

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

MAY 14 1979

DATE ENTERED

JUL 13 1979

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Nash-Swindler House

AND/OR COMMON

Nash House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Maple Street at Jackson Sts

___NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Fort Gibson

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

No. 2

___ VICINITY OF

STATE

Oklahoma

CODE

40

COUNTY

Muskogee

CODE

101

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

___DISTRICT

BUILDING(S)

___STRUCTURE

___SITE

___OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

___PUBLIC

PRIVATE

___BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

___IN PROCESS

___BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

OCCUPIED

___UNOCCUPIED

___WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

YES: RESTRICTED

___YES: UNRESTRICTED

___NO

PRESENT USE

___AGRICULTURE

___COMMERCIAL

___EDUCATIONAL

___ENTERTAINMENT

___GOVERNMENT

___INDUSTRIAL

___MILITARY

___MUSEUM

___PARK

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

___RELIGIOUS

___SCIENTIFIC

___TRANSPORTATION

___OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Robert L. Swindler

STREET & NUMBER

Maple Street at Jackson

CITY, TOWN

Fort Gibson

___ VICINITY OF

STATE

Oklahoma

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Office of the County Clerk

STREET & NUMBER

Muskogee County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Muskogee

STATE

Oklahoma

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Oklahoma Comprehensive Survey

DATE

1978

___FEDERAL STATE ___COUNTY ___LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Oklahoma Historical Society

CITY, TOWN

Oklahoma City

STATE

Oklahoma

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR

DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Nash house was built in 1872 in a gracious, comfortable style that has endured for more than a century. A writer in 1931 described it as "distinctive because of the simplicity of its design, the sturdiness of its structure and the air of hospitality that seems to wrap it like a mantle." The description would be just as apt - and felicitous - today.

It could be considered a typical 19th century rural-America farmhouse. Or a typical New England saltbox with one-story wings fore and aft. Or - as it was by the 1931 writer - a "Louisiana style" house that resembled "the airplane type of architecture we know today." In any case, it had porches (two of them now screened - virtually the only outside changes the house has undergone), rooms that are mostly 18 feet square and high-ceilinged, French doors, and bay windows. And changes, interior as well as exterior, have been kept to a minimum. A large clothes press has been converted into a bathroom. Electricity has been added, of course, and piped-in water from the 160-foot-deep well on the property.

Originally the house, part of a 120-acre farmstead, was flanked, not only trees, shrubs, orchards, and vineyards, but also by such traditional ancillary structures as meat house, wood shed, laundry room, open-air kitchen, and servant quarters. Only the smokehouse and cellar remain today ... with trees and shrubs that virtually hide the house from the street.

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 type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" 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 1872 to the present

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Patrick J. Byrne

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Nash-Swindler House is significant on several counts. For one thing, it is that rare Oklahoma structure that has survived for more than a century virtually without change. Neither log cabin nor mansion, it was built in 1872 as a comfortable, but not pretentious, residence for a successful small town merchant. It remains that today, modernized as to utilities, but otherwise much the same comfortable, boxy, be-porched, two-story frame house it has always been, complete to original cellar and smokehouse.

The house is also significant because of the stature of its builder and the long, active role he played in the social and economic life of the Fort Gibson area. Florian Herraden Nash was born in Louisiana in 1837. He came to Fort Gibson, Indian Territory, in 1853. But for the Civil War years he spent the rest of his life there. He died in 1920. (Significantly, his daughter, who was born in the house, came back to it later, living in it until she died in 1970.)

Nash, an inter-married Cherokee (his first wife was a Ross, his second a Rogers, two of the best known family names in the old Cherokee Nation), was in the mercantile business in Fort Gibson before and after the Civil War. After the war he also became involved in farming and stock-raising. Active in Masonry all his life, he served as grand master of Masons in Indian Territory for three years, 1885-1887.

The Nash house - one of the most gracious "civilian" residences in an important garrison town - was a logical social center for the Fort Gibson area, civilian and military. Coupled with Nash's business activities and his close ties with the Cherokee Nation, it is not surprising that over the years (at least until statehood in 1907) the Nash house accommodated Fort Gibson officers, important visitors from Washington, and every Principal Chief and other leaders of the Cherokee Nation.

*

Interesting, if not supremely significant, the Nash House is believed to have been built, at least in part, with some historic lumber. In 1843, Riley's Chapel, named for a well known Cherokee Methodist family, was built of native pine lumber just southeast of

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Chronicles of Oklahoma, Vol. 25 (1955), p. 260
- Indian Territory, New York and Chicago, Lewis Publishing Company, 1901
pp. 568-570
- The Tulsa Daily World, Tulsa, Oklahoma, Dec. 12, 1931, p. 3, "Old Fort Gibson Homestead Stands as Relic of Plantation Days," by La-Vere Sheenfell Anderson

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY circa 1 acre

QUADRANGLE NAME Fort Gibson Den, Okla.

QUADRANGLE SCALE 7.5 minute

UTM REFERENCES 830

A 15 224 539 3963 540

C 15 224 539 3963 540

E 15 224 539 3963 540

G 15 224 539 3963 540

B 15 224 539 3963 540

D 15 224 539 3963 540

F 15 224 539 3963 540

H 15 224 539 3963 540

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Lots 4-5, Block 105, in original townsite of Fort Gibson, Indian Territory

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 <u>Kent Ruth, Deputy</u>	DATE <u>January 1979</u>
ORGANIZATION <u>Oklahoma Historical Society</u>	TELEPHONE <u>405/884-5456</u>
STREET & NUMBER <u>Historic B Building</u>	STATE <u>Oklahoma</u>
CITY OR TOWN <u>Oklahoma City</u>	

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL STATE 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 [Signature] DATE 4-27-79

TITLE [Signature] DATE 4-27-79

FOR NPS USE ONLY

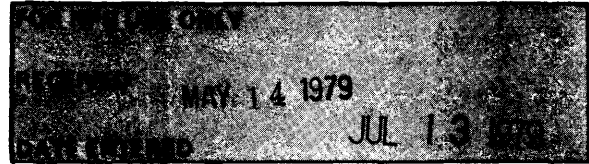
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST: Bill Belovich DATE July 13, 1979
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Carol Brooks DATE 7/13/79
 CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

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CONTINUATION SHEET

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nearby Tahlequah, capital of the Cherokee Nation from 1841 until 1907. In it the Methodist Church's Indian Mission Conference was organized and at least four of its annual sessions held. It stood until 1868, when it was torn down to make way for a larger brick structure. According to existing records, the lumber "was sold to F. H. Nash of Fort Gibson for building purposes." The long-time general counsel of the Cherokee Nation, Earl Boyd Pierce, is convinced that Nash hauled this seasoned pine lumber to Fort Gibson to use in the construction of his new house in 1872.