

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Oklahoma	
COUNTY: Wagoner	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
JUN 19 1973	

1. NAME

COMMON:
Koweta Mission SITE

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Koweta Manual Labor Boarding School

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
1 n. S of

CITY OR TOWN:
Cowetah

STATE: **Oklahoma** CODE: **40** COUNTY: **Wagoner** CODE: **145**

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<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 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) <u>Unused</u>

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Oklahoma Historical Society

STREET AND NUMBER:
Historical Building

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

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

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

STREET AND NUMBER:
Wagoner County Courthouse

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

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Oklahoma Historic Sites Survey

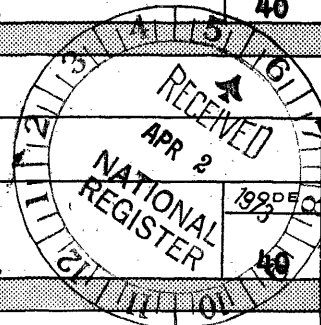
DATE OF SURVEY: **1958** Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Oklahoma Historical Society

STREET AND NUMBER:
Historical Building

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



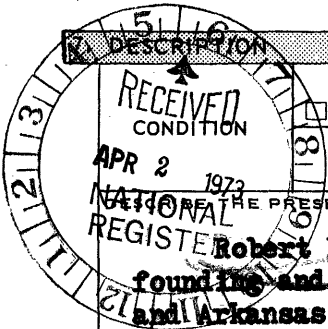
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DESCRIPTION

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

THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Robert Loughridge himself has left us the best description of Koweta's founding and early development. Following a boat trip up the Mississippi and Arkansas from New Orleans, he and his wife reached Verdigris Landing near Fort Gibson on February 5, 1843. "After a few days observation," he writes, "I purchased a horse and saddle and started out to find the most appropriate place for the Mission school." At the suggestion of Chief Reley McIntosh he located it near "Coweta Town" some 25 miles north-west of Fort Gibson, a mile and a half east of the Arkansas River.

"Very soon a cabin was built for school and church purposes . . . On the place was a vacant Indian cabin about 12 x 24, a dirt floor, clapboard roof, a small unfenced field and a small orchard. I paid the owner ten dollars for his improvements [sic], hired some men to put in a puncheon floor . . ." They lived there a year. In the house their first child was born.

As soon as the log building for the school and church was finished, his wife started teaching. During that fall, winter, and following spring Loughridge "built a large log house, one story and one half high . . ." In its seven rooms the Loughridges were able to take in "eight or ten boys and girls to live with us and attend school. The Koweta boarding school has been established." In 1847 the Mission Board and the Creek chiefs agreed to expand the operation. The facilities were enlarged to accommodate forty students.

This interesting description of Koweta was written by the Rev. Augustus W. Loomis, who taught there in the early 1850s:

The Mission house is pleasantly situated. . . . The buildings are not at all imposing . . . but they bear the marks of having been constructed of such materials and with such tools as were at hand, far out on the frontier; they are innocent of paint, or needless ornament; but they look comfortable . . .

There was first a solid one-and-a-half story building of hewed logs, facing the east, with a wide hall, and two rooms on each side of it. Afterwards, as the school increased, a two-story building was joined to its south end; it was of hewed logs, and weather boarded with clap-boards, split out of oak trees and covered with pine shingles. Along the front was an open shed with rude seats. On the west side of the old house another building was added . . .

The Koweta school (like the Tallahassee institution with which was so closely associated) was closed in mid-July 1861 by the Civil War. It was never re-opened.* The buildings soon disappeared and today only gravestones -- including those marking the graves of Loughridge's first wife and Koweta's first teacher, Olivia Hills Loughridge, their first

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SIGNIFICANCE

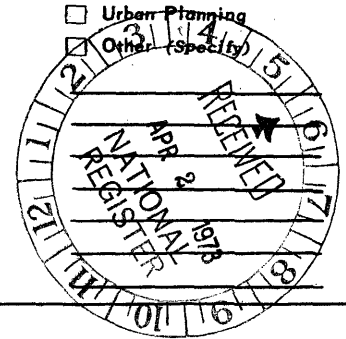
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1843 to 1861

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"/> 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 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 Koweta Manual Labor Boarding School was the first school of significance in the Creek Nation. Established by Presbyterian missionary Robert M. Loughridge in 1843, it served Creek youth, boys and girls, until closed by the Civil War in 1861. At Koweta (as at Tullahassee Mission, which he was to establish some 20 miles to the southeast in 1851) Loughridge applied the so-called Fellenberg concept -- originated in Switzerland around the turn of the century -- of developing all the student's physical, intellectual, and moral faculties to create a self-sufficient, well-rounded, harmonious adult.

