

PH0369608

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED MAY 18 1976

DATE ENTERED JUL 6 1976

**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

Indian University at Tahlequah ^{et al.}

AND/OR COMMON

Bacone College

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

320 Academy

___ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Tahlequah

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

___ VICINITY OF

No. 6

STATE

Oklahoma

CODE

40

COUNTY

Cherokee

CODE

021

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

___ DISTRICT

___ PUBLIC

OCCUPIED

___ AGRICULTURE

___ MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

PRIVATE

___ UNOCCUPIED

___ COMMERCIAL

___ PARK

___ STRUCTURE

___ BOTH

___ WORK IN PROGRESS

___ EDUCATIONAL

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

___ SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

___ ENTERTAINMENT

___ RELIGIOUS

___ OBJECT

___ IN PROCESS

YES: RESTRICTED

___ GOVERNMENT

___ SCIENTIFIC

BEING CONSIDERED

___ YES: UNRESTRICTED

___ INDUSTRIAL

___ TRANSPORTATION

___ NO

___ MILITARY

___ OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mr. and Mrs. James E. Holderbee

STREET & NUMBER

320 Academy

CITY, TOWN

Tahlequah

___ VICINITY OF

STATE

Oklahoma

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Office of the County Clerk

STREET & NUMBER

Cherokee County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Tahlequah

STATE

Oklahoma

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Special Indian University Survey

DATE

1975

___ FEDERAL STATE ___ COUNTY ___ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR

SURVEY RECORDS

Oklahoma Historical Society

CITY, TOWN

Oklahoma City

STATE

Oklahoma

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR

DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED (basically) ORIGINAL SITE
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The building being nominated as "birthplace" of Indian University was built in 1867 as part of the Baptist Mission in Tahlequah. (The old mission building stood to the south and west and was torn down in 1923.) Basically it was, and remains, a two-story, nearly square frame structure, four rooms on each floor, with a front and back porch. (The basement area is for storage only.) Though obviously modernized on the outside (new siding, composition roof, etc.) and given the customary present-day amenities inside, it stands today in relatively good condition, perhaps not too greatly changed from the 1880-1885 period when it managed to provide living quarters for the mission superintendent and - to begin with - classroom and dormitory space for the fledgling "university" as well.

Prof. Bacone's initial class consisted of three Cherokees. By the end of the first term he had acquired one Choctaw, three non-Indians. At the end of the first year there were 56 students and another teacher. Obviously, as one early account put it, the school's facilities "were too restricted here" and the move to find a new and more adequate location got under way. Bacone himself felt the school should be located in an area that could appeal to more than a single Indian tribe (Tahlequah was the Cherokee capital). Muskogee, with its Union Agency serving all five of the "civilized" tribes, seemed ideal and it was to there the university was finally moved in 1885.

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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1880 - 1885

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This nomination would serve to protect the modest first home of what is today the nation's only private, church-related Indian college. Indian University was "born" February 9, 1880, in a room of a two-story building that was then a part of the Cherokee Baptist Mission at Tahlequah. Though it was moved five years later to Muskogee, its permanent location, the school "founded in prayer" continued to educate Indians of many different tribes. A fully accredited junior college with a 1975-1976 enrolment of over 600, Bacone (its name was changed in 1910) is playing an increasingly influential role in the training of Indian leadership. It is for this reason that the protection of National Register status is sought for the institution's humble birthplace.

Work of the American Baptist Home Mission Society in Indian Territory began in 1839 when the Rev. Jesse Bushyhead established the "Breadtown" mission near the Arkansas line. John Buttrick Jones moved the mission school to Tahlequah in 1867. By 1879 the Baptists had decided that a normal and theological school was needed. And the following year the Rev. Almon C. Bacone, superintendent of the Cherokee Male Seminary near Tahlequah, established the school, with three students, in a small room of the mission house.

Bacone knew, however, that education of Cherokee youth was well provided for -- the Cherokee Nation maintained seminaries for both boys and girls in the Tahlequah area -- and he soon discovered what he considered to be a more fertile field among the nearby Creeks. In 1881 the Creek Nation, at the urging of Chief Sam Checote, granted land near Muskogee to the Baptist mission society. John D. Rockefeller gave the society \$10,000 and on June 3, 1885, the four-story Rockefeller Hall was dedicated to "the cause of Christian education of Indians" and Indian University left Tahlequah.

The importance of Bacone to Indian Territory, Oklahoma, and the nation is attested to by Historian Carolyn Thomas Foreman. "Two students were graduated who became known throughout the whole country and confirmed the worth of the (school's) establishment," she wrote a number of years ago. She named Alexander Posey, the Creek philosopher, poet, and statesman, and Patrick J. Hurley. The latter, a white boy who worked his way through Bacone by driving the school hack to Muskogee for supplies, became a general, later served as U. S. Secretary of War and as special ambassador to China. In 1918 the first Boy Scout troop of Indians was organized at Bacone. Though its origins were humble indeed, Bacone College has grown steadily in its nearly a century of existence - not only in physical plant, but also in the areas of service to the (primarily) Indian people. Significantly, a Creek alumnus of the school, Charles Holleyman, is now its 13th president.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Foreman, Carolyn Thomas, "Bacone Indian College," unpublished manuscript
 Miller, P. Lynn, "Bacone College, Ninety Years of Indian Education,"
Daughters of the American Revolution Magazine, August-September 1970,
 pp. 668-669

Miscellaneous Materials collected by the Committee for Purchase and Restoration
of the Original Indian University Building and Site, Tahlequah, Oklahoma

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY c. 2.5 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A	1 1 5	3 2 1 2 0 1 4 1 5	3 1 9 1 7 6 4 1 5 1 2	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Kent Ruth, Deputy

ORGANIZATION

Oklahoma Historical Society

STREET & NUMBER

Historical Building

CITY OR TOWN

Oklahoma City

DATE

December 1975

TELEPHONE

405/884-5456

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

[Signature]

TITLE

SHPO

DATE

MAY 14 1976

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

7/6/76

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

[Signature]

DATE

7-1-76

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Oklahoma	
COUNTY Cherokee	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	JUL 6 1976

(Number all entries)

Indian University - Bacone College. A Correction. No. 7.

Line 5 should be understood as specifying that the structure is basically of brick, with porches, cornices and trim of wood. The new siding visible in the picture has been added to the brick exterior in what was obviously meant to be a modernization. If present restoration plans materialize it will obviously be stripped off to expose the bricks once again.

