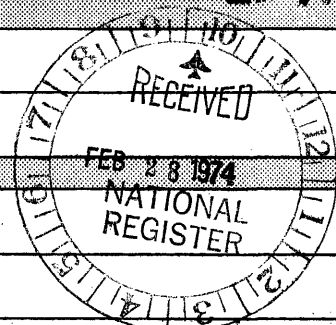


NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Oklahoma	
COUNTY: Seminole	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	MAR 28 1974



1. NAME

COMMON:
Mekasukey Academy

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
c. 5 m. SW of Seminole

CITY OR TOWN:
Seminole vic. (SW/4 Sec. 6, T 8 N., R 6 E)

STATE: **Oklahoma** CODE: **40** COUNTY: **Seminole** CODE: **133**

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input 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
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Comments <u>Ruins themselves unused.</u>

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Mekasukey Mission

STREET AND NUMBER:
Bureau of Indian Affairs

CITY OR TOWN: **Muskogee** STATE: **Oklahoma** CODE: **40**

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Office of the County Clerk

STREET AND NUMBER:
Seminole County Courthouse

CITY OR TOWN: **Seminole** STATE: **Oklahoma** CODE: **40**

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Oklahoma Historic Sites Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: **1958** Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Oklahoma Historical Society

STREET AND NUMBER:
Historical Building

CITY OR TOWN: **Oklahoma City** STATE: **Oklahoma** CODE: **40**

STATE: **Oklahoma**

COUNTY: **Seminole**

ENTRY NUMBER: **MAR 28 1974**

DATE: **MAR 28 1974**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Seminole Council authorized an expenditure of \$65,000 to erect and equip Mekasukey Academy. It was finished in time for the opening of the 1891-1892 school year. Built of brick and stone (red sandstone blocks hauled overland by oxen from Muskogee), it was an impressive affair, rivaling any educational facility to be found in Indian Territory.

The central section was four stories high, including a nearly ground-level basement that contained the kitchen, a dining room (furnished with long wooden tables, chairs and benches, and a piano), and the school's laundry. This square central part of the building was flanked by two three-story wings garnished with balconies and porches. Conical towers, or turrets, stood guard over the southeast and northeast corners. Sweeping stairways, smaller turrets, and decorative chimneys for the building's fireplaces added Victorian elegance to the structure.

On the main (second) floor was the superintendent's office and living quarters. Here, too, were the primary and intermediate class rooms, the music room with its pianos, and a general assembly room that also served as class room for the older students. The infirmary was on the third floor. Rooms for students and teachers occupied the rest of the third and all of the fourth floor. Each floor had identical lavatory and bath arrangements along the west (back) side of the central section. Quite modern for its time, Mekasukey had hot and cold running water on each floor, steam heat to augment its fireplaces. A large wooden water tank filled the upper part of the southeast tower.

Today, as the enclosed picture confirms, only broken basement walls and gaunt, uncared-for trees remain to suggest the size and beauty Mekasukey once boasted. Meager as they are it is felt that an effective memorial to the Seminole educational system can be created here by stabilizing the ruins, clearing away unsightly rubble, adding a surfaced parking area, and providing the serious visitor with self-tour walkways and informational plaques. The site adjoins OK 59 three miles southwest of the town of Seminole. Near by are grounds used from time to time for tribal ceremonials.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



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)

1891 - 1930

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input checked="" 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 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

The Seminoles, fifth of Oklahoma's so-called Five Civilized Tribes, though not as advanced as the other four in some respects, nevertheless expressed an interest in schools for their children in their first meetings with United States government agents. The Treaty of 1823 provided for establishment of a school in Florida. The first school for Seminole children in Indian Territory was opened in 1844. The first mission school opened four years later under auspices of the Presbyterians. The Baptists began mission work in the Seminole Nation around 1850 and Spring Church, the original organized congregation (about two miles west of present Sasakwa), still has an influential Seminole membership. Colonel John Jumper, pastor at the time of his death, had long been a strong advocate of education.

This informal introduction is by way of pointing up the logic of the Seminole Council's eventual decision to establish two national academies, with identical facilities, to educate their boys and girls. The first of these institutions, erected and equipped at a cost of \$65,000, was Mekasukey Academy. For boys, it opened in 1891. (Construction was then begun on the duplicate academy for girls - Emahaka ... the Seminole word for "girl's school.") Mekasukey was named for one of the "war towns" of the old Seminole Nation, whose people were known for their bravery. The name itself comes from the Creek word mekko-tku-cuko. Originally it meant "where the chiefs meet," but the meaning later developed into "place where Christianity is taught."

With statehood in 1907 state-supported public schools soon began to appear in the one-time Indian nations. The need for separate Indian boarding schools declined. Responsibility for them was assumed by the federal government and many were closed. In 1911 Emahaka Academy was merged with Mekasukey, which was attended by girls as well as boys from that date until it, too, finally closed its doors in 1930.

Mekasukey Academy's role was a relatively brief one. But thanks to the caliber of those who directed its educational, and religious, efforts -- and the full cooperation of the Seminole Nation itself -- that role was not an inconsequential one. Although only the ruins of the academy's main building remain, it is felt that their preservation, with suitable walkways and informational markers, will create a fitting memorial, both to the institution itself and to the desire of the Seminoles to further the education of their youth.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

McReynolds, Edwin C., The Seminoles, University of Oklahoma Press, 1957, p. 343
 Ruth, Kent et al., Oklahoma: A Guide to the Sooner State, University of Oklahoma Press, 1957, p. 360
 Shirk, George H., Oklahoma Place Names, University of Oklahoma Press, 1965, p. 139
 Wright, Muriel H., A Guide to the Indian Tribes of Oklahoma, University of Oklahoma Press, 1951, p. 236

160
UTM
HF

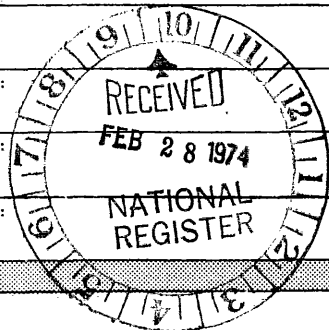
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

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	° ' "	° ' "		35° 11' 25"	96° 43' 18"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **Three acres**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Kent Ruth, Deputy

ORGANIZATION: **Oklahoma Historical Society** DATE: **January 1974**

STREET AND NUMBER:
Historical Building

CITY OR TOWN: **Oklahoma City** STATE: **Oklahoma** CODE: **40**

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

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 *SHO for Okla*

Date **FEB 25 1974**

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

[Signature]
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date *2/28/74*

ATTEST:
[Signature]
acting Keeper of The National Register

Date *2-27-74*

Mekasukey Academy - - - - Lat.: 35° 11' 25"
Long.: 86° 43' 18"

ST. LOUIS 11 MI.
MAUD 3.9 MI.

6654 III NE
(MAUD)

T. 9 N.
T. 8 N.

12'30"

