

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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date entered

# National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

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

## 1. Name

historic Mardock Mission or Big Jim Mission

and/or common same

## 2. Location

street & number SE of Stella off OK 9 N/A not for publication

city, town Stella vicinity  
~~Little River Area~~  vicinity of ~~Congressional District~~

state Oklahoma code \_\_\_\_\_ county Cleveland code \_\_\_\_\_

## 3. Classification

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

## 4. Owner of Property

name Dr. Betty E. Ownby

street & number 1000 S. Air Depot

city, town Midwest City N/A vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ state Oklahoma

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Cleveland County Courthouse

street & number \_\_\_\_\_

city, town Norman state Oklahoma

## 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Okla. Preservation Survey has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1982 \_\_\_\_\_ federal  state \_\_\_\_\_ county \_\_\_\_\_ local \_\_\_\_\_

depository for survey records Oklahoma Historical Society, Preservation Office

city, town Oklahoma City state Oklahoma

# 7. Description

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

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

The Big Jim Mission building is a small, single story, weatherboard, frame, T-shaped structure. The roof is gabled, steeply pitched. The central entry is covered with a gable roofed porch with decorative bracketing. Originally the porch roof was cantilevered over the concrete step, however, support posts have been added. A diamond shaped window is in the front end gable. Single windows are found on four facades and paired windows on three facades. A single brick exterior chimney stack is on the east elevation.

Dense shrubs and numerous trees closely surround the building. Exterior alterations include partial filling of two windows.

## 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) INDIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> invention				
<b>Specific dates</b>	1898	<b>Builder/Architect</b>	N/A	

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Mardock Mission is significant because it is the only remaining building associated with the Big Jim Band of Absentee Shawnee Indians, the Quaker Missionaries, and a pre-World War I socialist movement.

The Absentee Shawnee were so named because in 1845 they had left the rest of the tribe in Kansas and settled along the Canadian River in Indian Territory. Big Jim, Wapamepto, grandson of Tecumseh, was the chief of the Kispictha, better known as the Absentee Shawnee. The group numbered in 1904, 459.

In 1897 the Maine Branch of the Womens National Indian Association established a mission at the location, which is 12 miles west and 4 miles south of Tecumseh. The mission was to serve as school, religious community and agricultural experiment station for the Indians. Buildings were constructed, an orchard planted and cropland cultivated. In 1898 or 1899 the Mission was transferred to the Associated Executive Committee of Friends who continued to operate the Mission under the direction of John T. Mardock. A Mr. Bohannon deeded the land to Mardock.

The Big Jim Band was relatively non-progressive and although they were receptive to the farming and community activities, they resisted the missionizing efforts. However, the mission persisted and in the early 1900s, began to minister to the growing white population in the nearby community of Mardock. Many activities were centered at the mission; Bible talks, night evangelistic meetings, singing, group recreation and during berry season, berries were harvested and sold. Monthly farmers meetings were held and in 1929 about 35 Indian farmers still attended. The Mission was also an unofficial center for the Jones Family, a group active in the socialist movement during World War I. It is thought that some members participated in the Green Corn Rebellion activities of 1917. At any rate, young members were advised to resist the draft. After 1929 the concentrated mission effort ceased though the church did function as a church for area white people until about 1955, when the settlement was abandoned. The property was sold to a local farmer who used the church to store hay. Sometime later an independent missionary to the Big Jim Band, Rev. Ted Reynolds, repaired the church and briefly used it. Today the church, again abandoned, is the only remaining building of the original mission property.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Interview with: John Womack, April 1982.  
Chronicles of Oklahoma, Vol. 24, 1946, pp. 8-9, 301.  
Chronicles of Oklahoma, Vol. 33, 1955, pp. 176-181.

# 10. Geographical Data

Acree of nominated property under 1 acre

Quadrangle name Little Axe

Quadrangle scale 7.5 min.

### UMT References

A 

1	4	6	6	7	6	1	0	3	8	9	7	7	6	5
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

From a starting point 100 feet due south and 10 feet west of the SW corner of the building step 100 feet east, then 50 feet north, then 100 feet west and then 50 feet south to point of beginning.

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

state	N/A	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Mary Ann Anders

organization Okla. Preservation Survey date \_\_\_\_\_

street & number 502 Math Sciences telephone 624-5678

city or town Stillwater, Okla. State University state Oklahoma

# 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. M. Metcalfe date 11/23/82

title \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

For NPS use only

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

James McClelland date 5/14/83  
Keeper of the National Register

Patrick Anders date 3/14/83  
Chief of Registration