

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: <b>Oklahoma</b>	
COUNTY: <b>Lincoln</b>	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	<b>JUN 19 1973</b>

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
**Keokuk (Moses) House**

AND/OR HISTORIC:

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**c. 6 n. S of**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Stroud**

STATE: **Oklahoma**      CODE: **40**      COUNTY: **Lincoln**      CODE: **081**

**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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input 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 type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
**Mr. & Mrs. C. O. Ninness**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**R. F. D.**

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

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

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

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**Lincoln County Courthouse**

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

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
**Oklahoma Historic Sites Survey**

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

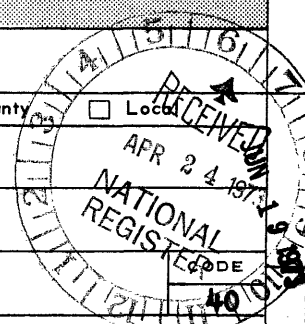
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
**Oklahoma Historical Society**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**Historical Building**

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: **Oklahoma**  
COUNTY: **Lincoln**  
ENTRY NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_  
DATE: \_\_\_\_\_  
FOR NPS USE ONLY



7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input checked="" 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

The 1867 treaty calling for the removal of the Sac and Fox Indians from Kansas to Indian Territory stipulated that each "head man" was to receive a government-built house. The tribe arrived at its new reservation in December 1869. The first two of the chiefs' houses were built in 1872. One Climonts Smith was awarded a contract to build a third -- for Moses Keokuk -- on February 2, 1874. He was paid \$605 for his work. Total construction cost came to something over \$1,000.

The bricks for the structure were made near the Sac and Fox Agency, some three miles to the southeast. Rough lumber came from the agency sawmill; the balance was freighted overland from Lawrence and Coffeyville, Kansas. Agent John H. Pickering turned the house over to Chief Keokuk on June 30, 1874. He occupied it until 1880. Israel Royer, an agency employee, moved into the house in 1889 and his granddaughter still lives in it.

Keokuk is said to have had pictures of horses and buffalo, and various Indian symbols and figures painted on walls of the house. They were left as a kind of curiosity until shortly after the turn of the century. Around the house in earlier years were found beads, arrowheads, spears, and other indications of its first owners. One of the first orchards in this area was planted near the house in the 1870s. At one time, according to legend, Keokuk was besieged in his house by tribal members unhappy with one of his rulings. The red brick house is approximately 20 x 30 feet in size, with a full second story, although there are no upstairs windows on the back side. The house has been neglected over the years. Window and door frames are badly rotted. Here and there its brick walls are cracked. However, the structure is still perhaps basically sound. Cleaning up the yards around the house and repairing a few frames and sills would accomplish miracles for its appearance, erase much of the present look of desolation and decay.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



## SIGNIFICANCE

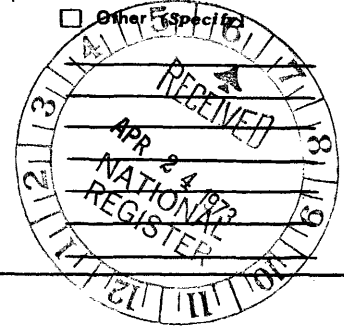
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1874-1880

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 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

Moses Keokuk was first assistant principal chief to Principal Chief Mahkosahtoe in June 1890 when the two tribal leaders signed the agreement at Sac and Fox Agency (five miles south of present Stroud) that provided for the cession of their reservation to the United States, the acceptance of 160-acre allotments by the 548 officially registered members of the tribe, and the opening to settlement by September 22, 1891, of the approximately 385,000 acres of surplus reservation lands.

Moses, the son of Chief Keokuk (who died in 1848, and to whose memory the citizens of Keokuk, Iowa, erected a monument), had already achieved chief's status in 1869 when the Sac and Fox arrived from Kansas to occupy their new reservation in Indian Territory. And as one of the stipulations of the 1867 removal treaty was that each "head man" would get a house of his own, the government built this two-story brick affair for him about three miles northwest of the newly established agency. He moved into it in 1874, occupying it until 1880 when his wife, Phoebe, died. Then, ~~sharing the widely held Indian reluctance to live in a house where death had occurred,~~ he moved to the agency.

