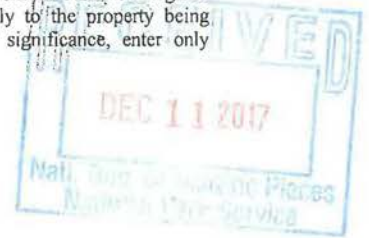


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.



1. Name of Property

Historic name: "Spirit of the American Doughboy" statue

Other names/site number: n/a

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

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

2. Location

Street & number: Jack C. Montgomery VA Medical Center, 1011 Honor Heights Drive

City or town: Muskogee State: Oklahoma County: Muskogee

Not For Publication: Vicinity:

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this x 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 x meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

 national x statewide local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

 x A B C D

<p style="font-size: 1.5em; font-family: cursive;">[Signature]</p> <p>Signature of certifying official/Title:</p> <p><u>Dept of Veterans Affairs</u></p> <p>State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</p>	<p style="font-size: 1.5em; font-family: cursive;">12/6/17</p> <p>Date</p>
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"Spirit of the American Doughboy" statue
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In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.

Bob Schlemmer 11/25, 2017

Signature of commenting official: Date

Title : State or Federal agency/bureau
or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:)

[Signature]
Signature of the Keeper

11/25/2018
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

“Spirit of the American Doughboy” statue
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Structure

Object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Recreation & Culture:

Work of Art

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Recreation & Culture:

Work of Art

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

N/A

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: bronze, granite

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

The “Spirit of the American Doughboy” statue at the Jack C. Montgomery Veterans Affairs Medical Center (VAMC) in Muskogee, Oklahoma (Muskogee VAMC), is located east of the hospital’s original primary care building. The statue is one of more than 100 “Spirit of the American Doughboy” statues that were produced by artist E.M. Viquesney following World War I. The sculpture is life-sized and stands atop a stone base. This particular statue was donated by members of the “Five Civilized Tribes” as a symbol of the honor given to members of their Tribes who served in the American Expeditionary Forces during World War I. The statue is in good condition and retains integrity of materials, workmanship, and design necessary for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

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Narrative Description

American sculptor E.M. Viquesney first patented the design of the “Spirit of the American Doughboy” in 1920. The statue depicts an American “doughboy” or member of the American Expeditionary Forces in World War I. The cast bronze statue measures approximately 77 x 25 x 57 inches (approximately 6'5" tall) atop a stone base. The Muskogee Veterans Hospital installed the donated statue in 1924 and dedicated the piece on September 5, 1925.¹

Viquesney’s doughboy strides through a scarred battlefield in full combat gear. Tree stumps wrapped in barbed wire project upward from the ground. In his left hand, the doughboy holds a rifle with bayonet down at his side, while his right hand extends skyward clutching a grenade. The figure is clothed in the bloused pants and wrapped leggings worn by American soldiers during World War I, and he wears a full utility belt, a flat helmet, and a gas mask pouch.

The statue at Muskogee is identical to all other Viquesney “Spirit of the American Doughboy” figures with the exception of a small copyright notation on the western (rear) face of the sculpture. This inscription reads “Copyright Walter Rylander 1920.” Walter Rylander owned the rights to Viquesney’s design from 1922 to 1926, during a time when the sculptor was experiencing financial difficulties. The Rylander mark is believed to be present on only four extant copies of the “Spirit of the American Doughboy” statues nationwide.²

The Muskogee “Spirit of the American Doughboy” rests on a base of five stones that were quarried from Stone Mountain near Atlanta, Georgia.³ The pale granite blocks descend in circumference building up from the ground. The Gifford Monument Works produced the base, which measures approximately 73 x 48 x 47 inches.⁴ A metal plaque affixed to the eastern (front) face of the base reads:

ERECTED IN COMMEMORATION
OF MEMBERS OF THE FIVE
CIVILIZED TRIBES, WHOSE
RECORD OF ENLISTMENT,
CONDUCT IN CAMP, AND
FORTITUDE AND VALOR ON
THE BATTLEFIELD, ADDED
LUSTRE TO THE TRIUMPHANT
VICTORY OF OUR COUNTRY IN
THE WORLD WAR.
DONORS
WINEY STAKE,

¹ Jack C. Montgomery VA Medical Center, “90th Anniversary Celebration Commemorative Program,” June 14, 2013, 4.; Smithsonian American Art Museum, “The Spirit of the American Doughboy, (sculpture),” 2012, entry in the Smithsonian Institution research Information System (SIRIS), Control No. 47260092, <http://siris-artinventories.si.edu/ipac20/ipac.jsp?uri=full=3100001~!299211!0>.

²Nathan Schaeffer, “Our History- “Spirit of the American Doughboy” statue,” 2012, http://www.muskogee.va.gov/features/Our_History_Spirit_of_the_American_Dough_Boy_Statue.asp.

³ Smithsonian, SIRIS, Control No. 47260092.

⁴ Ibid.

“Spirit of the American Doughboy” statue
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SAMOCHEE BARNETT,
SEMEAN JACKSON,
MINNIE TIGER,
AMOS,
EASTMAN RICHARD,
HON. S.E. WALLEN, SUPT. FIVE
CIVILIZED TRIBES

G. LANGE

A seal surrounded by the words “Five Civilized Tribes” and “Oklahoma” is above the text. The seal contains small depictions of the primary image from each of the Five Civilized Tribe’s respective seals. Below the plaque, the words “VICTORY” and “PEACE” are carved into the two bottom stones of the base.

