

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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DATE ENTERED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC SEQUOYAH'S CABIN

AND/OR COMMON Sequoyah's Cabin

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER on State Route 101

CITY, TOWN

--- NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
First

--- VICINITY OF

STATE Oklahoma

CODE
40

COUNTY
Sequoyah

CODE
143

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Oklahoma Historical Society

STREET & NUMBER Willey Post Historical Building

CITY, TOWN Oklahoma City

--- VICINITY OF

STATE
Oklahoma

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Oklahoma Historical Society

STREET & NUMBER Willey Post Historical Building

CITY, TOWN Oklahoma City

STATE
Oklahoma

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
None

DATE

--- FEDERAL --- STATE --- COUNTY --- LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

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

Sequoyah's Cabin State Park is located 7 miles east of U.S. 59 on State Route 101. The park is a 10 acre site which preserves the homestead and 1829 cabin. The cabin is located on its original site. It is a cabin typical of the frontier home. It is fashioned of hewn logs. The cabin before 1936 had been left open and extensive damage had occurred to the roof. Minor restoration of this roof and the floors has not impaired integrity. The State of Oklahoma, recognizing the high degree of importance of Sequoyah, has erected a shelter of brick over the original structure.

Within the state park area are several other structures. The second most historic being the 1855 addition to Sequoyah's Cabin which was removed by the state when the property was acquired. This cabin (photograph no. 2) like the home, is made of hand hewn logs. It has a gabled roof and the porch which runs across the length of the west elevation is supported by log poles. There is an end chimney on the north side.

In recent years the State of Oklahoma has constructed a residence within the park boundary for its caretaker. This structure sits only a short distance from the cabin but is shielded by trees. However, this modern one-story brick structure can be quickly seen from both the entrance and the highway (photograph no. 4).

A stone wall completely encircles the park area. There is an iron entrance gate and the landmark plaque sits on the west side of this gate. Sequoyah's Cabin State Park is one of Oklahoma's most prestigious landmarks and there is a constant stream of visitors to the park. The buildings are grouped at the north end of the park and there are trails and nature walks through the tree-laden park area.

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 type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input 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 type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input 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

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

By his invention of the 85-character Cherokee syllabic alphabet, Sequoyah gave to his Nation--and, by example, to the other Civilized Tribes--the gift of literacy. Before Sequoyah, the Indians had viewed as witchcraft the white man's written records. After Sequoyah, they achieved the ability to construct constitutions and to govern themselves according to Anglo-American standards. Once the Indians became literate in their own tongues, they more easily became literate in English. Their early commitment to academic education attests their quick realization of the benefits and the power of the written word. Because Sequoyah's syllabary could be learned in a matter of days (it was not a foreign language but a phonetic rendition of the Cherokee's own spoken tongue), the tribe mastered it almost overnight. Similar renditions of the tongues of the other Civilized Tribes followed quickly--often resulting from teamwork between the Indians and their missionaries.

The State of Oklahoma has preserved Sequoyah's home in the Sequoyah's Cabin State Park. The park is an expanse of 10 acres. There are numerous trees located throughout and the state has constructed walks and nature trails in the park area. Located on State Route 101, the park is open throughout the year from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. except on Mondays.

BIOGRAPHY

Sequoyah was born of a Cherokee mother and a white or half-blood father in the lower Appalachian region between 1760 and 1770. Reared in the old tribal ways and customs, he never learned the English language. Active in his early years as a hunter and trader, he is reputed to have sustained an injury that turned his energies to sedentary pursuits. He became a noted silversmith. In 1809, impressed by the importance of writing and printing as instruments and weapons of civilization, he began work on the syllabary. Ridiculed and often threatened by his fellows, he persisted, and in 1821 presented his invention to the Cherokee Council. With their approval the Cherokee Nation "went to school" in a manner foreshadowing the forced literacy drives of modern underdeveloped nations. Within a few months mastery of Sequoyah's syllabary was widespread. Sequoyah then went to Arkansas and Indian Territory to instruct the Western Cherokees. In 1829 he built the log home that still stands near Sallisaw. Instrumental in the reunification of the eastern and western branches of the Cherokee Tribe, he was reckoned a statesman and benefactor by his people. In 1844, somewhere in the Mexican sierras, he met his death.

(continued)

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Davis, John B., "The Life and Work of Sequoyah," Chronicles of Oklahoma, VIII. Foreman, Grant, Sequoyah, (Norman, 1938).
 Hodge, Frederick Webb, Handbook of American Indians North of Mexico, (BAE Bulletin 30, Washington, 1910).
 Wright, Muriel H., A Guide to the Tribes of Oklahoma, (Norman, 1951).
Annual Report of the Bureau of Ethnology, 1885-86, (Washington, 1891).

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 10

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,5	3,5,0	3,4,0	3,9	3,1	1,4,0	B	1,5	3,5,0	3,4,0	3,9	3,0	86,0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING
C	1,5	3,5,0	0,4,0	3,9	3,0	8,0,0	D	1,5	3,5,0	0,4,0	3,9	3,1	1,4,0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The landmark boundary is coterminous with the State Park boundary as indicated on the USGS Map, 7.5' series, Brushy, Oklahoma, dated 1973. From the northeast corner of the Sequoyah State Park proceed, along the walk, south, then west, then north, then east to the point of origin. This boundary follows the wall of the State Park. Of the four buildings within the park, only Sequoyah's Cabin is nationally significant.

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

Joseph Scott Mendinghall, Historian

ORGANIZATION

Historic Sites Survey, National Park Service

DATE

12/9/75

STREET & NUMBER

1100 L Street, N.W.

TELEPHONE

202-523-5464

CITY OR TOWN

Washington

STATE

D.C.

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

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

TITLE

LOCAL DESIGNATED: Dec 21, 1965
 Designated:
 Boundary Certified:
 Date: 12/23/75

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER	
<i>[Signature]</i>	DATE <u>4/3/78</u>
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION	DATE
ATTEST	DATE
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER	(NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS)

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CONTINUATION SHEET

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Beyond the direct benefits of Sequoyah's invention to the Five Tribes, his syllabary made possible the preservation of the sacred lore of the Cherokees--a matter of profound interest to ethnologists. James Mooney, authority on these matters, states that Sequoyah's genius--utilized in writings by Cherokee shamans--gave scientists "an exposition of the aboriginal religion (that) could be obtained from no other tribe in North America."¹ He states further that the same invention gave to missionaries the power of written communication with the Cherokees through books, pamphlets, and other religious and educational materials. Thus, while the shamans preserved the old lore, their rivals demolished its meaning, making way for the new civilization that the Civilized Tribes quickly embraced. In this light, Sequoyah's accomplishment cannot be viewed as merely a brilliant individual feat--a curiosity--but rather as a catalyst that gave the new civilization simultaneous entree at all age levels among the Five Tribes. Based on the painful history of acculturation among Indians divided between young literates and old illiterates, it is difficult to believe that the Five Tribes could have gone through this process with such facility lacking their own written languages.

Sequoyah's great contribution was recognized by the United States Government in 1838 when he was awarded \$500 for benefitting the Cherokee Nation. The Cherokees themselves provided him with a pension in his later years and struck a medal that he wore for the rest of his life. The giant Sequoyah trees of California were named for him. His statue stands in Statuary Hall in the U.S. Capitol. And he is honored as one of the world's twelve alphabet inventors on the great bronze doors of the Library of Congress.

1. Annual Report of the Bureau of Ethnology, 1885-86, p. 308.