in number, each one hundred feet by thirty, and parallel to each other. The mill is at the west end of the other building . . .

He commented especially on the school, being run for the second year by John H. Seger, "the largest, and in many respects the best, Indian school I have found." It then accommodated "one hundred and fifteen scholars" and was in excellent condition, with "a large school room, the furniture of which is as yet without a scratch made wantonly . . ." Darlington boasted the first hotel in what is now western Oklahoma, other related businesses and services. It remained a bustling settlement until by-passed by the Rock Island railroad in 1889. After removal of the Arapaho agency in 1909, the buildings were sold to the State of Oklahoma. The Masonic Order operated the Darlington facility from 1910 to 1922 as a home for aged members and a boarding school for Masonic orphans. The two most impressive buildings on the grounds today date from this period: the faintly Moorish-appearing chapel of white stucco, erected by the Order of Eastern Star in 1913, and a massive 3-story boys' dormitory, of concrete, built about 1915.

Oldest buildings of any consequence on the site are two modest residences dating from the 1870s.\* Their white painted clapboards cover thick adobe walls of the original structures. Several of the barns and sheds now used by the Game Division of the Department of Wildlife Conservation date from the 1880s. The north-south road is no longer open to the river on the south. The bridge that replaces the North Canadian ford to carry the trail south to Fort Reno has long since disappeared. But the cut of the road as it drops off the bank at the south edge of the settlement is still clearly visible. The game farm uses the various old buildings, has added a low utilitarian office building/bird hatchery of its own. The grounds, shaded by fine old elms and cottonwoods, are carefully tended.

\* It should perhaps be noted here specifically that these two old houses alone possess any historical value so far as Darlington Agency is concerned.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**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) **1870 to the 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"/> Urban Planning  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric               | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation      | _____                                    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |   | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation              |   |   | _____                                    |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

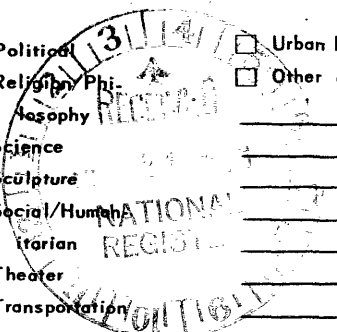
Darlington began, strictly speaking, as the Cheyenne and Arapaho Agency, this in 1869 at Fort Supply. The location proved awkward, as the bulk of the some 3,500 Cheyennes and Arapahos for whom the 4,300,000-acre reserve had been established lived farther to the south. The move to present Darlington was made the following year.

The new location for the agency was the north bank of the North Canadian River about six miles northwest of present El Reno. It was selected by Brinton Darlington, one of the first Quaker Indian agents appointed by President Grant. Darlington remained as agent until his death in 1872. Though his service was relatively brief, he won the Indians' respect and admiration to a remarkable degree and the agency's name was subsequently changed to honor him. Another Quaker, John D. Miles, succeeded Darlington and remained until 1884, continuing his enlightened program of sympathy and understanding - of working simultaneously to maintain peace and encourage the Indian to adjust himself to the white man's agricultural economy.

Darlington's role in the uprising of the Southern Plains Indians in 1874 was one of uneasiness and anxiety, rather than actual physical danger. The Arapahos remained peaceful and even the more militant Cheyennes, before going on the warpath, came in to assure Agent John D. Miles they would create no trouble near the agency! Miles was understandably uneasy, however, and a company of soldiers was dispatched from Fort Sill to keep an eye on things. It got involved with some restless Indians around the Wichita agency, much closer to home, and never quite made it to Darlington, but some other soldiers from Fort Leavenworth did come down from Kansas to assure Darlington's safety. Principal result of the uprising, so far as the agency is concerned, is that General Sheridan authorized establishment of Fort Reno, on reservation land across the Canadian to the south. This was done on July 17, 1874. However, the new post was not occupied until late in the summer of 1875. By this time, of course, the Indian uprising had ended.

