

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED APR 21 1980

DATE ENTERED JUN 27

**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

The Pioneer Club  
AND/OR COMMON

**LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

First and Mississippi Streets

— NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Atoka

— VICINITY OF

003

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

OK

40

Atoka

005

**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

Pioneer Club

STREET & NUMBER

First and Mississippi

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Atoka

— VICINITY OF

OK

**LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Office of the County Clerk

STREET & NUMBER

Atoka County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Atoka

OK

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Oklahoma Comprehensive Survey

DATE

1979

—FEDERAL  STATE —COUNTY —LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Oklahoma Historical Society, Preservation Office

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Oklahoma City

OK

# 7 DESCRIPTION

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

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Pioneer Club building was constructed in 1905. Facing east, it has no dominant architectural style. The structure measured 57 feet by 33 feet and is somewhat unique for its combination hipped-gabled roof line. It was built according to a formal plan, which is suggested by its recessed central entryway. Three doors with fan lights open into the structure--one each into the wings and one into the central part of the building. The roof of the porch is supported by four small Tuscan-style columns, the floor of the porch is wood, and lap siding covers the entire structure.

The interior floor plan of the building has not been altered. The north wing houses kitchen facilities and book shelves; the south wing contains only enclosed bookcases along the walls; and the central portion of the building contains a stage on the west wall. There is no partition between the south wing and the stage room; one does, however, separate the north wing. The floors and all woodwork are constructed from hardwoods.

The building is excellently maintained and serves its original purpose.

# 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 checked="" 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 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 type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" 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      1905 to Present      BUILDER/ARCHITECT      Pioneer Club

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Pioneer Club property is especially significant because it suggests the social and educational evolution of Indian Territory and Oklahoma. The community of Atoka developed rapidly after 1875 when the railroad linked it with points both north and south. Initially only a small Choctaw Indian settlement, the town became a center of commerce and industry (saw milling) with a predominantly white population. Because they were in Indian Territory, white residents did not have available to them those types of social institutions to which they were accustomed in the states. Without these and without the ability to participate in governmental affairs, they lacked means of developing a sense of community and corporate identification. This was a particularly difficult situation for those whites who were women, and they were soon at pains to find a way to correct the situation. Joining with mixed-blood Indian women who were anxious to imitate the cultural patterns of the white population, the white women in 1896 organized the Pioneer Club of Atoka. The first president was Mrs. E. N. Wright, the wife of a Choctaw physician and politician and the mother of historian Muriel Wright. The purpose of the club was to promote social intercourse, adult education, and civic improvement.

Organized when it was (1896), the Pioneer Club was the first women's organization in Indian Territory, not to mention the Choctaw Nation. Moreover, it became a part of the National Federation of Women's Clubs in 1901, and was that group's first chapter in what is now Oklahoma. Believing that their work could be best carried out if they had their own club house, the women of the Pioneer Club raised money for and then built the structure that now stands on the corner of First and Mississippi streets. Designed strictly as a club house, the building was completed in 1905. The facility immediately became a community center and provided the membership with the corporate identity previously lacking among those who were alien residents in the Choctaw Nation. With room now available, the women organized a public library--the first in the state. They also carried out other cultural enrichment and civic activities, a program of work that made the Pioneer Club a model for women's clubs in the region, especially after Oklahoma became a state in 1907.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Atoka County Times, February 25, 1971, p. 1.  
The Daily Oklahoman, April 29, 1962, pp. 26A, 29A.  
Underwood, William H. A History of Atoka County, University of Oklahoma,  
 M.A. Thesis, 1931.

UTM NOT VERIFIED

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre

QUADRANGLE NAME Lehigh, OK

QUADRANGLE SCALE 7.5'

UTM REFERENCES

A 14 764030 3808330  
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B           
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C         

D         

E         

F         

G         

H         

## VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

North 95' of Lot 1, Block 38, Atoka City

## 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

Dr. W. David Baird  
ORGANIZATION

Directed by Dr. Annetta L. Cheek

Oklahoma Historic Preservation Survey

DATE  
September, 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 X

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

*Blenn Jordan*

TITLE

DATE 4/10/80

## FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

*John Thomas DeLoach*  
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 6/27/80

ATTEST: *Beth Grosvenor*  
CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE 6/25/80

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CONTINUATION SHEET

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The Pioneer Club is still an active organization. Periodically, it sponsors adult education programs, cultural activities, and civic functions. And its members take pride in the fact that the club has such a rich historical tradition. Especially important to them is the fact that when no other avenues existed, the club provided a vehicle for social intercourse that produced a sense of community, for cultural enrichment opportunities (education), and for keeping abreast of current literature by means of a library.