The names of the Five Civilized Tribes are inscribed on the stones on the north and south faces of the monument base. From top to bottom, these stones read:

CHICKASAW
CHOCTAW
SEMINOLE
CHEROKEE
CREEK

The western (rear) elevation of the base is composed of five stones, each of which is marked with the name of the American Indian heroes of the respective Tribes. From top to bottom, they read:

COLBERT
PUSHMATAHA
OCEOLA
SEQUOYAH
OPOTHE-YAHOLA

Members of The Five Civilized Tribes donated the statue in 1924 to honor the service of members of the Tribes who served in World War I. The Muskogee VAMC, known at that time as Veterans Hospital No. 90, dedicated the statue on September 5, 1925, in conjunction with a celebration of “Oklahoma’s Outstanding Hero of the World War,” Joseph Oklahombi, a recipient of the French *Croix de Guerre*.⁵

⁵ Dedication Program for “Spirit of the American Doughboy” statue at Muskogee, September 5, 1925, 1-2.; Jack C. Montgomery VA Medical Center, “90th Anniversary Celebration Commemorative Program,” June 14, 2013, 4.

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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 grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Ethnic Heritage- Native American

Period of Significance

1924-1925

Significant Dates

1924

1925

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Creek, Choctaw, Chickasaw, Cherokee, Seminole

Architect/Builder

Ernest Moore Viquesney

“Spirit of the American Doughboy” statue
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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The “Spirit of the American Doughboy” statue at the Muskogee VAMC is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A- Ethnic Heritage: Native American with consideration Criterion F at the state level as a commemorative property. Though the Viquesney design is common, the statue achieves significance as a representation of the pride held by members of The Five Civilized Tribes in the wartime service of fellow members. The statue therefore qualifies as a commemorative property under Criteria Consideration F. Because the statue is intact, in good condition, and is located on the same site as it was when dedicated, it therefore retains integrity of materials, workmanship, design, setting, and location. Given its dedication to American Indian Veterans, the statue’s placement on the grounds of a Veterans’ hospital is particularly appropriate and enhances the monument’s integrity of feeling and association. Additionally, the Muskogee Veterans Hospital was renamed the Jack C. Montgomery Veterans Affairs Medical Center in 2006 in honor of Jack C. Montgomery, a member of the Cherokee Nation and a highly decorated World War II American Veteran. The Muskogee VAMC was the first such facility to be named for an American Indian.⁶

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

Members of the Five Civilized Tribes-- the Creek, Choctaw, Chickasaw, Cherokee, and Seminoles-- donated the Viquesney statue to the Veterans’ hospital. Early colonial and American leaders referred to these tribes as “civilized” because the groups either practiced a centralized governmental system or because members embraced Christianity, owned property, or had a higher rate of English literacy than other Native American groups. The Five Civilized Tribes were re-located during the early decades of the nineteenth century, when the U.S. government removed Native Americans from their ancestral lands in the southeastern United States to Indian Territory in present-day Oklahoma.

In 1814, the Creek Nation signed the Treaty of Fort Jackson with the U.S. government, thus ending the Creek War. Andrew Jackson, the sole U.S. government representative to the talks, appropriated 22 million acres of Creek land in present-day Georgia and Alabama following what he termed an “unprovoked, inhuman, and sanguinary” fight.⁷ This land cession and the subsequent confinement of Native Americans began a period of voluntary and forced removals that sadly would come to define Native American relations for the next century.

⁶ Muskogee VAMC, Commemorative Program, 11, 14.

⁷Kathryn Braund, “Aftermath of War: The Treaty of Fort Jackson,” the National Park Service, 2015, <http://www.nps.gov/stories/treaty-of-fort-jackson.htm>.

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In 1817, the U.S. government under President James Monroe began encouraging all American Indian Tribes to move west to prevent conflicts with new settlers. Members of the Five Civilized Tribes negotiated what they could to retain lands and rights, but by 1830, most had exchanged their territories in the eastern United States for lands in the Indian Territory. The policy of voluntary relocation lasted until 1830,⁸ when the Indian Removal Act of that year replaced voluntary relocation with forcible removal. The ensuing migrations further crowded designated Indian lands. Between 1832 and 1838, members of the Five Civilized Tribes surveyed and designated portions of the Indian territories for their relocation. Nearly all Native Americans had been moved west by 1842.⁹ At the time, they were told their holdings in Indian Territory could not be infringed by new settlement. However, the supposedly sacrosanct borders of Indian Territory did not last, and American settlers soon began moving into the new frontier.

During the Civil War, many Native American tribes allied themselves with the Union and Confederate forces and bitter fighting occurred in the Indian Territory between 1861 and 1865. The U.S. government used the end of war as an excuse to subdivide further those areas granted to Native Americans, and open the lands to white settlement. By 1866, all of the Five Civilized Tribes had agreed to allow railroad rights-of-way through their territories, and by the late 1880s, some designated Indian lands had been opened to white settlement and land ownership.¹⁰ The U.S. government also moved other Native Americans to Indian Territory at this time.

Muskogee

The term “muscogee” or “muskogee” means “creek,” and identified the Creek Nation of American Indians. The town of Muskogee was founded in January 1872 as a railroad stop along the Missouri, Kansas and Texas Railway line through the Creek holdings.¹¹ At the time, Muskogee station was the only railroad depot allowed in Creek territory. The town became the seat of American government-Native American relations in the late nineteenth century when the Bureau of Indian Affairs was based in the Union Agency atop a knoll known as Agency Hill north of the present VA Medical Center. The Union Agency briefly became the property of VA in the mid-twentieth century but VA lacked a use for the building by 1954. Today, the Union Agency building serves as the Five Civilized Tribes Museum.

