

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Oklahoma	
COUNTY: Johnston	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 718.40.0014	DATE 8/5/71

1. NAME

COMMON:
White House of the Chickasaws

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Gov. Douglas H. Johnston House

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
NW edge of

CITY OR TOWN:
Emet (S/2 SW/4 NW/4 Sec. 14, T 4 S, R 7 E)

STATE: Oklahoma CODE: 40 COUNTY: Johnston CODE: 069

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"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input checked="" 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/> Comments

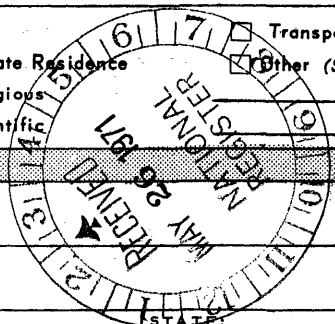
4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Douglas H. Johnston, Jr.

STREET AND NUMBER:
Route 1

CITY OR TOWN:
Emet

STATE: Oklahoma CODE: 40



5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

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

STREET AND NUMBER:
Johnston County Courthouse

CITY OR TOWN:
Tishomingo

STATE: Oklahoma CODE: 40

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Oklahoma Historic Site 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

STATE: Oklahoma

COUNTY: Johnston

ENTRY NUMBER: 718.40.0014

DATE: 8/5/71

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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

7. DESCRIPTION

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

The "White House of the Chickasaws" was built in 1895 in the gingerbreaded style of its day. The architect was W. A. Waltham of Dallas, Tex. Most of the finishing lumber was hauled by wagon from Denison, Tex., although the cherry mahogany mantels and facings for the two ornate fireplaces were shipped from Chattanooga, Tenn. Imported walnut also went into the ornamental woodwork on the encircling front porch.

The main center section of the house had (and still has) four rooms in a south-to-north row: the sun-lit parlor (also called the music room), the sitting room (or library), the state dining room, and the kitchen. A two-room wing flanked each side, with an open breezeway separating the west wing (Governor Johnston's bedroom/office) from the sitting room.

The original house has been changed but slightly. About 1903 or 1904 the breezeway was enclosed and a stairway added from it to the attic, where a bedroom and bathroom were added. (The bathroom, containing a tin tub with a wood rim around it, is believed to have been the first in a private home in all the Chickasaw Nation. Another possible private-home first: a telephone.) One room on the east was also enlarged somewhat. These constitute the major changes. Lighting has been changed from hanging lamps and standing coal oil lamps, to carbide lights, to electricity. Baths have been added. The house has been quite well preserved.

Some of the original furnishings remain in the home, still owned by the Johnston family. In addition to the fireplaces there is the bedroom suite in the Governor's room: the massive bed and dresser, his desk, and a Morris chair. A child's chair, a wicker rocker, several small tables, a 150-year-old clock, a buffet and much hand-painted Haviland china - these and other relics remain.

Though hardly prepossessing by current standards, the White House was something of a mansion in its day - a not unimpressive mansion, when one considers its frontier setting. It was, in short, a worthy "White House," in fact as well as in name.

*1 1/2 - story
frame
porch surrounded by lattice
style casing in
railing, posts, open
piece*



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

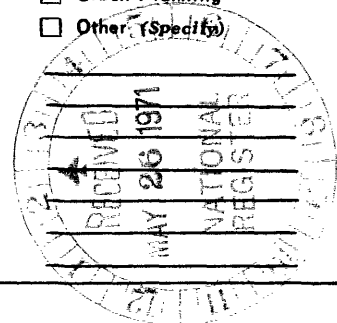
- Pre-Columbian | 16th Century | 18th Century | 20th Century
 15th Century | 17th Century | 19th Century (late)

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

1895 to the present

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input 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 checked="" 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 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 "White House" is an interestingly comfortable house built on the frontier when such structures were quite rare. More importantly, it is an impressive monument to a capable, dedicated Indian leader whose family has had considerable impact on the history and development of present Oklahoma.

