

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

For NPS use only

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received **OCT 16 1985**

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Fort Gibson post-Civil War Military Buildings. (TR)

and/or common

2. Location

street & number Multiple locations, see continuation sheets. N/A for publication

city, town Fort Gibson _____ vicinity of

state Oklahoma code 40 county Muskogee code 101

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied { 4 }	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied { 1 }	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> Thematic <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> being considered		<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
			<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Multiple Owners, see continuation sheets.

street & number

city, town _____ vicinity of _____ state

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Office of County Clerk

street & number Muskogee County Courthouse

city, town Muskogee state Oklahoma 74401

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Oklahoma Landmarks Inventory has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☒ no

date Spring 1984 ☐ federal ☒ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records State Historic Preservation Office, Historical Bldg.

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

All of the buildings nominated in the Post-Civil War Military Buildings of Fort Gibson Thematic Nomination were built between 1867 and 1872 and are a part of the "Post on the Hill". All five buildings are located adjacent to the Fort Gibson National Historical Landmark District established in 1966 and remained in use by the military until the fort was abandoned in 1890. Though used subsequently as institutional facilities by the territorial and early state government and then as residential dwellings, all retain the essential integrity of the military period of use.

Construction methods and materials are those that were locally available being primarily stone and wood. Most of the buildings are representative of designs developed and used by the War Department for military installations throughout the western frontier. Labor on the structures would have been either civilian contract or military.

All of the structures are in good to very good condition, and though altered in the period following abandonment of the post, the buildings have not lost the integrity of their historical design and original construction.

These five buildings represent the continued importance of Fort Gibson as a military installation following the Civil War. The construction of these buildings was initially planned well before that conflict. The location and expansion of the "Post on the Hill", eventually produced a total of seven stone and ten wooden buildings. Two of the buildings were completed and occupied before the outbreak of hostilities.

The new location for the "Post on the Hill", was to escape the unhealthy conditions of the original post site which is located below and nearer the Illinois River.

Although it was decided on several occasions to abandon Fort Gibson, its prime location for overseeing and controlling regional matters made it necessary to continue stationing federal troops there.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
___ prehistoric	___ archeology-prehistoric	___ community planning	___ landscape architecture	___ religion
___ 1400-1499	___ archeology-historic	___ conservation	___ law	___ science
___ 1500-1599	___ agriculture	___ economics	___ literature	___ sculpture
___ 1600-1699	___ architecture	___ education	X military	___ social/
___ 1700-1799	___ art	___ engineering	___ music	___ humanitarian
X 1800-1899	___ commerce	___ exploration/settlement	___ philosophy	___ theater
___ 1900-	___ communications	___ industry	___ politics/government	___ transportation
		___ invention		___ other (specify)

Specific dates 1867-1890 Builder/Architect see continuation sheets

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The buildings nominated are significant because they are the best remaining buildings of the Fort Gibson "Post on the Hill", not within the existing Fort Gibson National Historic Landmark District. The post-Civil war fort is significant due to the its use as a base of operations for reconstruction occupation, protection and control of the Five Tribes, law enforcement in the region and as a forward base for support and development of more western posts within the region.

The location of the "Post on the Hill", was deemed necessary prior to the Civil War due to the unhealthy condition of the original post site and the deteriorated and outdated condition of the original post buildings. Two buildings within the NHL that are a part of this development phase were occupied before that conflict. The construction of the buildings nominated was effected to meet the obligations and needs in this region as

Fort Gibson was occupied by Confederate forces early, but was recaptured in 1863 and served as a significant point of operations in the region throughout the duration of the war. Other posts in the region, Fort Towson and Fort Washita remained under the control of Confederate forces throughout the war. Federal troops at Fort Gibson represented a part of the effort of reestablishing those posts to activity.

Having been stationed at Fort Gibson, the Tenth Calvary, under the command of Lt. Colonel Benjamin H. Grierson, was ordered to the western portion of the region in 1869 and aided in the construction of Fort Sill, which continues to be a major military reservation.

Due to some tribal member's service with the Confederate forces in the Civil War, all standing treaties with the Five Tribes were revised in 1866. Federal forces at the post now exerted their control of the region as an army of occupation.