In 1874, the U.S. government began to consolidate all offices responsible for governmental oversight of the Five Civilized Tribes in Oklahoma. Up to that point, tribal offices had been spread throughout the five Tribal areas. Contractor Proctor & Maxwell completed the two-story Union Agency building atop a natural rise in the Arkansas River Valley near Muskogee by January 1, 1876. The building was designed to accommodate a “defend in place” strategy; it had beveled windows to accommodate rifles in case of attack. However, although it was structurally sound, the Union Agency building site soon was considered geographically undesirable because it was located outside the bustling city of Muskogee, and it was abandoned in the early 1880s. The building sustained periods of vacancy, interrupted by stints as a Baptist mission and a Creek Nation school until 1909 when the Creek Nation donated the building and hill to the

⁸Edwin C. McReynolds, Alice Marriott, and Estelle Falconer, *Oklahoma: The Story of Its Past and Present*, (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1985[1961]), 58-70.

⁹ Ibid, 93.

¹⁰ Ibid, 112.

¹¹Mary Jane Warde, Ph.D., “The Historic Context for African American History in Muskogee, Oklahoma,” 2014:2, <http://www.okhistory.org/shpo/thematic/MuskogeeAAHC.pdf>. Context produced for the Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office with partial funding from the National Park Service.

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City of Muskogee for use as a park. The land known as Agency Hill was renamed Honor Heights in the early 1920s to accommodate the new hospital that would become the Muskogee VAMC.¹²

World War I

World War I broke out in August 1914 following the assassination in June of Franz Ferdinand, heir presumptive to the Austro-Hungarian Empire. The Great War, as it often was called, “was the first total war of the modern period,” a conflict “in which the combatants mobilized all their resources, military, industrial and human, on a scale never before thought possible.”¹³ The United States maintained a neutral stance until April 6, 1917, when, at the request of President Woodrow Wilson, Congress declared war on Germany.

In May 1917, President Wilson appointed Major General John Pershing to command the U.S. military personnel sent to fight alongside the Allied troops against Germany and the other Central Powers. The first American troops arrived in France near the end of June 1917.¹⁴ Nearly four million U.S. troops, nicknamed “doughboys,” would serve overseas and stateside in the Allied effort.¹⁵ The origin of the term “doughboy” as a descriptor for American servicemen in World War I is unclear but the term was used widely throughout World War I, being replaced by “G.I.” in World War II. In general, the civilian doughboy servicemen required intense training to become combat-ready. The introduction of hundreds of thousands of American troops and weapons nonetheless helped to disrupt the German war machine and achieve an Allied advantage on the battlefield.¹⁶

Historian Susan Applegate Krouse, author of *North American Indians in the Great War*, estimates that more than 12,000 American Indians served in the American armed forces during World War I. Many Native Americans lacked citizenship and voting rights when the United States declared war. Members of The Five Civilized Tribes had been granted citizenship by an Act of Congress in 1901, but many waited to receive citizenship until their term of military service ended in 1918. Congress granted citizenship to all Native Americans in 1924.¹⁷

The strength of the Central Powers began to wane in early 1918, and by late June, Allied Forces had stopped the German advance. German and Austrian leaders submitted a peace proposal and requested an armistice from President Wilson in early October 1918. On November 8, peace negotiations began between the Allies and Germany. The critical parties signed an Armistice early in the morning of November 11, 1918; a few hours later, it went into effect at 11:00.¹⁸

¹² National Register of Historic Places, Union Agency, Muskogee, Muskogee County, Oklahoma, National Register No. 70000535, 5.

¹³ Kenneth E. Hamburger, *Learning Lessons in the American Expeditionary Forces* (Washington, D.C.: United States Army Center of Military History, 2003), 3, <http://www.history.army.mil/brochures/aef/WWI.PDF>; BBC News, “The War to End All Wars,” *BBC News Special Report*, November 10, 1998, http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/special_report/1998/10/98/world_war_i/198172.stm.

¹⁴ Zieger, *America’s Great War*, xviii; John J. Pershing, *My Experiences in the World War* (New York: Frederick A. Stokes Company, 1931), 1:15-56.

¹⁵ Zieger, *America’s Great War*, xv-xx, 85; Thomas A. Rumer, *The American Legion: An Official History, 1919-1989* (New York: M. Evans & Company, 1990), 5.

¹⁶ Zieger, *America’s Great War*, xix-xx, 94-103.

¹⁷ Susan Applegate Krouse, *North American Indians in the Great War* (Lincoln, Nebraska: University of Nebraska Press, 2007), 5 cited in Trent W. Spurlock, Craig A. Potts and Karen Hudson. *United States Second Generation Veterans Hospitals National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation*, September 2010, 17.

¹⁸ BBC News, “The War to End All Wars,”

http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/special_report/1998/10/98/world_war_i/198172.stm; Community Television of Southern

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The Muskogee VAMC

In the early 1920s, the state of Oklahoma enacted a program to provide medical care to Veterans of the Great War as a token of appreciation for their military service. The state’s Soldiers’ Relief Commission selected Honor Heights, formerly Agency Hill, in Muskogee as the site for a 25-bed hospital. Plans later were expanded to include an administration building and other associated outbuildings. Construction of the new three-story hospital began on April 1, 1922; fittingly, the cornerstone was laid on November 11th of that year.¹⁹