Douglas H. Johnston -- closely related to Confederate Generals Joseph E. Johnston and Albert Sidney Johnston -- was born in Indian Territory in 1856. His father, Col. John Johnston, Sr., had played a leadership role in the removal of the Choctaw and Chickasaw Indians from Mississippi to Indian Territory. There he married a Chickasaw woman and settled down in the Fort Washita area. Douglas, one of four sons, was named for General Douglas Hancock Cooper, headquartered at Fort Washita as commander of Indian Confederate forces in Indian Territory. He was educated in Indian schools and academies.

In 1884 he became superintendent of Bloomfield Academy, south of present Durant, a position he held for thirteen years. In 1895, while still at Bloomfield, he began construction of the 8-room, frame "White House." Friends had been urging him to seek the office of governor of the Chickasaw Nation and he wanted to have a home befitting the office. In 1898 he and his family were living in the house when he was first elected governor.

Governor Johnston was re-elected in 1900. Then in 1902, because tribal law forbade a third successive term, he became a senator in the Chickasaw Nation legislature. He was serving his third term as governor in 1907 when Oklahoma became a state. By act of Congress he continued in office until his death in 1939 at the age of 83.

His home on the north edge of Emet, then a bustling trading center (Johnston operated a general merchantile store), was necessarily the scene of many important social and political events. Oklahoma Governor William E. Murray was married there - to a niece of Governor Johnston. Curiously enough, their son, Johnston Murray, was born in the house - and following the lead of his father and his mother's

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Cornish, Melven, "Douglas H. Johnston," The Chronicles of Oklahoma, Vol. 18, No. 1 (Spring 1940), pp. 99-101.
 Smith, Mrs. Juanita Johnston, An Interview record by Margaret Lokey, Chickasaw Capital-Democrat, July 1965.
 Thetford, Francis, "White House of the Chickasaws," The Daily Oklahoman, May 1, 1960.

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	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		34° 12' 09"	96° 32' 31"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

NO JTM
HL

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

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: **April 1971**

STREET AND NUMBER:
Historical Building

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

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

<p>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:</p> <p>National <input type="checkbox"/> State <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Name: <u><i>[Signature]</i></u></p> <p>Title: <u><i>Liaison Officer for Oklahoma</i></u></p> <p>Date: <u>MAY 21 1971</u></p>	<p>I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.</p> <p><u><i>[Signature]</i></u> Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation</p> <p>Date: <u>AUG 5 1971</u></p> <p>ATTEST:</p> <p><u><i>[Signature]</i></u> Keeper of The National Register</p> <p>Date: <u>JUL 29 1971</u></p>
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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Oklahoma	
COUNTY	
Johnston	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
71.8.40.0014	8/5/91

(Number all entries)