Darlington agency, meanwhile was developing into an important little settlement and a regular stop on the Chisholm (cattle) Trail and various stage and freighter trails that tied Indian Territory together. Darlington acquired a post office in 1873. Indian education

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Krehbiel, H. P., The History of the General Conference of the Mennonites of North America (Privately Printed, 1898), pp. 282-315  
 Peery, Don W., "The Indians Friend, John H. Seger," The Chronicles of Oklahoma, Vol. X, pp. 569-591  
 ----- "John H. Seger," The Chronicles of Oklahoma, Vol. X pp. 363-365  
 Ruth, Kent, Great Day in the West, (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1963), pp. 204-205

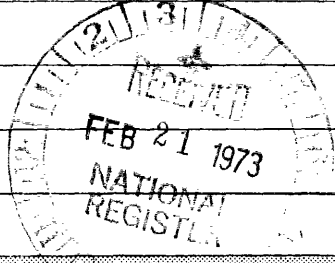
**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

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
NW	° ' "	° ' "		35°	34'	31"
NE	° ' "	° ' "		98°	0'	32"
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **c. 3 acres**

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



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE: **Kent Ruth**

ORGANIZATION: **Oklahoma Historical Society** DATE: **February 1973**

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: *Don W. Peery*

Title: *SHO for OKC* DATE: *FEB 15 1973*

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Date: *8/14/73*

ATTEST:

*Wm. H. Sturtevant*  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: *7 30 73*

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE <b>Oklahoma</b>	
COUNTY <b>Canadian</b>	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE <b>AUG 14 1973</b>

(Number all entries)

No. 8. Significance - 2

Darlington - State Game Farm

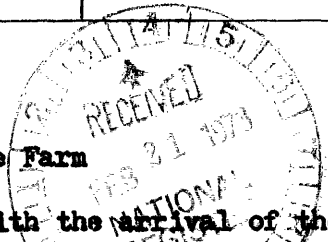
received a notable boost the year before with the arrival of the sympathetic easterner, John H. Seger. (He later became the first white man ever to be entrusted with many of the traditions of the Cheyennes.) Seger was in charge of the Indian school at Darlington for five years before moving westward to establish his own school at Seger Colony.

Important mission work was also carried on at Darlington. The Quakers began to work with both tribes in 1878. In 1880 they turned over work among the Arapahos to the Mennonites, who operated an Indian school a mile to the east of the agency until 1896. By the 1880s mail and stage service extended north from Darlington to Caldwell, Kansas, south to Fort Sill, west to Fort Elliot in Texas. The Cheyenne Transporter appeared in 1880, the first newspaper in the western half of Oklahoma.

Darlington's most dramatic single event began in the summer of 1887 with the arrival of 937 Northern Cheyennes, rounded up in Montana after the Battle of the Little Big Horn. Homesick, hungry, and ill, they broke away the following year. Under the brilliant leadership of Dull Knife and Little Wolf, and with perhaps only 70 or so fighting men, they largely managed to elude government troops sent to recapture them, eventually reached their old hunting grounds in the Northern Plains.

The desire of the Cheyennes for a school of their own resulted in establishment of Concho at Caddo Springs (a few miles to the north) in 1897. The Cheyenne agency followed and separate agencies were maintained until 1909. In that year the agencies were re-united, this time at Concho. And Darlington, after nearly 40 years of generally enlightened service to the two tribes, was abandoned. That its influence was not forgotten, however, is indicated by the attempt in 1937 to change the name of the Cheyenne and Arapaho school and agency at Concho to "Darlington School and Agency." A petition to that effect to the Congress (subsequently rejected) put it this way: ". . . we take this means of requesting and urging the passage or adoption of a joint resolution for the restoration of the name of Darlington . . . to the end that our children's children may keep alive and green the memory of a faithful friend of our fathers and mothers."

In 1910 the Masons of Oklahoma purchased for \$78,000 the entire 22-building Darlington facility, converted it into a boarding school for homeless children and a place of retirement for elderly Masons. Notable among many improvements made in the property during this era was erection in 1913, by the Order of Eastern Star, of Darlington chapel.



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Oklahoma	
COUNTY	
Canadian	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	AUG 14 1973

(Number all entries)

