

5-18-73

APR 17 1972

Form 10-300
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

STATE:	Kentucky	
COUNTY:	Scott	
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER	MAR 7 1973	DATE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

1. NAME

COMMON: Choctaw Indian Academy

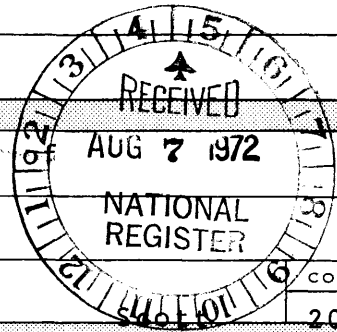
AND/OR HISTORIC: Blue Spring Farm

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: U.S. 227 two miles northwest of junction with U.S. 460
4.5 miles W of Georgetown VA 227

CITY OR TOWN: Georgetown

STATE: Kentucky CODE: 21 COUNTY: 209



3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered <input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Mrs. Joe Gaines

STREET AND NUMBER: East Main Street

CITY OR TOWN: Georgetown STATE: Kentucky CODE: 21

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:

STREET AND NUMBER: Scott County Court house

CITY OR TOWN: East Main At Broadway STATE: Kentucky CODE: 21

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: Survey Of Historic Sites IN Kentucky

DATE OF SURVEY: 1971 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Kentucky Heritage Commission

STREET AND NUMBER: 401 Wapping Street

CITY OR TOWN: Frankfort STATE: Kentucky CODE: 21

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: COUNTY: ENTRY NUMBER: DATE: FOR NPS USE ONLY

MAR 7 1973

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)

Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Ruins Unexposed

(Check One)

Altered Unaltered

(Check One)

Moved Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) 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. Johnson, 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.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



B. SIGNIFICANCE

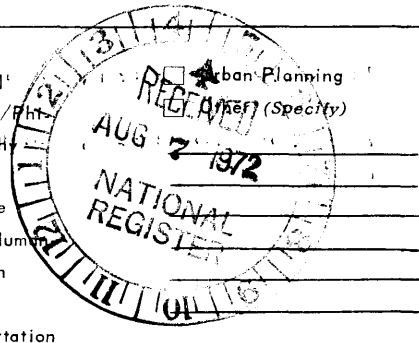
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian | 16th Century | 18th Century | 20th Century
 15th Century | 17th Century | 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1825-1831**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | |



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

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 2½ 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 built 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 menu included 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 night 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. The 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)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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. Winston Coleman, Historic Kentucky (Lexington:1967) p.173

J. Winston Coleman, Kentucky: A Pictorial History (Lexington:1971) p. 131.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	0 0 0	0 0 0		38 13 49	84 38 56	
NE	0 0 0	0 0 0				
SE	0 0 0	0 0 0				
SW	0 0 0	0 0 0				

UTM
16/707040/
4233990

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 3 1/4 acres

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Ann B. Bevins, Scott County Representative

ORGANIZATION: Kentucky Heritage Commission DATE: 4-1-72
Scott County Historical Society

STREET AND NUMBER:
Route # 4 - Lexington Pike

CITY OR TOWN: Georgetown STATE: Kentucky CODE: 21

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name [Signature]

Title _____

Date 8/2/72

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

[Signature]
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 3/7/73

ATTEST: [Signature]

Keeper of The National Register

Date 3-1-73

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

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE		Kentucky
COUNTY		Scott
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE	
MAR 7	1973	

(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.

