

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Kerrington, Beth Historic Homes of Tahlequah, OK, Tahlequah; East Central Baptist Press, n.d.

History of Tahlequah, Tahlequah Chamber of Commerce, n.d.

West, C.W., Tahlequah and the Cherokee Nation, 1841-1941, Muskogee; Muskogee Pub. Co. 78

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name Tahlequah

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A 

1	5	3	2	1	9	6	0	3	9	7	5	8	4	1	0
Zone				Easting				Northing							

B 

Zone				Easting				Northing							

C 

Zone				Easting				Northing							

D 

Zone				Easting				Northing							

E 

Zone				Easting				Northing							

F 

Zone				Easting				Northing							

G 

Zone				Easting				Northing							

H 

Zone				Easting				Northing							

Verbal boundary description and justification

Lot 4, Less east sixty feet thereof (running along College Street) and all of lot three, block 87, City of Tahlequah

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county code

state code county code

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title John R. Hill, Architectural Historian

organization Oklahoma Historical Society

date April 6, 1984

street & number Wiley Post Hist. Building

telephone (405)521-2491

city or town Oklahoma City

state OK 73152

## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

*C. E. [Signature]*

1-15-85

title

date

For NPS use only

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

*Beth Anderson*  
Keeper of the National Register

date

3/18/85

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

## 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

**Specific dates** 1889 & 1910-1917 **Builder/Architect** Johnson Thompson, Builder

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The French-Parks House is significant because (1) it is one of the best examples of Victorian influence in the design of a residential structure in Tahlequah and (2) because of its historical association with J.T. Parks.

Completed in 1889, Johnson Thompson built the French-Parks House in a design influenced by the Victorian style with some characteristics of the Federal through its brick and symmetry, and instances of the Carpenter Gothic (1870-1910). Features of this large brick house are a high-pitched roof, marble quoins, four five-window bays, and five fireplaces. The extensive use of redwood on verandas, windows, and bays was a rare or non-existent practice in Tahlequah in the 1880s. The interior retains all of the historic fabric, such as wood doors, floors, wainscoting, and beautiful stairways. Thompson was influential in the building of such important structures as the second Cherokee Female Seminary, a structure which remains as the center of the Northeastern State University campus. The French-Parks House was a wedding gift for his daughter Janana (Thompson) French. She and her husband, Robt. French, occupied the house until 1910.

In 1910 J.T. Parks (nephew of Johnson Thompson) purchased the house from the French family. Parks, a Cherokee, is historically significant to Cherokee County as the first elected county judge. He assumed the position in 1908 and served until 1913. He tried and disposed of 249 civil cases, 1,319 criminal cases, and 1,749 probate cases. As Cherokee County was a part of the Old Cherokee Nation, much of the land was owned by Indians and land title disputes were numerous. Therefore, much of his time was spent in hearing such cases, a very significant aspect of early state history in eastern Oklahoma. After holding the county judicial post, he continued a distinguished career as district judge. J.T. Parks and his family remained in the French-Parks House until just prior to the beginning of World War II.

# 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The French-Parks House is an "L" shaped, modified Gothic, brick structure set upon a thirty inch thick stone foundation. The house has two levels and basement with exterior upper walls sixteen inches thick. The house is some forty-five hundred square feet with five rooms in the ground level and four rooms in the upper floor. The basement features the original kitchen, dining room and a cooling room with a flagstone floor.

The interior of the house features some seventeen original oak doors and hardware, wainscoting of alternating oak and walnut panels and five and one-half inch oak flooring. Also there are five bay windows and five fireplaces in the house.

The exterior brick walls have marble quoins hewn by a Cherokee stone mason and took over a year to produce.

The structure has been renovated both interior and exterior with post-1910 additions being removed, interior finishes being restored to that same period.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

For NPS use only

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received FEB 1 1985  
date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

**1. Name**

historic FRENCH-PARKS HOUSE

and or common French House

**2. Location**

street & number 209 W. Keetoowah St.

N/A not for publication

city, town Tahlequah

N/A vicinity of

state Oklahoma

code 40

county Cherokee

code 021

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	N/A in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	N/A being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<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 type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name Jean Ritter-Murray

street & number 313 Bishop Ave.

city, town Pacific Grove

N/A vicinity of

state California 93950

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Cherokee County Courthouse

street & number 213 W. Delaware

city, town Tahlequah

state Oklahoma

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Oklahoma Comprehensive Survey

has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1983

federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Oklahoma Hist. Soc., Preservation Division Office

city, town Oklahoma City

state Oklahoma