

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: <u>Oklahoma</u>	
COUNTY: <u>Osage</u>	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER <u>MAY 17 1974</u>	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:
Osage Agency

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Agency Hill

CITY OR TOWN:
Pawhuska

STATE: Oklahoma CODE: 40 COUNTY: Osage CODE: 113

No. 2. Hon. Clem McSpadden

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 type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input checked="" 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) <input type="checkbox"/> Comments

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
The Osage Tribe

STREET AND NUMBER:
Agency Hill

CITY OR TOWN: Pawhuska STATE: Oklahoma CODE: 40

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

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

STREET AND NUMBER:
Osage County Courthouse

CITY OR TOWN: Pawhuska STATE: Oklahoma CODE: 40

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Oklahoma Historical Sites Survey

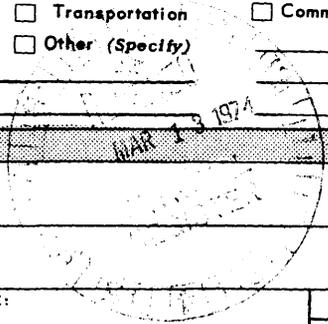
DATE OF SURVEY: 1958 Federal State County Local

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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7. DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

When the Osage Agency was established in present Pawhuska in 1872, Agent Isaac T. Gibson set up temporary headquarters in a log cabin at the foot of what is now Agency Hill. He lived on the hill itself. And by 1874 the Osage Boarding School was also under construction there overlooking the town-to-be, in the flat valley of Bird Creek. Subsequently a doctor's office, a blacksmith shop, a print shop, and various residences were built, all of local sandstone. The superintendent's house, immediately south of the present Agency building (see enclosed rough sketch of the agency grounds), still stands, basically unchanged over the past century. An 1874 photo shows the two-story structure without its wrap-around open porch (and semi-enclosed sleeping porch above) on the east and north. Instead it had smaller, more formal entry porches. But the roof line, complete with "widow's walk," is the same in 1974 as in 1874.

At the foot of the hill, meanwhile, the first Osage Agency building was erected, in 1873. The site, at present Main and Osage streets, is now occupied by a bank. The Agency was then moved onto the hill. (In 1894 an Osage council house was constructed, a two-stone structure topped by a cupola. It still stands, at the foot of Agency Hill. In 1907 it was sold to Pawhuska for use as city hall. National Register status for it is being sought in a separate nomination.)

The only surviving structure of the Osage Boarding School on the hill is the old dormitory. It was erected in 1874. An impressive, roughly T-shaped structure of local sandstone, it stands four stories high from basement laundry to attic. It possesses a handsome open stairway, other examples of fine workmanship in stone and wood. For the past few years it has not been in use.

Immediately south of the dormitory stands the rather plain two-story frame structure that served as Agency building from the time the office was moved from the foot of the hill until 1922 when the present Agency was built. It has been changed little over the years. After 1922 it was used as a residence. Now, curiously, the continuing expansion of tribal business has put it back into service to provide overflow office space. Though a half-century younger than the other buildings covered in this nomination, the present Agency is built of the same stone, in much the same style, thus preserving the visual integrity of the entire group.

One more item remains, of interest as well as of significance. That is the beautiful elm tree under which some of the famous Osage lease auctions were held (see No. 8) at the height of the oil boom. A historical plaque calls attention to this role it played in Osage history. It stands, fittingly enough, between the old white-painted frame Agency and the "new" (1922) stone Agency.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1872 to present**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi- | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | losophy | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commerce | Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human- | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | itarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Osages, thanks to the discovery of large reservoirs of oil under their rock-and-grass-covered reservation in north-central Oklahoma, are among the best known of all American Indians. For more than a century their home has been present Osage County, their tribal heart -- politically, educationally, and economically -- a tight cluster of sandstone buildings atop Agency Hill overlooking downtown Pawhuska. Although some 87 acres are included in the Agency property, National Register status is being sought specifically for only the stone Agency building itself, the older frame Agency building it replaced, the dormitory of the old Osage Boarding School, the Superintendent's House, and the so-called "Million Dollar Elm."

