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Form 10|300 (July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

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ERIOR	STATE:	
	Kentucky	
PLACES	Scott	
RM	FOR NPS USE ONLY	,
	ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
ections)	MAR 1973	

SAME   COMMON   Choctaw Indian Academy   Choctaw Indian	(Type all entrie	s – complete appl	licable sections)	-	MAR ?	1973	-	
AND/OR HISTORIC:  Blue Spring Farm    Comments   Commen	1. NAME							
ADD/OR HISTORIC:    LOCATION	COMMON:							
ADD/OR HISTORIC:    LOCATION		Choctaw Inc	dian Academ	V	AL	15.		
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CATEGORY (Check One)  District		Kentucky				20	9	
Check One   ONNERSHIP   STATUS   TO THE PUBLIC   Yes:   Structure   Site   Structure   Property   Site   Structure   Preservation work   Object   Site   Structure   Preservation work   Onnerstricted   In Process   Valuation   Valuation   Valuation   Onnerstricted   In Process   Valuation   V		т			Ι	т		   ;
District			OWNERSHIP		STATUS			
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Object	District X Building		Public Acquisition:		Occupied	t .		
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PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)    Agricultural   Government   Park   Transportation   Comments     Commercial   Industrial   Private Residence   Other (Specify)     Educational   Military   Religious     Entertainment   Museum   Scientific     OWNER OF PROPERTY	☐ Object	☐ Both	☐ Being Cons	idered	Preservation work	d —	a	
Agricultural   Government   Park   Transportation   Comments     Commercial   Industrial   Private Residence   Other (Specity)     Educational   Military   Religious     Entertainment   Museum   Scientific     A. OWNER OF PROPERTY					in progress	□ No		
Commercial   Industrial   Private Residence   Other (Specity)     Educational   Military   Religious     Entertainment   Museum   Scientific     Western   Mrs. Joe Gaines     STREET AND NUMBER:   East Main Street     City or town:   Staffd:   Code     Courthouse, Recistry of Deeds, Etc:   Scott County Court house     STREET AND NUMBER:   Staffd:   Code     Street And Number:   Scott County Court house     City or town:   East Main At Broadway   Staff   Code     City or town:   Street   Staffd:   Code     City or town:   Staffd:   Code     Code   Street And Number:   Code     City or town:   Survey of Historic Sites IN Kentucky   Code     City or town:   Survey   Staffd:   Code   Code     City or town:   Staffd:   Code   Code     City or town:   Staffd:   Code   Code   Code     City or town:   Staffd:   Code   Code   Code     City or town:   Staffd:   Code	PRESENT USE (Check One or	More as Appropriate)				1		
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4. OWNER OF PROPERTY  OWNER'S NAME:  STREET AND NUMBER:  Georgetown  CODE  Georgetown  COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:  Scott County Court house  STREET AND NUMBER:  Georgetown  Geor			•					
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7.	DESCRIPTION						
	i.				(Check One)		
	CONDITION	Excellent	Good	☐ Fair	Deteriorated	Ruins	Unexposed
	CONDITION	(Check One)			(Check One)		
		☐ Alter	ed	XX Unaltered		☐ Moved	√x Original Site
	DESCRIBE THE PR	ESENT AND ORI	GINAL (if kn	own) PHYSICAL	_ APPEARANCE		

This picturesque and now pastoral setting on the banks of and above the bluff over historical Blue Spring was once a bustling center for the plantation of Richard M. Hohnson, and the site of the campus of the Choctaw Indian Academy. Of the five original buildings of the Academy, which were constructed prior to the 1825 formal opening, only one remains. This was probably a dormitory. Johnson's home overlooking the spring burned earlier in this century, a few charred bricks still being visible on the bluff and bank. A one-story structure, probably slave quarters, still stands on the opposite bank from the remaining academy building, and a number of rock fences line the yard and the farm.

The stone structure used as part of the Indian Academy was built on three levels, with the steep incline providing a first floor on the lower hillside level. Fireplaces are on the basement and first level. An upstairs can be reached. Three bays wide, the building still has its original chair railing, floors and wood trim. There were four stone buildings on the campus, and one frame structure. The remaining structure is used for storing hay. Cattle roam into the lower level.

The site of the rest of the buildings, extending along the Blue Spring's brief route to North Elkhorn Creek, is picturesque, with bluffs rising on either side of the spring. It was on this shaded site that the people of the area held a barbecue in honor of General Marquis de Lafayette in May, 1825. An estimated 5,000 persons attended that event.

After the Johnson home burned, a frame tenant house of good design and construction was erected overlooking the bluff. Several barns are also near the historic structures.