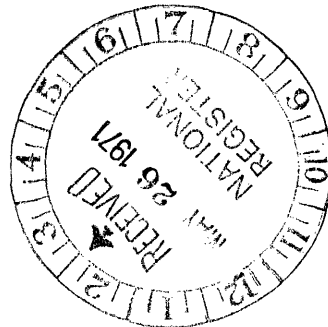
No. 8. Significance

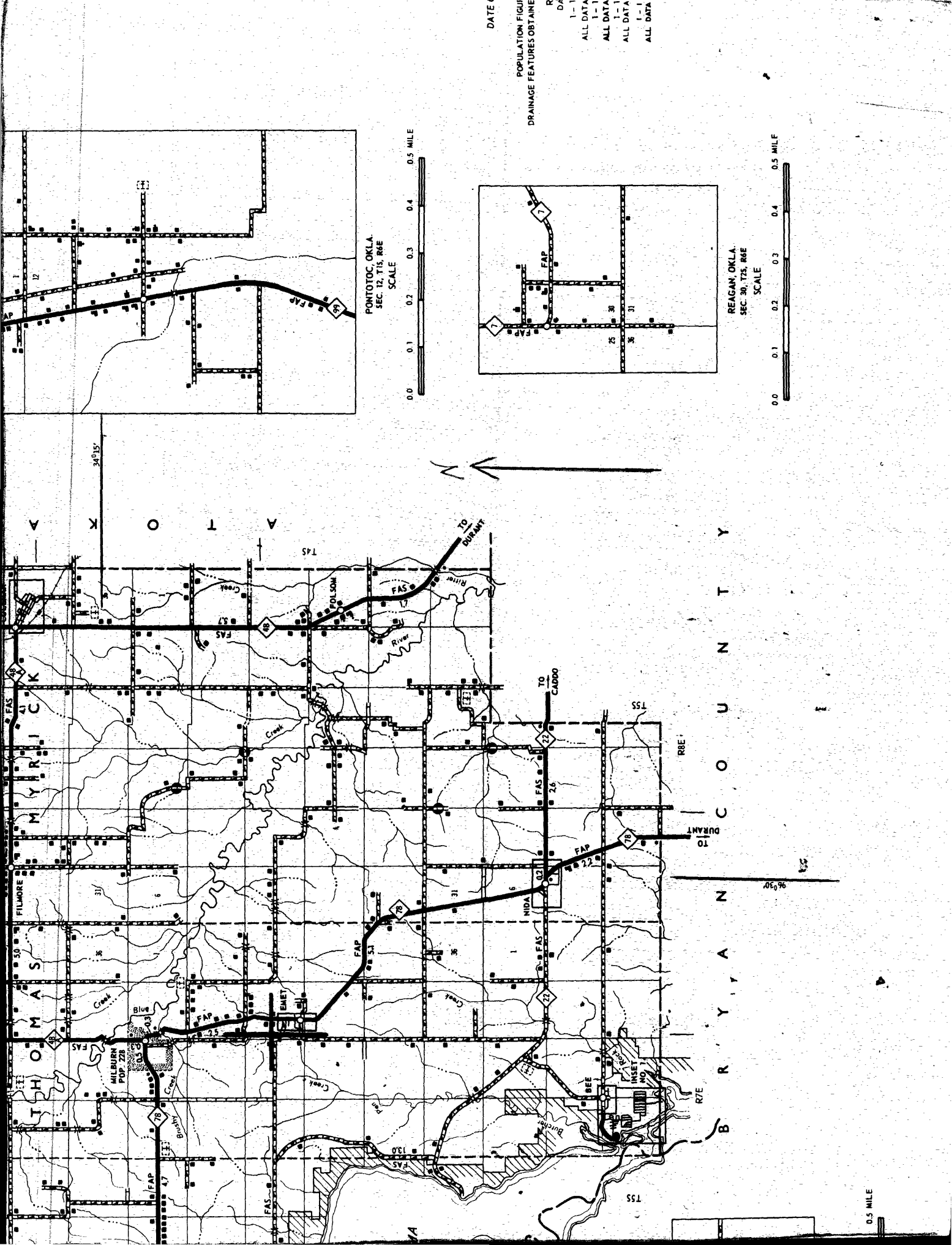
White House of the Chickasaws

family, he went into politics, became Oklahoma's 14th governor in 1951. Other marriages took place in the house, including that of Julia Chisholm, granddaughter of the famed Jesse Chisholm and adopted niece of Governor Johnston.

The governor scored several notable achievements on behalf of the Chickasaw Nation and its people. By appealing upon occasion directly to Pres. Theodore Roosevelt, he was instrumental in keeping white adventurers off tribal rolls, in maintaining tribal control over Indian schools, and in saving tribal government by insisting Washington to live up to its treaty obligations in regard to taxes.

Thus, from 1898 until he died, reads a Chronicles of Oklahoma tribute at the time of his death, Governor Johnston "stood as the accredited representative of his Nation in all matters affecting the well-being of his people. By the exercise of a courage of the highest order, and an immovable firmness in the official conduct of all matters affecting the rights and interests of his Nation and people, he has won and held the respect and admiration of public officials, both in Oklahoma and at Washington."





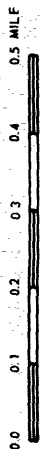
POPULATION FIGURES
 DRAINAGE FEATURES OBTAINED
 DATE

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- ALL DATA
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- ALL DATA
- 1-1
- ALL DATA
- 1-1
- ALL DATA

PONTOTOC, OKLA.
 SEC. 12, T15, R0E
 SCALE



REAGAN, OKLA.
 SEC. 30, T25, R0E
 SCALE



0.5 MILE