Officials with the Soldiers’ Relief Commission began negotiating a lease or sale of the new hospital to the U.S. Veterans Bureau even before the cornerstone was laid.²⁰ State officials may have been concerned about costs--the state had budgeted only \$500,000 for the project, yet construction costs alone totaled over \$750,000.²¹ At the time, the Veterans’ Bureau, precursor to the modern-day Department of Veterans Affairs, was engaged in a building campaign to provide hospitals for American Veterans of World War I and other conflicts. The Veterans’ Bureau ultimately would build or take over 125 hospitals with a capacity of more than 102,000 beds for sick, wounded, or in-need Veterans.²²

Senator John W. Harrelld hinted that the federal government was interested in purchasing the Muskogee property during the opening ceremonies for The Soldiers Memorial Hospital, which took place on June 14, 1923, in front of a crowd of approximately 2,000 people. At this ceremony, the hospital was lauded as “the fulfillment of a promise long ago made to bind up the heroes’ wounds and care for those who won the struggle.”²³ By January 1924, however, the local paper was calling the facility United States Veterans Bureau Hospital No. 90; the sale of both the Veterans hospital and the adjacent city hospital by the Veterans Bureau became official on March 6, 1925.²⁴ On November 30, 2006, the hospital was rechristened the Jack C. Montgomery Veterans Affairs Medical Center. Montgomery, a member of the Cherokee Nation, earned the Medal of Honor, the Silver Star, and two Purple Hearts for his service in World War II.

The “Spirit of the American Doughboy”

In 1924, members of The Five Civilized Tribes worked with Muskogee American Legion Post No. 219 to donate a statue to U.S. Veterans Bureau Hospital (USVBH) No. 90. The hospital installed the statue near the building’s principal entrance in 1924, but did not formally dedicate the sculpture until the following

California, “World War I Timeline: 1918,” *The Great War and the Shaping of the Twentieth Century* (Public Broadcasting System, 2004), https://www.pbs.org/greatwar/timeline/time_1918.html; BBC, “World War One Timeline: Events of 1918,” *1918-2008: Ninety Years of Remembrance* (BBC, 2008), <http://www.bbc.co.uk/remembrance/timeline/timeline-1918.shtml>.

¹⁹Nathan Schaeffer, “Our Early History- The Soldiers Memorial Hospital,” 2012,

http://www.muskogee.va.gov/features/The_Soldiers_Memorial_Hospital.asp; Trent Spurlock, letter to Kathleen Schamel, Douglas Pulak, Darlene Richardson of the Department of Veterans Affairs regarding Eligibility of the Jack C. Montgomery Veterans Affairs Medical Center, July 3, 2013, 2-3.

²⁰ Spurlock, letter, 3.

²¹ “Hospital May Be Bought By U.S. Bureau,” *The Oklahoman*, June 8, 1924, 49.

²² Trent W. Spurlock, Craig A. Potts and Karen Hudson. *United States Second Generation Veterans Hospitals National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation*, September 2010, E-1.

²³ Frank Lee, June 14, 1922, quoted in Schaeffer, “Our Early History.”

²⁴ “Hospital Patient Disappears Again,” *The Muskogee County Democrat*, January 10, 1924, 5; Muskogee VAMC, Commemorative Program, 4.

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year. The group selected the popular “Spirit of the American Doughboy” design by E.M. Viquesney, and had it installed atop a base that celebrated the military service of members of The Five Civilized Tribes.

Sculptor Ernest Moore “Dick” Viquesney created the “Spirit of the American Doughboy” following World War I and copyrighted his design in 1920. Viquesney spent most of his life in Spencer, Indiana, although he conceived of the Doughboy statue during his tenure in Americus, Georgia. In 1922, financial problems forced Viquesney to sell the rights to the statue to a friend, Walter Rylander. Viquesney retrieved the rights in 1926. The mass-produced statue sold well because it was relatively inexpensive (\$1,000 without the base) and lightweight. The work proved so popular that Viquesney created smaller statues and even a lamp featuring the “Spirit of the American Doughboy” at its base.²⁵ Viquesney went on to create the “Spirit of the American Sailor” (WWI) and the “Spirit of the Fighting Yank” (WWII).

Winey Stake, Samochee Barnett, Minnie Tiger, and Eastman Richard of the Creek Indians; Semean Jackson of the Choctaw Indians; Amos of the Seminole; and, S.E. Wallen, Superintendent of The Five Civilized Tribes donated money to purchase the statue.²⁶ Barnett had served in World War I as an U.S. Army scout.²⁷ Eastman Richard became a millionaire following discovery of oil on his Oklahoma land in the early twentieth century.²⁸ President Warren Harding appointed Shade E. Wallen of Vinita, Oklahoma, superintendent of The Five Civilized Tribes in 1923.²⁹ It appears these people donated funds as individuals, rather than as representatives of their Nations or government agencies.

Chiefs of the Cherokee, Choctaw, Creek, Seminole, and Chickasaw nations attended the September 5, 1925, unveiling of the sculpture at the USVBH No. 90. Other speakers included Senator J.W. Herrald and Congressman W.W. Hastings, a member of the Choctaw Tribe. Miss Alice Susann Locke, a member of both the Seminole and Choctaw nations, formally unveiled the sculpture. All members of The Five Civilized Tribes were invited to attend. *The Oklahoman* stated that the statue was intended as a “memorial, not to the doughboy only, but to all the soldiers of the Five Civilized Nations who in the long and colorful course of the nation’s history have played a valorous part in all her wars.”³⁰ Some of the American Indians in attendance completed a “stomp dance and war dance” following the ceremony.³¹

Joseph Oklahombi was an honored guest at the 1925 dedication. Oklahombi, a member of the Choctaw nation, volunteered to serve in the American Expeditionary Forces in World War I. He worked as a Choctaw code talker to protect Allied secrets from falling into enemy hands. Oklahombi was awarded the *Croix de Guerre* by French Marshal Pétain in 1919 for his actions when,

²⁵ National Register of Historic Places, Miami County Courthouse, Peru, Miami, Indiana, National Register No. 0800194.