6.4

ERIOD (Check One or More as	Appropriate)		
Pre-Columbian	16th Century	18th Century	20th Century
15th Century	☐ 17th Century	19th Century	
SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable	e and Known) 1825-	1831	TATT.
AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Che	ck One or More as Appropria	ite)	mai ( 🔊
Aboriginal .	Education	Political /	Ton Planning
Prehistoric	Engineering	Delinian / Place	The Afficer (Specify)
Historic · ·	Industry '	Nosoph AUG	19 ( ) ( ) ( ) ( )
Agriculture	Invention	Science A/A	19/2
Architecture	Landscape	Sculpture RES	10014
☐ Art	Architecture	X Social/Humm	STEE IS
Commerce	Literature	itarian	
Communications	Military	Theater	1011/10
Conservation	Music	Transportation	Ul

Choctaw Academy at the Blue Spring Farm is historic in at least three respects. (1) The Choctaw Academy located here between 1818 and 1831 served to educate hundreds of Indians in liberal arts and trades in an attempt to assimilate the nation into the American culture. Federal aid in the sum of \$6,000 a year was provided, beginning in 1825, making the school, along with West Point, one of two government schools operated through the Department of War. The quality of education may be determined by the fact that boys from the area acquired their education here also. In 1831 the school was located about  $2rac{1}{2}$  miles southwest from the first site in log structures; the scarcity of timber occasioned the move. The school was discontinued around 1845. (2) The home of Richard M. Johnson, member of Congress from 1807 through 1820, United States Senator after 1820 and Vice-President of the United States from 1836-1840 under President Martin Van Buren, was builk just northwest of the academy lot overlooking a third branch of the picturesque Blue Spring. (3) A feast in honor of Marquis de Lafayette took place in May, 1825, along the spring with Indian boys performing drills and contests. The crowd at the event was estimated at 5,000 persons, and the menuincluded 25 choice steers and 15 lambs and a 500 pound cheese. In 1819 President James Monroe and General Andrew Jackson visited Kentucky and spent the hight at the farm as guests of Johnson.

The attempt to provide academic background for the conquered Indian nations was a noble one, a success for two decades. Choctaw Indian Academy stands unique in its role as a major national project to assimilate the Indian into the American culture. It was an outgrowth of a religious and philanthropic idea of a smaller scale, undertaken by the Kentucky Baptists in 1818 on the Johnson tract. Most of the buildings dated from January 26, 1825 when the Choctaws and United States government entered a treaty providing six thousand dollars a year for twenty years for the education of Choctaw Children "at some point distant from the nation." The academy was a two-story stone house 44 by 24 feet. The other three stone buildings were used for dining and lodging. There also was a one-story frame structure.

(see continuation sheet)

9.	MAJOR	BIBLIOGRAP	HICAL RE	FERENCE	5									
	Leland W. Meyer, The Life and Times of Col. Richard M. Johnson of Kentucky (AMS Press; 1967) Chapters 2,3,6,7, & 8 (Reprint of 1932 edition).													
	J. W	inston (	Colemar	n, <u>Hist</u>	oric	Ker	tuc	kу	(Lexi	ngton	:1967)	p.17	73	
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	As the	e designated S	State Liais	on Officer f	for the Na	-			certify t		roperty is	included	l in the	
	tional 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					1	-	1 Registe	-	roperty is	metadea	i iii tiie		
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evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set				(Pirton Pan II the										
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Form 10-300a (July 1969)

## UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

STATE	Kentucky					
COUNTY	Scott					
F	OR NPS USE ON	LY				
ENTR	Y NUMBER	DATE				
MA	R 7 19 <b>73</b>					

(Continuation Sheet)

(Number all entries)

#8 Statement Of Significance:

Early reaction to the school was favorable as the boys returned to the Indian nation to put their knowledge to use. They attended church in the community and some became ministers. By 1826 the enrollment had climbed to more than 100 boys, including Choctaws, Pottawatomies, Creeks and Chickasaws as well as white boys from nearby farms. In 1831 due to a timber shortage, Johnson relocated the school on his White Sulphur Springs Farm where he was also operating a fashionable health and watering resort. At the White Sulphur site the Lancasterian system of trade school was adopted and gained approval.

Johnson's star between 1825 and 1840 had attained the peak of its ascendancy, with his unsuccessful race for President and his successful race for the Vice-Presidency. A rapid decline of his fortunes then set in. In 1850 he died a pensioner and a member of the Kentucky Legislature, and after services in the State House he was buried in the Frankfort Cemetery near the grave of Daniel Boone. An engraving of Johnson's alleged slaying of Tecumseh in the Battle of the Thames appears on the monument.