Later he remarried and went into the trading business. For a number of years he successfully operated one of the agency's largest general stores. With his other activities -- that included public speaking and preaching -- he operated a large horse and cattle ranch north of present Davenport. When allotments were assigned in 1891 he claimed that quarter-section for his O-K Ranch.

In 1889 this brick house built for (and abandoned by) Keokuk was occupied by Israel Royer, an agency employee. When the "run" was made in 1891 Royer was able to claim this quarter for himself and his large family. The present owners are Mr. and Mrs. C. O. Ninness. Mrs. Ninness is the granddaughter of Israel Royer.

Moses Keokuk died in 1903, at the Sac and Fox Agency, widely mourned by his people and whites alike. Historian Muriel H. Wright says he was noted "for his fine character and his eloquence in speaking the pure Sauk dialect." (Originally the Sauk and the Fox were separate, though affiliated, tribes. Since their arrival in Indian Territory,

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Bryce, J. Y., "Some Experiences in the Sac and Fox Reservation," The Chronicles of Oklahoma, Vol. IV (Dec. 1926), pp. 307-311  
 Sparleder, Don E., "Oldest Home Constructed in 1874," Linceln County News-Reporter, Chandler, Oklahoma, Sept. 23, 1971, p. 6  
 Wright, Muriel H., A Guide to the Indian Tribes of Oklahoma, University of Oklahoma Press, 1951, pp. 222-228

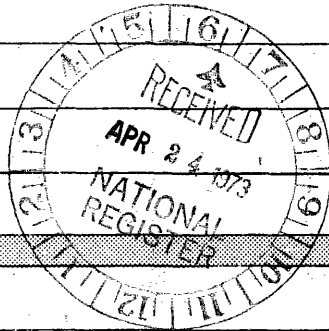
10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

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° 41' 27"	96° 42' 00"	
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



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

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 office

Date: APR 27 1973

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

*Robert M. Utley*  
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 6/19/73

ATTEST:  
*[Signature]*  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: 6 12 73

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

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

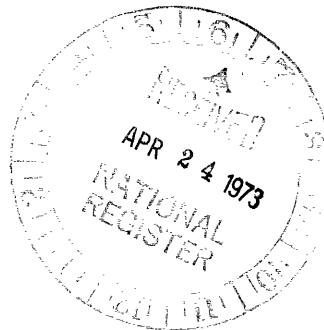
(Number all entries)

No. 8. Significance

Keokuk (Meses) House

however, they have been classed officially as one tribal group, the "Sac and Fox.") He had been a member of the Baptist Church in his last years and J. Y. Bryce called him a Baptist minister who "encouraged his people to attend all religious services."

One additional note should be made as to the importance of the Keokuk house. Even after their arrival in Indian Territory the Sac and Fox tended to shun permanent dwelling places. For many years the majority of them lived in tepees and bark houses. (Bryce notes that one could hardly find "an elm tree in the vicinity where these Indians had congregated that had not been killed by the process of removing the bark for building purposes.") Keokuk, then, by moving into a permanent -- yes, almost pretentious, by the standard of the day -- house, lent impetus to the movement of the Sac and Fox toward acceptance of the white man's way. Although he lived in the house but six years, it was during that time something of a sub-agency. Papers were signed here, and kept here. Tribal leaders met here to discuss problems and decisions. As the home of a chief then, it served not only a living place, but also as a kind of political and social center.



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

STATE OF  
HIGHWAY  
CHARLES L. WILSON,  
(Dr.)