²⁶ Dedication Program for “Spirit of the American Doughboy” statue at Muskogee, September 5, 1925, 2.

²⁷ Ken Davis, “Veterans’ Scoop: In search of wounded, killed or captured MCN veterans,” *The Muscogee Nation News*, March 12, 2013, 7, <http://www.muscogeenation-nsn.gov/Pages/MNN/pdf/2013/mar012013.pdf>, accessed March 2, 2015.

²⁸ American Baptist Convention, Annual of the Northern Baptist Convention, Volume 15 (Indianapolis, Indiana), 1922, 677,

https://books.google.com/books?id=quUpAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA677&lpg=PA677&dq=Eastman+Richard+Creek+Indians&source=bl&ots=8EQLfyP5eS&sig=61CHW3LP_jTED4JPRi1rZwySxqA&hl=en&sa=X&ei=Iir0VNrCM5Gx_sATHqoHgBA&ved=0CCQO6AEwAQ#v=onepage&q=Eastman%20Richard%20Creek%20Indians&f=false, accessed March 2, 2015.

²⁹ “Chief Washington Grayson Turns in Resignation,” *The Indian Journal* (Eufaula, Oklahoma), June 21, 1923, 1.

³⁰ “Oklahoma Honors Its Indian Warriors,” *The Oklahoman*, August 30, 1925, 20.

³¹ “Indians Donate Statue to U.S.,” *The Oklahoman*, September 6, 1925.

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Under a violent barrage [Oklahombi] dashed to the attack of an enemy position, covering about 200 yards through barbed wire entanglements, he rushed on machine gun nests, capturing 171 prisoners. He stormed a strongly held position containing more than 50 machine guns and a number of trench mortars; turned the captured guns on the enemy and held the said position for four days, in spite of a constant barrage of large projectiles and of gas shells. [Oklahombi] Crossed ‘No Man’s Land’ many times to get information concerning the enemy and to assist his wounded comrades.³²

The Muskogee VAMC has preserved the “Spirit of the American Doughboy” statue in the same location as when installed in 1925. VA has not changed the base or the statue beyond basic maintenance. The property retains the integrity of materials, workmanship, design, setting, and location necessary for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. The statue remains on the campus of an active Veterans hospital, and therefore contributes to its integrity of feeling and association.

The Muskogee VAMC “Spirit of the American Doughboy” is significant under Criterion A with special consideration under Criterion F as a commemorative property. Though unique as a Rylander-copyrighted version of Viquesney’s work, the sculpture itself is not of preeminent style or construction. Two other “Spirit of the American Doughboy” statues presently are individually listed in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion F,³³ and several others are listed as contributing elements to historic districts. None of Viquesney’s works outside “Spirit of” series are listed in the National Register.

However, this particular statue is unique in several respects. It commemorates the service of The Five Civilized Tribes during World War I. Moreover, members of the Tribes selected this piece to memorialize their own. This donation was especially significant given the changing nature of United States government-Native American relations in the mid-1920s. The chosen location of the statue, atop a former U.S. government-Native American meeting place converted to a Veterans hospital, also contributes to its symbolic value and its unique character.

³² Dedication Program for “Spirit of the American Doughboy” statue at Muskogee, September 5, 1925, 1.

³³ National Register of Historic Places, “Spirit of the American Doughboy” statue, Helena, Phillips, Arkansas, National Register No. 97000455.; National Register of Historic Places, “Spirit of the American Doughboy” statue, Fort Smith, Sebastian, Arkansas, National Register No. 97000454.

“Spirit of the American Doughboy” statue
Name of Property

Muskogee, Oklahoma
County and State

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Braund, Kathryn. “Aftermath of War: The Treaty of Fort Jackson.” National Park Service, 2015.
<http://www.nps.gov/stories/treaty-of-fort-jackson.htm>.

Collections of Federal Preservation Officer, Department of Veterans Affairs, Washington, D.C.

Collections of the Jack C. Montgomery VAMC, Department of Veterans Affairs, Muskogee, Oklahoma.

“Hospital May Be Bought By U.S. Bureau.” *The Oklahoman*. June 8, 1924.

“Hospital Patient Disappears Again.” *The Muskogee County Democrat*. Muskogee, Oklahoma. January 10, 1924.

“Indians Donate Statue to U.S.” *The Oklahoman*. September 6, 1925.

“Miami County Courthouse,” Peru, Miami County, Indiana, Nomination 2008, National Register of Historic Places, National Park Service.

McReynolds, Edwin C., Alice Marriott, and Estelle Falconer. *Oklahoma: The Story of Its Past and Present*. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1985[1961].

“Oklahoma Honors Its Indian Warriors.” *The Oklahoman*. August 30, 1925.

Smithsonian American Art Museum. “The Spirit of the American Doughboy, (sculpture).” 2012. Entry in the Smithsonian Institution research Information System (SIRIS), Control No. 47260092, <http://siris-artinventories.si.edu/ipac20/ipac.jsp?uri=full=3100001~!299211!0>.

“Spirit of the American Doughboy” statue, Helena, Phillips County, Arkansas, Nomination 1997, National Register of Historic Places, National Park Service.

“Spirit of the American Doughboy” statue, Fort Smith, Sebastian County, Arkansas, Nomination 1997, National Register of Historic Places, National Park Service.

Spurlock, Trent, Craig A. Potts and Karen Hudson. *United States Second Generation Veterans Hospitals National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation*, September 2010.