No. 8. Significance - 3

Darlington - State Game Farm

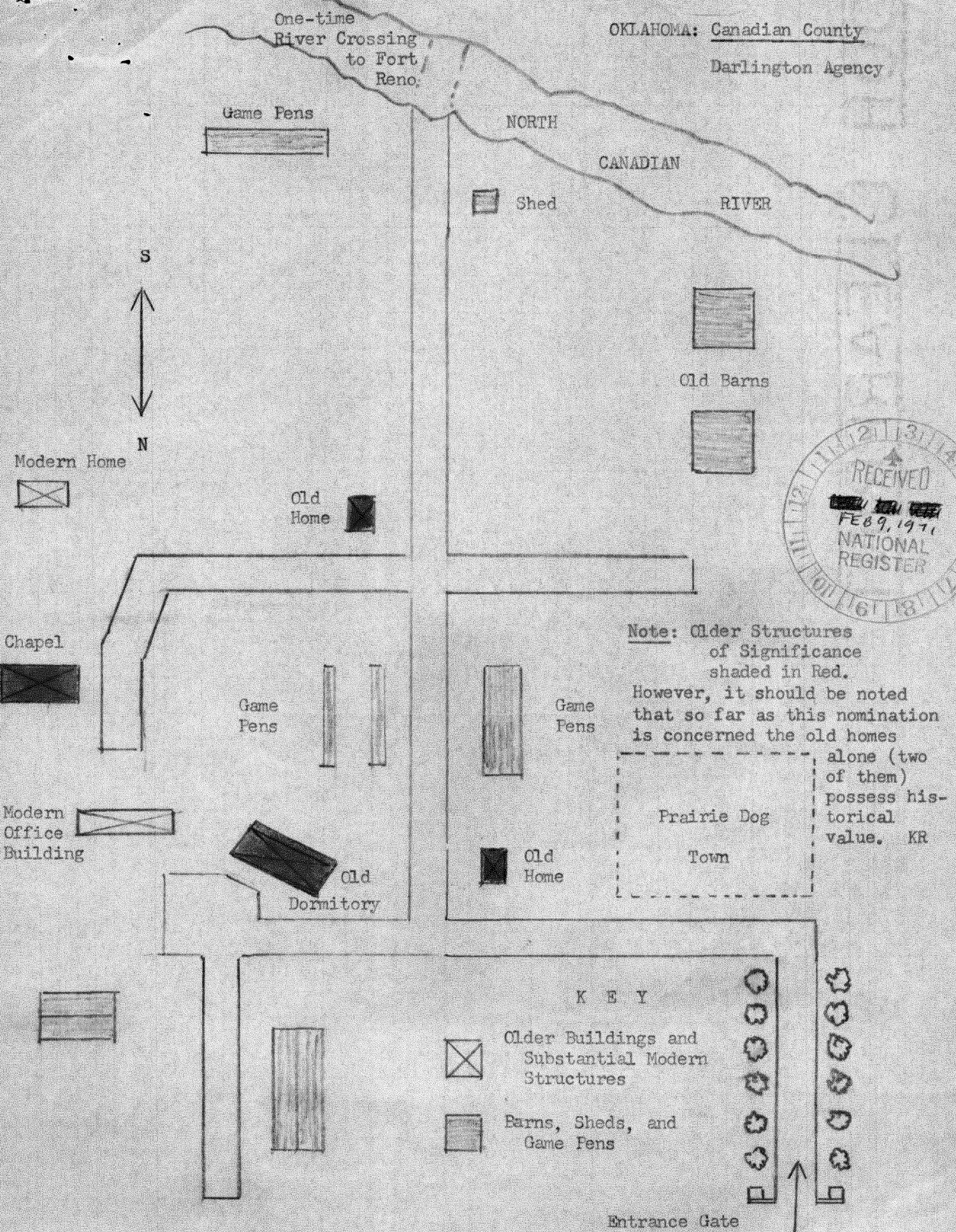
The Masons moved to Guthrie in 1922 and the State of Oklahoma took over the property the following year, using it as a rehabilitation center for drug addicts. But this facility, surrounded by controversy from the beginning, was closed in 1925 and for the next half-dozen years the property remained virtually unused. Then in 1932 Darlington was taken over by the Oklahoma Game and Fish Commission, now the Department of Wildlife Conservation. It has remained since that time the state's principal game bird hatchery and research station.





One-time  
River Crossing  
to Fort  
Reno.

OKLAHOMA: Canadian County  
Darlington Agency



S  
↑  
↓  
N

Game Pens

NORTH

CANADIAN RIVER

Shed

Old Barns

Modern Home

Old Home

RECEIVED  
FEB 9, 1971  
NATIONAL REGISTER

Chapel

Game Pens

Game Pens

Note: Older Structures of Significance shaded in Red.

However, it should be noted that so far as this nomination is concerned the old homes alone (two of them) possess historical value. KR

Modern Office Building

Prairie Dog Town

Old Dormitory

Old Home

K E Y

Older Buildings and Substantial Modern Structures

Barns, Sheds, and Game Pens

Entrance Gate