* * *

The Osages first appear in history on Pere Marquette's map of 1673. They were then living along the Osage River in what is now Missouri. With the coming of the horse they extended their hunts for the buffalo into the Central and Southern Plains, where they came into contact and often conflict -- with various of the Plains tribes. Curiously, from the time of the Louisiana Purchase in 1803 they almost always got along quite well with the U. S. Government. The pressure of white settlement, however, resulted in their moving voluntarily, in 1825, to a reservation in Kansas. Nearly a half-century later, in 1870, they agreed to another move, this time to Indian Territory. They sold their lands in Kansas for \$8,825,000, paid \$1,100,000 to the Cherokee Nation for a new reservation of almost one-and-a-half million acres in Indian Territory. (The balance of their money was deposited in government securities, the proceeds paid out in quarterly dividends.) The Osages moved to their new homeland in 1872. Quaker agent Isaac T. Gibson established the new Osage Agency in what was later to become Pawhuska. It remains there to this day.

Within a few years the original log buildings began to give way to impressively large and sturdy buildings of local sandstone. Gibson left the agency in 1876 but Laban J. Miles, another Friend, soon arrived. Both men believed that for the Osages the keystone to civilization was agriculture and education. Miles worked especially hard to persuade reluctant parents to send their girls to the newly established school on Agency Hill. He had great stone water towers built, piped water to

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Finney, Frank F., "The Osages and Their Agency During the Term of Isaac T. Gibson, Quaker Agent," The Chronicles of Oklahoma, Vol. XXXVI (1958), pp. 416-428
 Mathews, John Joseph, The Osages, Children of the Middle Waters, University of Oklahoma Press, 1961
 Wright, Muriel H., A Guide to the Indian Tribes of Oklahoma, University of Oklahoma Press, 1951, pp. 189-198

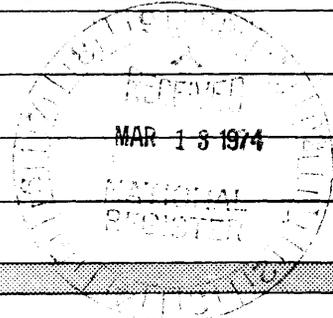
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	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	° ' "	° ' "		36° 39' 57"	96° 20' 24"	
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



No UTM HP

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

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

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

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: *SL O for Oklahoma*

Date: **MAR 6 - 1974**

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

[Signature]
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: *5/17/74*

ATTEST:

[Signature]
 Acting Keeper of The National Register

Date: *5-15-74*

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	Oklahoma
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(Number all entries)

No. 8. Significance

Osage Agency

every building. He also managed to get the Osage Council to pass a compulsory education law. One of the more notable students: Herbert Hoover (president 1928-1930). He attended the school year of 1881-1882, staying with his uncle, Agent Miles.

In 1881 the Osages adopted a constitution patterned closely on that of the Cherokees. This tribal government was to stand them in good stead when, in 1906, the Osage Allotment Act was passed and each Osage received a share of the reservation land. The act reserved subsurface rights for the tribe. Oil had been discovered a few years before and soon the Osages, as a tribe and individually, were profiting greatly. Blessed with a shrewd and scrupulously honest agent, J. George Wright, Osage oil leases were advertised for sale, auctioned off to the highest bidder. So great was the oil boom these lease auctions often overflowed the Agency building (the present limestone structure on the hill) and had to be held in the shade of the so-called "Million Dollar Elm" just to the north of it.

The oil boom days are over, although money from the reduced production of oil and gas still flows in to the agency. The Osage school is now closed and only one of its stone buildings remains. But its influence on the tribe over the years has been significant. Among the Osages who have left their mark on the world are Chief Fred Lookout, a Carlisle Indian School graduate and beloved tribal leader; the distinguished writer-historian (and Rhodes Scholar), John Joseph Mathews; General Clarence L. Tinker; and Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo ballerina Maria Tallchief.