“Union Agency,” Muskogee, Muskogee County, Oklahoma, Nomination 1970, National Register of Historic Places, National Park Service.

Zieger, Robert H. *America’s Great War: World War I and the American Experience*. Lanham, Maryland: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 2000.

“Spirit of the American Doughboy” statue
Name of Property

Muskogee, Oklahoma
County and State

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 # _____
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

"Spirit of the American Doughboy" statue

Name of Property

Muskogee, Oklahoma

County and State

Primary location of additional data:

State Historic Preservation Office

Other State agency

Federal agency

Local government

University

Other

Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property < 1 acre: 48" x 47"

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates (decimal degrees)

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. Latitude: 35.764472

Longitude: 95.414077

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The base of the statue, approximately 48" x 47", located east of the original primary care hospital building at the Jack C. Montgomery VA Medical Center, 1011 Honor Heights Drive, Muskogee, Oklahoma.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary is defined as the land occupied by the statue.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Kelly Sellers Wittie, Project Manager

organization: R. Christopher Goodwin & Associates, Inc.

street & number: 309 Jefferson Highway, Suite A

city or town: New Orleans

state: Louisiana

zip code: 70121

e-mail: kwittie@rcgoodwin.com

telephone: 504-837-1940

date: February 2015

“Spirit of the American Doughboy” statue
Name of Property

Muskogee, Oklahoma
County and State

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

“Spirit of the American Doughboy” statue
Name of Property

Muskogee, Oklahoma
County and State

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: “Spirit of the American Doughboy” statue

City or Vicinity: Muskogee

County: Muskogee

State: Oklahoma

Photographer: Lindsay Hannah, M.S.

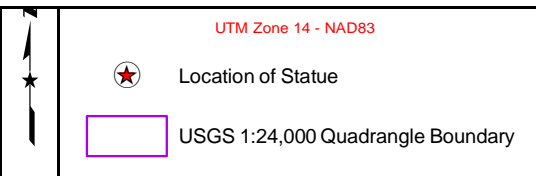
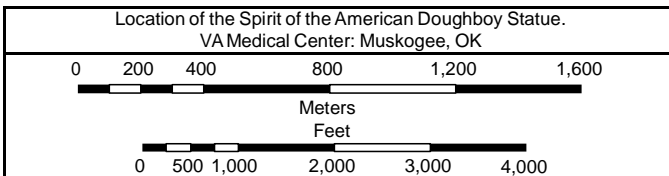
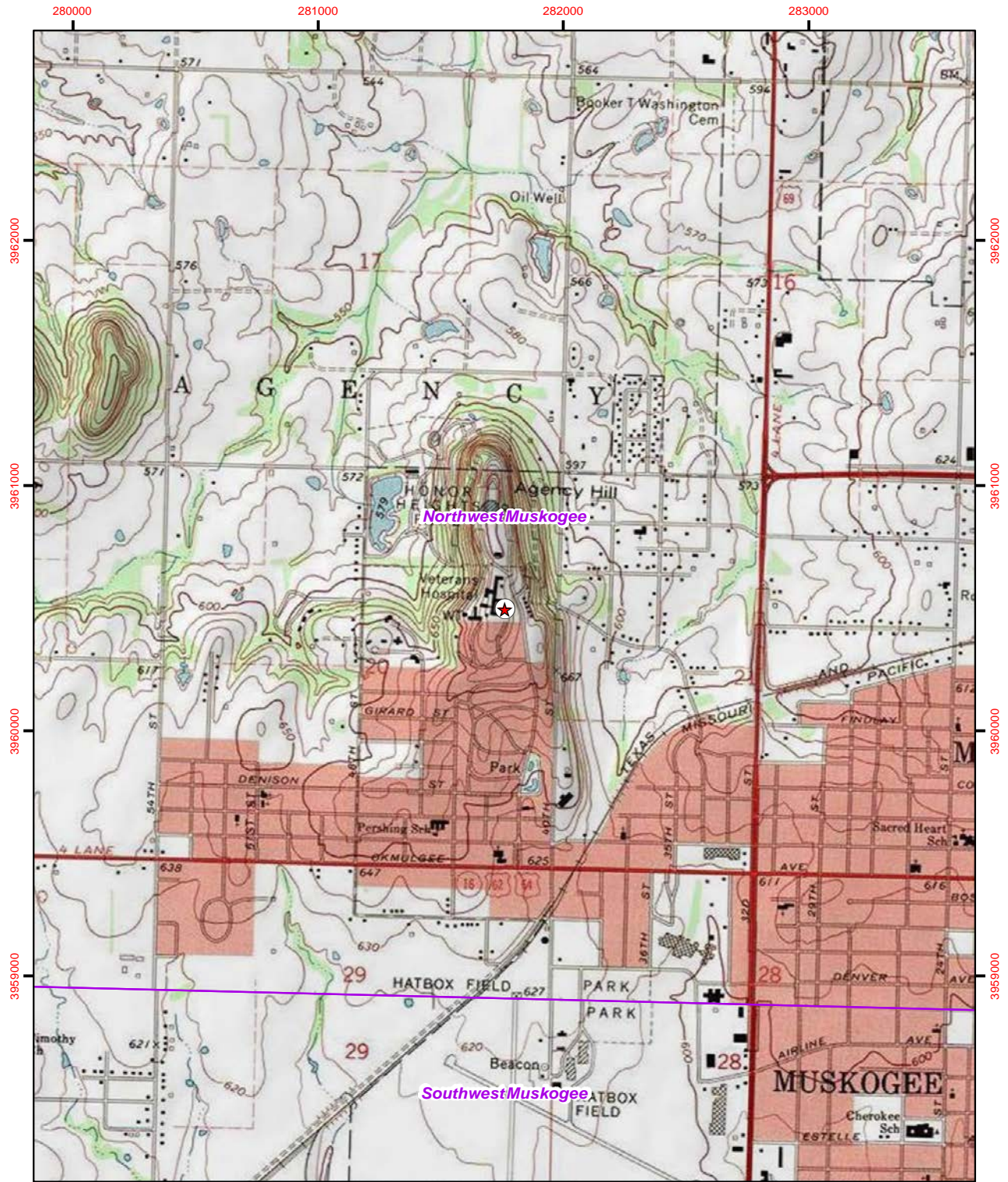
Date Photographed: February 28, 2014

