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RECEIVED APR 21 1980

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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

Tamaha Jail and Ferry Landing

AND/OR COMMON

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

9 miles N, 7½ miles E of Stigler

__ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Stigler

VICINITY OF

003

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Oklahoma

40

Haskell

061

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

DISTRICT

BUILDING(S)

STRUCTURE

SITE

OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

PUBLIC

PRIVATE

BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

IN PROCESS

BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

OCCUPIED

UNOCCUPIED

WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

YES: RESTRICTED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

NO

PRESENT USE

AGRICULTURE

COMMERCIAL

EDUCATIONAL

ENTERTAINMENT

GOVERNMENT

INDUSTRIAL

MILITARY

MUSEUM

PARK

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

RELIGIOUS

SCIENTIFIC

TRANSPORTATION

OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

STREET & NUMBER

224 N. Boulder

CITY, TOWN

Tulsa

__ VICINITY OF

STATE

OK

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

County Clerk's Office

STREET & NUMBER

Haskell County

CITY, TOWN

Stigler

STATE

OK

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Oklahoma Comprehensive Survey

DATE

1979

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Preservation Office, Oklahoma Historical Society

CITY, TOWN

Oklahoma City

STATE

OK

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The nominated property includes two small plots of ground, one containing a small jail and the other the location of an early ferry landing. The two locations, separated by about 750', are all that remain of the original town of Tamaha.

The small jail constructed of sandstone blocks was erected in approximately 1895. The 8' by 12' structure has a front door, a small window to the left of the door, and windows on each end of the jail. Presently it is owned by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and leased to the town of Tamaha. The jail building remains in relatively good condition.

1.

None of the original buildings of the town remain; however, the area of the original town is minimally disturbed. A few residences and a general store, none on the original town site, constitute the village of Tamaha today.

The ferry landing site is now owned by the U.S. Corps of Engineers. A gentle slope leads down to the river, where the ferry from Vian landed in the town's heyday. No structures associated with the landing remain.

2.

[Faint, illegible text]

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
—PREHISTORIC	—ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	—COMMUNITY PLANNING	—LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	—RELIGION
—1400-1499	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	—CONSERVATION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LAW	—SCIENCE
—1500-1599	—AGRICULTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	—LITERATURE	—SCULPTURE
—1600-1699	—ARCHITECTURE	—EDUCATION	—MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
—1700-1799	—ART	—ENGINEERING	—MUSIC	—THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	—PHILOSOPHY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
—1900-	—COMMUNICATIONS	—INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	—OTHER (SPECIFY)
		—INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1825-1912 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Unknown

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Tamaha jail and landing are significant because they stand as a memorial to one of the earliest port towns and trading centers in the Choctaw Nation, Indian Territory. Tamaha developed as a river port and river crossing point approximately twenty-five years prior to the Civil War. It was the most important river port between Fort Smith, Arkansas and Fort Gibson, Indian Territory, being located on the south bank of the Arkansas River. Both passengers and freight were carried to and from the Tamaha landing by steamboats coming up the Arkansas River. The Tamaha ferry was moved across the Arkansas River to Vian by either poles or large sweeps and two-man oars. During the Civil War, Choctaw Confederate forces sunk the steamboat J.R. Williams, carrying a cargo valued at \$120,000 and bound for Fort Gibson, on June 15, 1864. The last steamboat touched at Tamaha landing in 1912.

Tamaha was a significant agricultural trading post for the Choctaw Indians. During the post-Civil War period, it became a cotton and corn production area and a gristmill and cotton gin were erected near the river bank. Bales of cotton and fur as well as sacks of corn were shipped to Fort Smith.

By 1895 Tamaha consisted of one store, a post office, and the jail being nominated. From 1895 to 1905, the population increased from 50 to 500 persons. During the ten year period, several new buildings were constructed including four general stores, a meat market, a drugstore, two blacksmith shops, a bank, a hotel, two churches, and a grade school. The grist mill and cotton gin were still in operation.

In 1919 a fire destroyed all the businesses of the two-block long main street. Many of the businesses were rebuilt; however, a second fire in 1926 again burned the business district of the town. The bank was robbed in the early 1920s, and never reopened. The businesses lost during the second fire never rebuilt as migration from the area took its toll. The grade school continued until 1964. The post office, built in 1884, closed its doors in 1954. Mail had come to Tamaha via steamboat, horseback, buggy, mail/hack, and automobile. Both newspapers, Tamaha Banner and the New Era, no longer exist.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Interview, Mr. Gerald Murrelle, Tamaha, Oklahoma, June 17, 1979
Morris, John W., Ghost Towns of Oklahoma. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1977.

UTM NOT VERIFIED

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY under 1 acre

QUADRANGLE NAME Vian, OK

QUADRANGLE SCALE 7.5'

UTM REFERENCES

anding A 1,5 3,2,0 3,3,5 3,9 1,9 1,0,0

B 1,5 3,2,0 0,7,5 3,9 1,8 8,1,0 Jail

ZONE

EASTING

NORTHING

ZONE

EASTING

NORTHING

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

NW 1/4, SW 1/4, NE 1/4, Sec 28 T11N R22E

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

George O. Carney, Associate Professor of Geography Directed by Dr. Annetta L. Cheek

ORGANIZATION

Oklahoma Historic Preservation Survey

DATE

June 23, 1979

STREET & NUMBER

Oklahoma State University

TELEPHONE

405-624-5678

CITY OR TOWN

Stillwater

STATE

OK

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

4/10/80

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

11/17/80

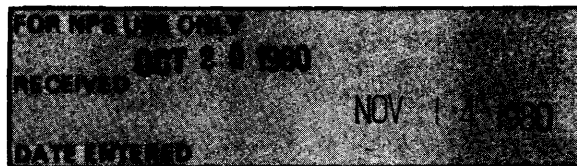
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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



CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 1

Verbal Boundary Description

Location of Jail

Under one acre

From SW corner of section 28 proceed east for 340 meters then turn left to a 32 degree reading and proceed 1000 meters along street and arrive at a church located on the left hand side of the street and at an intersection. From the church proceed at a 20 degree reading for 70 meters and observe the jail on the right, then proceed 20 meters further, make a 90 degree turn and proceed 20 meters, then make another 90 degree turn to the right and proceed 20 meters, then make the final 90 degree turn to the right and arrive at the point where first observed the jail.

Location of Ferry

One acre

From SW corner of section 28 proceed east for 340 meters, then turn left to a 32 degree reading and proceed 1000 meters along the street to the dead end, then turn right 90 degrees and proceed for 20 meters then turn left again to a 32 degree bearing for 400 meters to water edge. To encompass an acre square turn right and proceed 208.79 feet, turn right and proceed 208.79 feet, turn right and proceed 208.79 feet and complete the acre of the ferry nomination.