Koweta produced many such "self-sufficient, well-rounded, harmonious" adults in its less than 20 years of existence, adults who served the tribe well in the years that followed. Loughridge meanwhile was active, with others, in translating books and hymns into the Creek language. By 1882 he had expanded his word collection into an English/Creek dictionary of about 10,000 words. Koweta, then, for its own contribution to the development and well being of the Creek Nation and for the stature and accomplishments of its founder, is thought eminently worthy of National Register status.

Rev. Loughridge was ordained in 1842. Almost immediately he began to petition the Creek council for permission to establish a mission and school and to preach among the Indians. Chief Roley McIntosh, however, was firm. "We want a school, but we don't want any preaching; for we find that preaching breaks up all our old customs -- our feasts, ball plays and dances -- which we want to keep up." Loughridge went along ... having perhaps read the story of the camel who wanted only to get his nose in the tent.

"They are very anxious to have a boarding school," he wrote to his Board of Missions, "and in fact this is the only kind . . . I am persuaded that will effect much good amongst them." In the end the council "gave full permission to open and close the school with prayer, and to teach the Bible and whatever books the missionaries may think best." The results were satisfactory for both the tribe and the Loughridges.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Foreman, Carolyn Thomas, "Report of the Reverend R. M. Loughridge Regarding the Creek Mission," The Chronicles of Oklahoma, Vol. 26 (1948), pp. 278-284
 Lindsey, Lilah Denton, "Memories of the Indian Territory Mission Field," The Chronicles of Oklahoma, Vol. 36 (1958), pp. 191-193
 Logsdon, Guy, "The Kowetah Manual Labor Boarding School for Creek Indians," The War Chief, Vol. 3, No. 2 (September 1969)
 Loomis, Augustus W., "Scenes in the Indian Territory - Kowetah Mission," The Chronicles of Oklahoma, Vol. 46 (1968), pp. 64-72

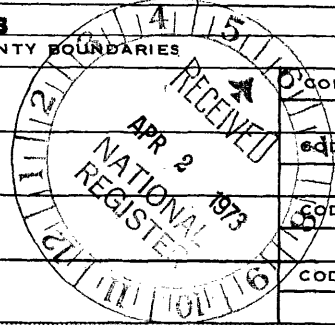
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

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° 55' 52"	95° 38' 37"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **Less than 10 acres**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



266
 HFE
 UTM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: **Kent Ruth, Deputy**

ORGANIZATION: **Oklahoma Historical Society** DATE: **January 1973**

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: SHO

Date: MAR 27 1973

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

[Signature]
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 6/19/73

ATTEST:

[Signature]
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: 6 12 73

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(Continuation Sheet)

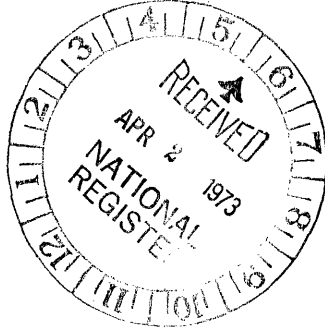
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(Number all entries)

No. 7. Description

Koweta Mission

daughter, and his second wife -- mark the pleasantly wooded site. The property is owned by the Oklahoma Historical Society and protected by a woven-wire fence.



* Note: In 1890 another school was built a couple of miles to the north, given the name Coweta Boarding School. It operated until Statehood in 1907 and the similarity in names has, unfortunately, caused some confusion. This nomination concerns only the original Koweta school.
Kent Ruth

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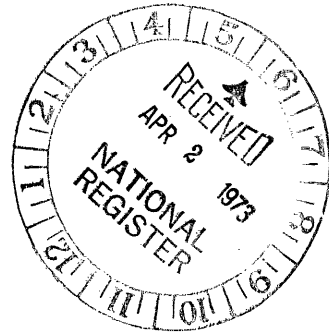
(Number all entries)

