

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

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

1. NAME

COMMON:
Chief's House

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
1.5 m. NE of (NE/4 Sec. 23, T 6 S, R 20 E)

CITY OR TOWN:
Swink

STATE: Oklahoma CODE: 40 COUNTY: Choctaw CODE: 023

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Both Private with perpetual easement	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)			
<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 checked="" 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) _____ _____ _____
			Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Mrs. Charlotte Crisler and Mrs. Violet Beach

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Swink STATE: Oklahoma CODE: 40

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

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

STREET AND NUMBER:
Choctaw County Courthouse

CITY OR TOWN: Hugo STATE: Oklahoma CODE: 40

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

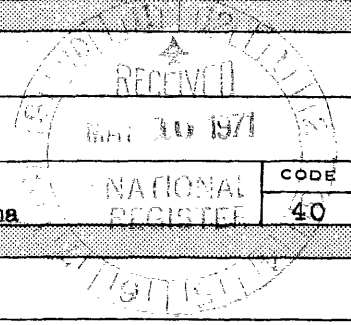
TITLE OF SURVEY:
Oklahoma Historic Sites Survey

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: Choctaw

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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	Restored, in part reconstructed (Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input 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		

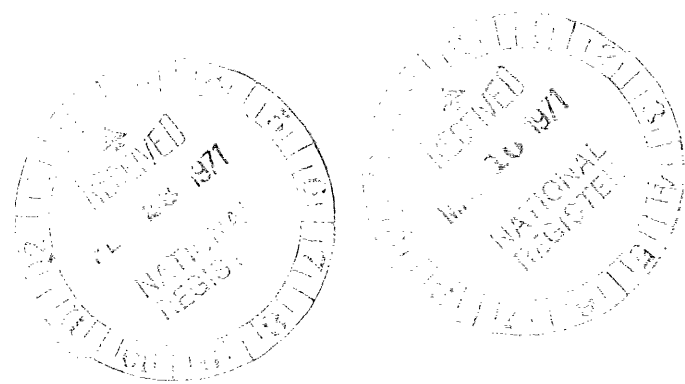
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Published specifications give us a good picture of what the "Chief's House" must have looked like in the late 1830s. The same specifications gave restorers a welcome blueprint to go by in their work. In between, of course, the double-house-with-dogtrot shrank to half its size (as the north wing was pulled down, its logs and chimney stones put to other purposes on the farm) and decayed badly from abuse and neglect.

Government plans called for the house to be 52 x 20 feet, consisting of two rooms 20 feet square at each end and the traditional open passageway, or dogtrot (12 x 20 feet), between them. Logs 15 inches "on the face," six inches thick, were specified for the walls, with the inner surface straight edged. One and one-half inch thick planks, tongue-and-grooved, were required for the flooring and room ceilings. House-length porches, 10 feet wide, were called for. Sills were to be on a 12-inch center with flooring laid "athwart the porch." Porch roofs were to extend down over the main body of the house. The roof was to be of 18-inch singles with a five-inch show. A stairway leads to the two, low-ceilinged upper rooms, connected over the dogtrot by a hallway. Massive stone chimneys guarded either end of the house.

Although the old house was pretty much a shambles when restoration work began in the 1960s, it now closely resembles the original. Inside restoration work -- and re-furnishing -- continue. One original mantel, a handsome hand-carved affair, has survived. Within a few months the "Chief's House" -- and Oklahoma's oldest -- will be open to visitors who would see how a Choctaw Nation leader lived on the frontier in the early 1800s.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



SIGNIFICANCE

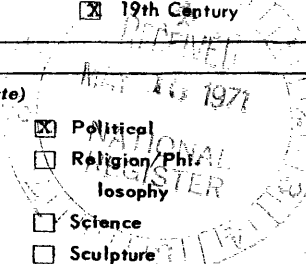
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input checked="" 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 checked="" 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

Oklahoma's "oldest house" still standing is significant not only for its antiquity, but also for the fact it was built by the Federal Government in fulfillment of a solemn treaty obligation (itself no mean feat in the early 19th century) and occupied for many years by a well known District Chief of the Choctaw Nation.

The 1830 Treaty of Dancing Rabbit Creek, arranging the removal of the Choctaws from Mississippi to what is now Southeastern Oklahoma, provided \$10,000 for erection of a council house and homes for each of three district chiefs. This log house near present-day Swink was that built for the Apukshenubbee District chief. Specifications for it were printed in the Arkansas Gazette (Little Rock) in 1836. Contract fulfillment date was Sept. 1, 1837.

Greenwood LeFlore, it might be pointed out, was the district chief who signed the Dancing Rabbit Creek treaty. He chose not to leave Mississippi, however, and sent his cousin, Thomas LeFlore, to serve in his stead. Other chiefs were elected when his term expired. But by then each had his own home and continued to live in it rather than occupy the government-provided house. As result Thomas LeFlore, as one historian has noted, "lived in the house so long that he thought he owned the place."

Certainly he built up the property. In time he had a thousand acres, cared for plantation-style by Negro slaves. Even after he had moved away the place was always known as the "Thousand Acre Farm." During the Civil War it was focal point of pro-Confederate activities. After the war, however, the plantation was broken up into smaller tracts and different families lived in the old house. For a time it was occupied by a "Parson Keith," a Methodist missionary who held church services and performed weddings in the house. When the tribal land was individually allotted under terms of the Dawes Commission, this part of the old "Thousand Acre Farm" passed to the Swink family (for whom the nearby community was named). In 1902 it was sold to the Blair family. The present owners bought it in 1956, have granted perpetual easement to the house itself to the Oklahoma Historical Society.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Fraker, Elmer, Brochure on Historic Sites in Southeastern Oklahoma, Oklahoma Historical Society, 1959
 Imon, Frances, "Oklahoma's Oldest House," Oklahoma City Times, April 28, 1965, p. 32
 Miller, R. G., "This Old House Is Full of History," Daily Oklahoman, March 1, 1959, p. 6
 Wright, Dr. Muriel H., "Historic Spots in the Vicinity of Tuskahoma," Chronicles of Oklahoma, Vol. 9 (1931), p. 32

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	° ' "	° ' "		34 ° 01 ' 23 "	95 ° 10 ' 54 "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 0. one acre

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Kent Ruth

ORGANIZATION: Oklahoma Historical Society DATE: February 1971

STREET AND NUMBER: Historical Building

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

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: State Liaison Officer for Oklahoma

Date: FEB 20 1971

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

[Signature]
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: JUN 21 1971

ATTEST:

[Signature]
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: JUN 9 1971

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Oklahoma	
COUNTY	
Choctaw	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
71.6.40.0004	6/21/71

(Number all entries)

No. 8. Significance

Chief's House

Though the house fell on hard times and the north half of it was torn away, part of the original structure remained to serve as anchor for the carefully restored "Chief's House" visitors now see. It stands as a handsome reminder that the federal government did not break all its solemn treaty obligations with the Indians and an impressive tribute to one of the Choctaw Nation's best known families.