(Asym) 96° 45'

R. S. E.

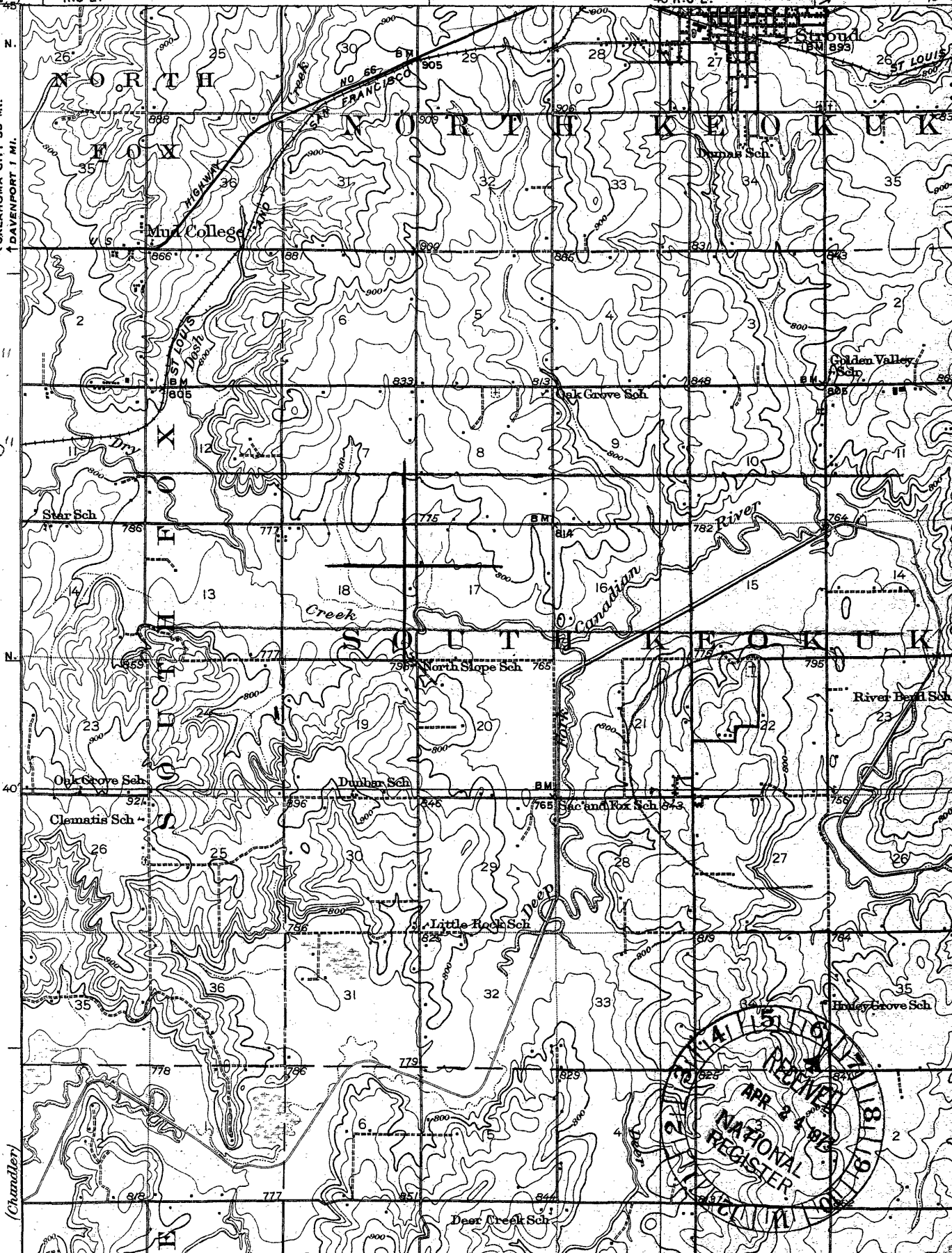
TULSA 60 MI.  
DEPEW 12 MI. →

40' R. S. E. DEPEW 10 MI. →

T. 15 N.

OKLAHOMA CITY 55 MI.  
DAVENPORT 1 MI.

T. 14 N.



Lat. 35° 41' 27"  
Long. 96° 42' 00"



(Chandler)