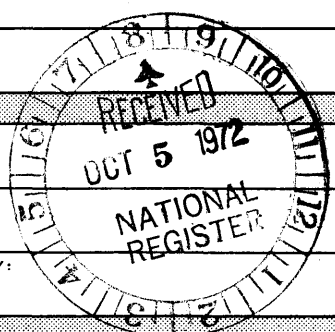


NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Oklahoma
COUNTY:	Kay
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	APR 11 1978



1. NAME

COMMON: Kaw Indian Agency

AND/OR HISTORIC: Washunga

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Washunga

STATE: Oklahoma CODE: 40 COUNTY: Kay CODE: 071

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" 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 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 type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____
Not used at present			

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Kaw Tribe

STREET AND NUMBER: c/o Tom Dennison Rt. 3

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

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

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

STREET AND NUMBER: Kay County Courthouse

CITY OR TOWN: Newkirk 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: Kay

ENTRY NUMBER: APR 11 1978

FOR NPS USE ONLY

DATE:

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)
 Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Ruins Unexposed

(Check One)
 Altered Unaltered

(Check One)
 Moved Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

galled

The last intact building at Kaw Agency is a sturdy affair approximately 44 x 24 x 44 feet in size, with 18-inch walls of native stone. On the west front three steps lead up to an entrance platform before the arched doorway, flanked on either side by a single window. The hipped roof is shingled and there is a tall brick chimney. The building was erected soon after the tribe arrived from Kansas in 1873.

In later years a frame addition was built on the back side (to the east) to serve as a kitchen for what had then become a community building. Though now abandoned, the structure is still in relatively good condition, though almost entirely hidden by overgrown trees and shrubs.



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) 1873 to 1928

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education | <input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | |
| <input 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

The Kansa Indian tribe is Siouan linguistically. ~~Kansas~~ -- or Kaws, as they are generally known as in Oklahoma -- have the same language as the Osages, with whom they were often allied in war. They have always been conservative by nature, generally resisting as long as possible any changes in their old tribal customs. In the middle of the 19th century they were living on a reservation on the Neosho River in Kansas, near Council Grove. It was from this area that increasing pressure from white settlers caused them to be moved to Indian Territory.

In 1873 the Kaws, few in number (something over 500) and relatively poor, arrived with their agent Mahlon Stubbs to settle on a new reservation purchased from the Osages. The 100,000-acre tract bordered the Arkansas River in the northwestern part of the Osage reservation. A new agency was promptly established at present Washunga, in Kay County. Solid stone buildings were soon erected to house the agency and the Kaw Boarding School, which served the tribe for many years.

In 1883 the Kaws formed a government patterned on that of the Osages. A National Council supervised the leasing of tribal lands to white ranchers and took care of other matters. Elected Chief Councilor in 1885 was the tribe's best known leader, Washungah (Wash-shun-gah). The Cherokee Strip was opened to settlement by run in 1893, but the conservative Kaws at this time resisted government urging that they sell their lands to the government and accept allotments. They continued to lease grazing rights to white ranchers until 1902. Then it was their fellow tribesman Charles Curtis (later to become vice president) who helped to assure them fair treatment from the government. Each enrolled allottee received 405 acres - 160 acres as homestead, 245 acres as surplus. By this time the tribe had decreased to only 247 allottees. (The former reservation became a part of Kay County in 1904.)

While the Kaws were winding up their affairs as an organized tribal entity, the Santa Fe Railway built a line through here, crossing the Arkansas near the agency. A site was platted for a town on the opposite side of the river. Kaw City was thus born in May 1902 and

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Finney, Frank F., "The Kaw Indians and Their Indian Territory Agency," The Chronicles of Oklahoma, Vol. 35 (1958), pp. 416-424
 Wright, Muriel H., A Guide to the Indian Tribes of Oklahoma, University of Oklahoma Press, 1951, pp. 160-164

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	°	'	"	°	'	"	36°	46'	36"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"	96°	50'	00"
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"			
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"			

NO UT
HL

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **c. one acre**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

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

ORGANIZATION: **Oklahoma Historical Society** DATE: **September 1972**

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: *[Signature]*

Title: SLO

Date: 3-8-72

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

[Signature]
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 4/11/73

ATTEST: *[Signature]*
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: 4.3.73

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Oklahoma	
COUNTY	
Kay	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	APR 11 1973

(Number all entries)

No. 8. Significance

Kaw Indian Agency

Kaw Agency became known as Washungah. (Curiously enough, just seventy years later, in 1972, 'old' Kaw City itself died, officially -- to make way for the backed-up waters of the giant Kaw Reservoir -- and a new, and higher, Kaw City was born two miles to the west.)

After Chief Washungah's death in 1908 tribal affairs continued to drift. The old agency was finally abolished in 1928 and the tribe's records were transferred to the nearby Pawnee agency. With the agency gone and the school long since closed, the once sturdy buildings began to deteriorate. Today the best preserved structure is a one-room community building that has served as a school, an occasional chapel for church services, and a tribal meeting room. Unused in recent years, its future status is in doubt today as the tribe debates how best to save it from the rising Kaw Reservoir waters.

One curious coincidence adds a measure of historic significance to Kaw Agency. Charles Curtis was one of the most prominent Indians in recent history. Orphaned as an infant, he was left in the care of his grandmother, Julie Pappan. He lived with her at Kaw Agency until she sent him to Topeka to get an education. However, as a mixed blood, Curtis was a ward of Agent Laban J. Miles. And when he ultimately became vice president, it was in the administration of Major Miles' nephew, President Herbert Hoover.

