

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

770680184

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

JUL 24 1978

DATE ENTERED

NOV 17 1978

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Loeser, Dr. Irwin D., Log Cabin

AND/OR COMMON

Loeser Cabin

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

121 East Smith Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Tahlequah

VICINITY OF

No. 2

STATE

CODE

CODE

Oklahoma

40

County

021

Cherokee

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION		<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO		

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Miss Sue Crafton

STREET & NUMBER

121 East Smith Street

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

Loeser Cabin Survey - HABS

DATE

1975

 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Oklahoma Historical Society

CITY, TOWN

Oklahoma City

STATE

Oklahoma

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT DETERIORATED
 GOOD RUINS
 FAIR UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED ALTERED Somewhat

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Although the exact construction date of the Loeser Cabin is impossible to determine, it is undoubtedly one of the oldest still standing in the state. HABS considers its original one room (on the south) "one of the earliest examples of frontier log construction remaining in Oklahoma."

As it stands today, the cabin is approximately 18 feet across its east front (actually facing a bit south of east), 15-1/2 feet deep. It has a lean-to porch across the front. The foundation is of uncoursed fieldstone, well mortared today with cement grouting. The walls are of 12-inch, square-hewn oak logs notched at their ends with flush joints. They are chinked now with cement. The log joists of the simple gable roof, laid parallel to the east facade, can be seen under the north and south eaves.

At the north end of the original cabin is a nondescript lean-to type shed room. It is of frame construction, with sawed studs and roof joists. Its walls are covered with gray asphalt composition siding. Its roof, like that of the cabin itself, is covered with asphalt shingles. When it was added is not known. It can be entered from the front porch and also from the cabin itself.

During the Civil War period the Loeser Cabin was considerable larger than at present. It is known that two rooms were added to the south. These were connected by a breezeway (or dog-trot) to a kitchen at the far south end. A large bedroom and porch were also added to the east, although specific dates again are missing. These were removed in 1907, when the present porch was added, thus explaining the use of tile blocks and rough-hewn log supports. Square milled posts are shown in old photographs. Present window openings seem to correspond to the original openings, but little can be determined as to the changes in sash type. In the original cabin there are two windows, one on the west, the other on the south. In addition to the front door on the east there is another leading to the lean-to on the north. One small brick chimney on the north is now enclosed by the lean-to.

Inside the floors are of standard tongue-and-groove boards, varnished in the old section, unfinished in the lean-to. Walls and ceiling of the rooms have been papered. Decorative hinges and stamped metal box lock on the front door are probably original fixtures. Although the house has been occupied almost continuously, modernities are limited to a single light bulb in the ceiling of each room. There is no stairway access to the loft area. Behind the cabin (to the west) is the old stone well, now capped, which once served it.

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 checked="" 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) Medicine								
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION										

SPECIFIC DATES c. 1850 to present BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Loeser Cabin is significant for both its age and the quarter-century role its owner played in a raw, war-ravaged community on the frontier. Dr. Irwin D. Loeser did not build the cabin that bears his name. Its original one room had been erected - by whom no one now knows - some years before he came to Tahlequah in the late 1840s. Construction dates from 1833 to 1848 have been suggested. Whatever the precise date, the cabin stands today as one of the earliest examples of frontier log construction remaining in Oklahoma. It is one of the two or three oldest buildings in the state. Dr. Loeser acquired the cabin in 1852 and it is still owned by his grand-daughter, who lives in a two-story Victorian house standing only a few yards behind it.

The significance of Dr. Loeser's role in early-day Tahlequah can be documented somewhat more precisely. Born in Pennsylvania in 1812, he came west as a medical officer. Receiving his discharge at nearby Fort Gibson, he moved to the newly established Cherokee Nation capital of Tahlequah. For many years he was the area's only doctor. He was still practicing when he died in 1877.

The cabin today has a latter-day lean-to on the north, a porch ██████████ across its east front. Around the Civil War period it was even larger, with an open breezeway (dog-trot) and kitchen on the south, a large bedroom on the east. It was during this troubled period that the house and its owner were of greatest service to the community. In a letter to his mother in late 1865 Dr. Loeser wrote that he had been captured twice during the war while going to attend the sick. But he'd been released because he was the only doctor in the area. He said both sides had robbed him and plundered his possessions, accusing him of being sympathetic to the other side. But neither had harmed him. And they also spared his cabin, which was often used as a refuge for those displaced by the internecine warfare.

In another letter written shortly before his death Dr. Loeser told his mother he was the doctor for the two Cherokee seminaries (male and female, both located near Tahlequah for which he received a salary of \$50 per month. But he had to furnish the medicines! He mentioned again that it was difficult to collect his fees (\$2.00 per call) because the people were so poor. . . .Dr. Loeser served the countryside on horseback. And his grand-daughter (an active horsewoman at 83) still has his medical saddlebags, complete with small bottles of medicine, which she plans to present to the Cherokee National Historical Society.

Dr. Loeser's obituary appeared in the Cherokee Advocate of Sept. 19, 1877. Apparent written by editor W. P. Boudinot, it reported his death as of September 11, went on to praise him in this manner: "His life was one of unvarying steadiness and usefulness. The writer of this who knew him for many years never knew of his having a single enemy. As proof of this fact, it may be mentioned that he lived during the war unharmed

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Historic American Building Survey report, 1975

West, C. W., "History of Tahlequah," The Pictorial Press, Tahlequah, Oklahoma,
July 28, 1977, page 2
- Interview with Miss Sue Crafton

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY c. 1 acre
UTM REFERENCES

A 1 1,5 3 2,2 4 9,5 3,9 17,6 14,6,0
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

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

DATE

Oklahoma Historical Society

February 1978

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

Historical Building

405/884-5456

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Oklahoma City

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

TITLE

DATE

7-14-78

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

ATTEST:

Charles Atchison

DATE

11-12-78

DATE

11-16-78

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	
NOV 17 1978		

(Number all entries)

No. 8 Significance

Page 1

Loeser, Dr. Irwin D., Log Cabin

by even the wild riders and scouts from both sides who were constantly scouting the country. Thus respected, Dr. Lozier (sic) lived his life of quiet usefulness until laid on his final bed of sickness some weeks since."