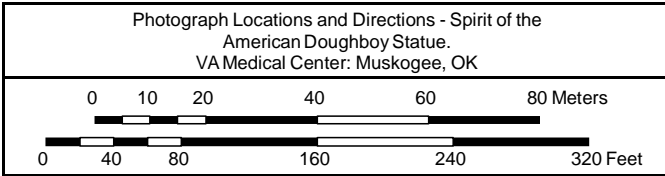
Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

1. Full view of statue with hospital behind. Camera facing west.
2. Detail view of metal plaque. Camera facing west.
3. Side view of statue. Camera facing south-southwest.
4. Rear view of stone base. Camera facing east.
5. Detail view of Rylander copyright. Camera facing east.

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.





(UTM Zone 15 - NAD83)

■ Spirit of the American Doughboy Statue

Photograph Position, Direction, and Number

Jack C. Montgomery VAMC
Muskogee, Oklahoma



OK_Muskogee County_ "Spirit of the American Doughboy" statue_0001

Jack C. Montgomery VAMC
Muskogee, Oklahoma



OK_Muskogee County_ "Spirit of the American Doughboy" statue_0002

Jack C. Montgomery VAMC
Muskogee, Oklahoma



OK_Muskogee County_ "Spirit of the American Doughboy" statue_0003

Jack C. Montgomery VAMC
Muskogee, Oklahoma



OK_Muskogee County_ "Spirit of the American Doughboy" statue_0004

Jack C. Montgomery VAMC
Muskogee, Oklahoma



OK_Muskogee County_“Spirit of the American Doughboy” statue_0005



JAMES O. EASTMAN VA MEDICAL CENTER MUSKOGEE, OK



IN THE COURSE OF HIS SERVICE
HE WAS AWARDED THE
MEDAL OF HONOR
FOR HIS BRAVERY AND
COURAGE IN THE
BATTLE OF IWO JIMA
ON FEBRUARY 22, 1945
HE WAS THE FIRST
SOLDIER TO CLIMB
THE MOUNTAIN
AND PLANT THE
STAR ON THE
MOUNTAIN

VICTORY

PEACE

LOADING ZONE

Col. C. Mendenhall
VETERANS AFFAIRS
MEDICAL CENTER
"Excellence Starts Here"

The price of freedom
is stable here.



ERECTED IN COMMEMORATION
OF MEMBERS OF THE FIVE
CIVILIZED TRIBES, WHOSE
RECORD OF ENLISTMENT,
CONDUCT IN CARE AND
FORTITUDE AND VALOR ON
THE BATTLEFIELD, ADDED
GLORY TO THE TRIUMPHANT
VICTORY OF OUR COUNTRY IN
THE WORLD WAR.

DONORS

WINEY STAKE,

JAMOCHEE BARNETT,

SEMEAN JACKSON,

MINNIE TIGER,

1943.