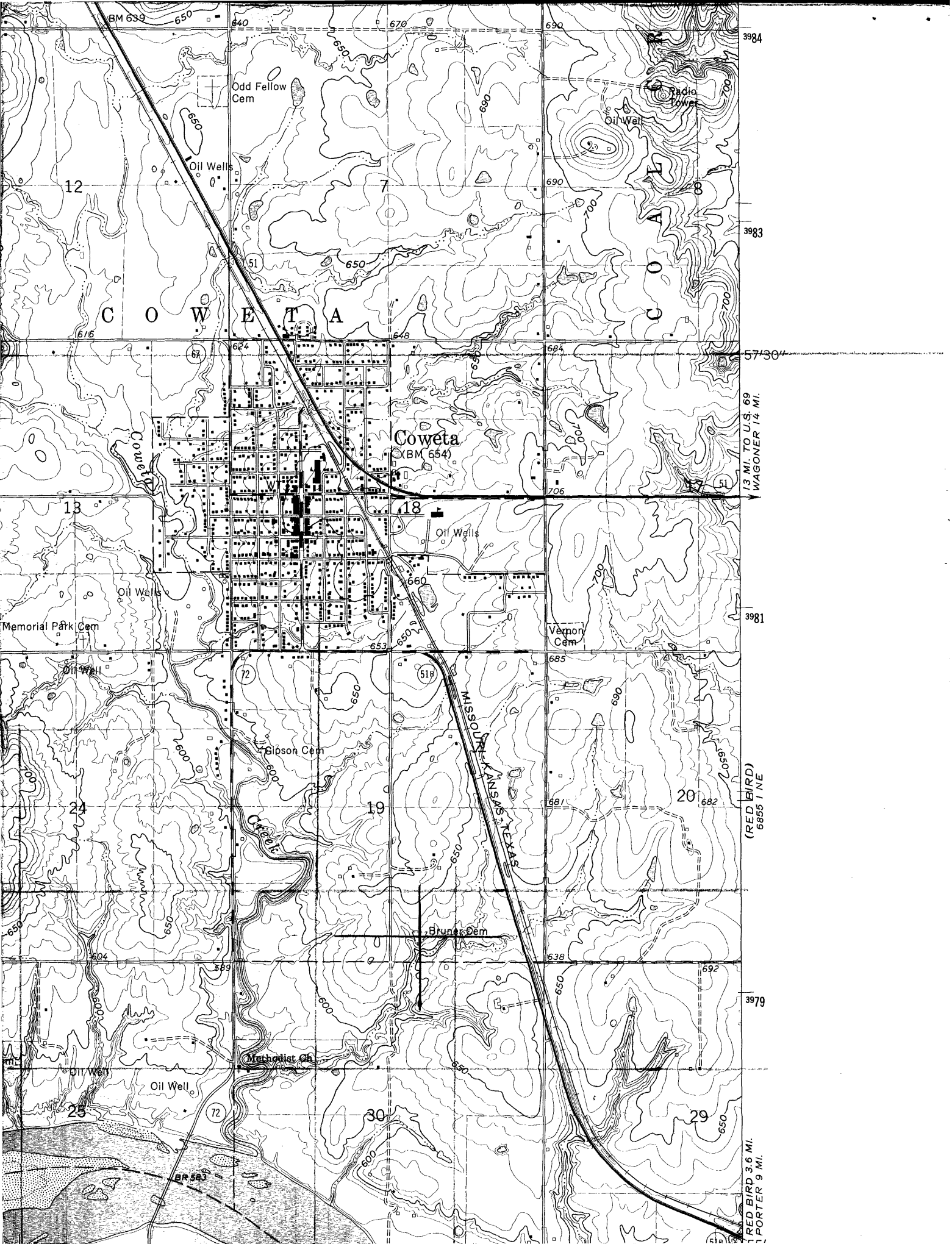
No. 8. Significance

Koweta Mission

The school opened its doors June 25, 1843. At first it was a day school with 15 or 20 children taught by Mrs. Loughridge. A larger building constructed that fall and winter enabled the boarding school itself to operate. When it finally closed in 1861, it had, according to Educator Guy Logsdon, "educated Creek ministers, chiefs, teachers, and Indian statesmen . . ." More importantly, perhaps, it had introduced, successfully, "an acceptable method of Indian education for the Creek Nation." Logsdon puts it this way:

"The importance of Loughridge and the school in the related area of Creek language literature and publishing must also be stressed. All of the Kowetah Manual Labor Boarding School's activities and contributions over its seventeen-year history cost the Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions only thirty-five thousand dollars; the Creeks paid even less. Thus an idea from Switzerland, that was modified to meet the needs of an Indian Nation and that was applied by a charitable organization, provided an educational foundation for generations of Creek children."





Odd Fellow Cem

Radio Tower

Coweta
BM 654

Memorial Park Cem

Vernon Cem

Simpson Cem

Bruner Cem

Methodist Ch

3984

3983

5730'

1.3 MI. TO US 69

WAGONER 14 MI.

3981

(RED BIRD)

6855' NE

3979

3.6 MI.

RED BIRD

PORTER 9 MI.