PAULIAN RICHARD,

HON. GE. WARREN, 1944. THE

CIVILIZED TRIBES

VICTORY

PEACE

WALTER
C. Mendenhall

CHICKASAW

CHOCTAW

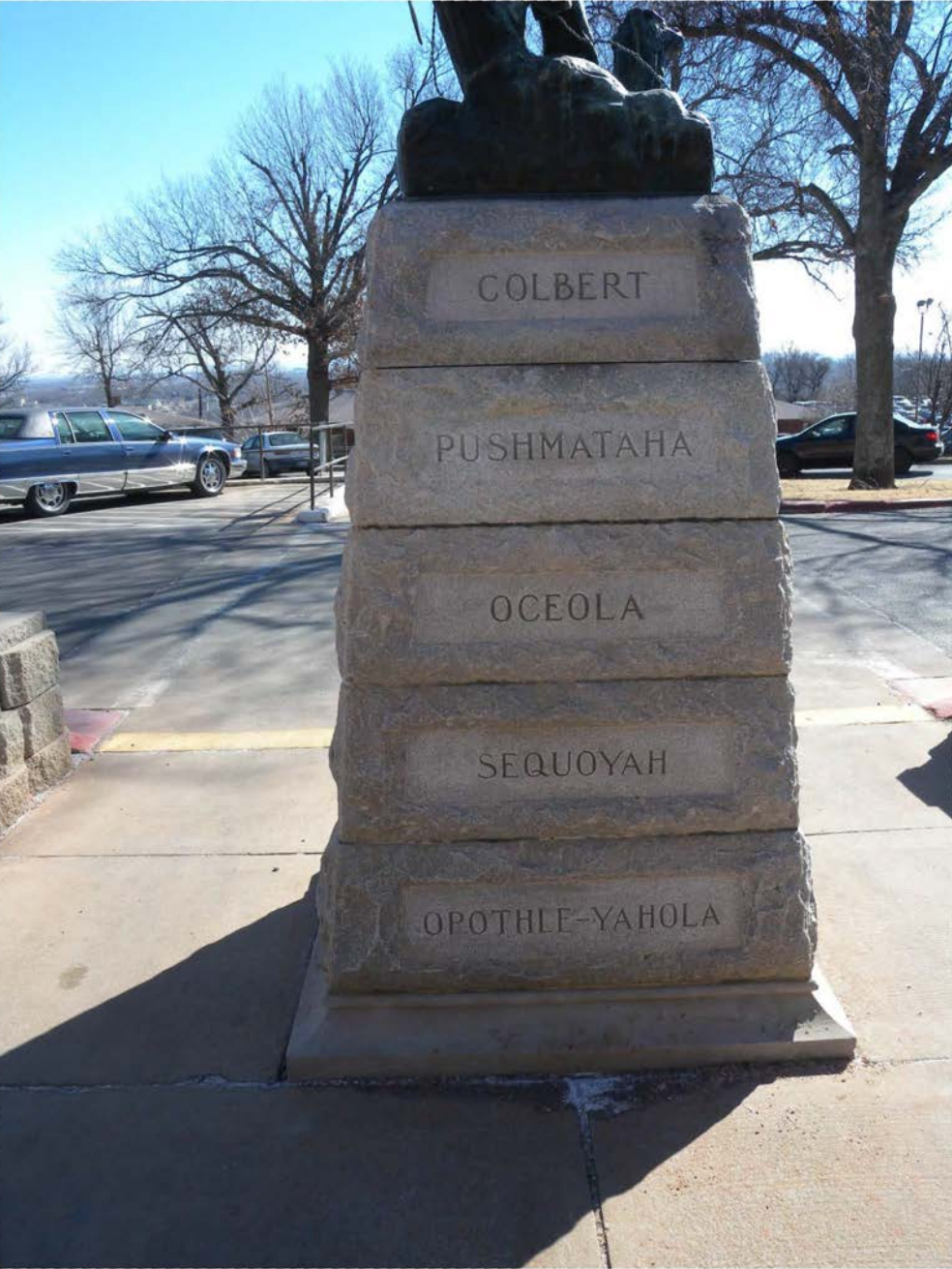
SEMINOLE

CHEROKEE

CREEK


 COMMISSIONERS OF THE BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
 OF THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
 WASHINGTON, D. C.
 1882

THE
 MONUMENT
 WAS
 DEDICATED
 ON
 APRIL
 19TH
 1882



COLBERT

PUSHMATAHA

OCEOLA

SEQUOYAH

OPOTHLE-YAHOLA

A close-up photograph of a weathered bronze sculpture base. The bronze has a greenish patina and shows signs of age and wear. A rectangular plaque is embossed into the surface, containing the following text:

COPYRIGHT
WALTER RYLANDER
1920

The text is in a serif font. The plaque is surrounded by a decorative, slightly raised border. The background shows the textured surface of the bronze and a clear blue sky.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action: Nomination
Property Name: "Spirit of the American Doughboy" Statue
Multiple Name: _____
State & County: OKLAHOMA, Muskogee

Date Received: 12/11/2017 Date of Pending List: _____ Date of 16th Day: _____ Date of 45th Day: 1/25/2018 Date of Weekly List: _____

Reference number: SG100002057
Nominator: State

Reason For Review:

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal | <input type="checkbox"/> PDIL | <input type="checkbox"/> Text/Data Issue |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SHPO Request | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Photo |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Waiver | <input type="checkbox"/> National | <input type="checkbox"/> Map/Boundary |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Resubmission | <input type="checkbox"/> Mobile Resource | <input type="checkbox"/> Period |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other | <input type="checkbox"/> TCP | <input type="checkbox"/> Less than 50 years |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> CLG | |

Accept Return Reject 1/25/2018 Date

Abstract/Summary Comments: The Spirit of the American Doughboy Statue meets National Register Criterion A at the statewide level of significance in the area of Ethnic Heritage-Native American. Installed at the newly established Veteran Hospital campus in 1924, the statue features a life-size, cast bronze statue of a WWI-era soldier set atop a carved granite base, based on the designs of sculptor E.M. Viquesney. Erected as part of the nationwide movement following World War I to honor the contributions of American's who fought in the war, the Muskogee statue uniquely pays tribute to, and was largely donated by, Oklahoma's (Five Civilized Tribes) Native America tribes whose members served during the war. The property meets Criteria Consideration F as a commemorative property whose significance rests in the cultural activities of its sponsors at the time of construction (1920s) in marking and honoring the noble character and valor of their local Native American World War I soldiers and their cause. The statue's unique association with Native American commemorative activities is especially noteworthy in light of the often contentious history of government and Native American interactions in Oklahoma.

Recommendation/ Criteria: Accept NR Criterion A

Reviewer Paul Lusignan Discipline Historian
Telephone (202)354-2229 Date 1/25/2018

DOCUMENTATION: see attached comments : No see attached SLR : No



DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
Office of Construction & Facilities Management
WASHINGTON DC 20420



December 7, 2017

Paul Loether, Director
National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service
1849 C Street, NW, Mail Stop 7228
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Paul:

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is pleased to submit the nomination for The "Spirit of the American Doughboy" Statue at the Jack C. Montgomery VA Medical Center in Muskogee, Oklahoma. The enclosed disks contain the true and correct copy of the nomination for the "Spirit of the American Doughboy" statue to the National Register of Historic Places.

If you have questions regarding the nomination, please feel free to contact me. I can be reached at 202-632-5462.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Doug Pulak".

Doug Pulak
Federal Preservation Officer