Though their status had changed, the Five Tribes with the revised treaties, the tribes still retained guarantees of protection by the United States. This need, originally aimed at the Plains tribes, now changed to intrusions of non-indians criminals and illegal colonists onto treaty lands.

The post complement became a source of law enforcement for the region before the establishment of federal courts of jurisdiction at Fort Smith, Arkansas and Paris, Texas. Those courts primarily dealt with non-indian criminals and fugitives entering the treaty lands. The post troops dealt with liquor and federal violations by non-indians against indians. Acts between indians were handled by indian authorities in most cases.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheets.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property see continuation sheets.

Quadrangle name Northeast Muskogee

Quadrangle scale 1" = 24,000'

UTM References See continuation sheets.

A

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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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D

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E

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F

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

Multiple, see continuation sheets.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
N/A			

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title John R. Hill, Architectural Historian, Thom Rosenblum, Museum Curator

organization Oklahoma Historical Society

date 23 Jan 85

street & number Wiley Post Historical Building

telephone 405-521-2491

city or town Oklahoma City

state Oklahoma

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

C. E. Stealy

9/16/85

title

date

For NPS use only

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

William B. Bushong
Keeper of the National Register

date

11/14/85

Attest:

Chief of Registration

See Continuation sheet for listings

date

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Continuation sheet

Item number 8

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Statement of significance, con't

The post became a way station and supply base for federal marshals pursuing non-indian outlaws as well as a source of help in apprehending and holding individuals for transport to the federal courts. Situated as it was on the main north/south route through the region, the Texas Road, the post provided security for freighting and shipping traffic. The fort was the center of this primary route until the road's decline in use due to completion of the M,K & T railroad in 1872.

The post served as one base of operations to prevent illegal colonization by non-indians, this becoming more the case after the completion of the railroad. The post had been abandoned in September of 1871, but due to demands voiced by the Cherokees about the radical increase in lawlessness elements of the Tenth Cavalry reestablished control of Fort Gibson on May 2, 1872. They were relieved in 1873 by a company of the Sixth Cavalry and a detachment of the Fifth Infantry, all under the command of Lieutenant Thomas M. Woodruff. These units primary assignment was to provide aid to the Cherokee Agent in preventing illegal settlement in the area.

Following another short term of abandonment, the fort was garrisoned on October, 1875 by a troop of calvary and one company of infantry under the command of Major J.J. Upham. Upham had previously served at the fort as a captain. In 1879 a detachment of the Twenty-second Infantry under the command of Major A.S. Hough took control of the post to aid civilian authorities in controlling marauders present primarily in the Chickasaw Nation to the south and in the Pottawatomie reservation to the southwest.

During the Green Peach War in the Creek Nation occurring in 1883, a detachment of the Twentieth Infantry was assigned to Fort Gibson to deal with actions the area. One detachment operating from Fort Gibson captured several hundred Creeks near the Sac and Fox agency and returned them to the post for detainment.

General John Joseph Coppinger, last commanding general at Fort Gibson took command of the post on October 2, 1886. While there he conducted a survey of building conditions at the fort.

Command of the post passed to Captain Henry H. Adams on July 17, 1888 who brought the 18th Infantry Company to the fort. Captain Carroll H. Potter succeeded Adams and held command until September 5, 1889 when relieved by Captain Jeremiah P. Schendel in command of the 6th Infantry. Captain Schendel was assigned the task of deactivating the fort, which was completed September 22, 1890.

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Statement of significance, con't

As can be seen, following the Civil War Fort Gibson served as a center of support to other federal authorities and itself exerted to a great direct federal control of the region. This important status remained until the transition of control by the establishment of federal courts in 1890 at Guthrie, Oklahoma Territory and at Muskogee, site of the Five Tribes Union Agency in 1896. These actions, coupled with the expansion of federal courts in Kansas and Texas and the beginning of dissolution of tribal reserve lands marked the end of the need for the post at Fort Gibson.

Though officially abandoned on 1890, Fort Gibson was again occupied for a short time by a detachment of the Ninth Infantry in 1899 to deal with the "Crazy Snake Rebellion" among some factions of the Creeks, led by Chito Harjo.

The permanent, substantial quality of the stone and wooden buildings of Fort Gibson shows the War Department's intent that Fort Gibson would remain a reliable post of operations as necessary to support federal forces in efforts to exert authority in an area under diverse tribal and federal control.

Although designs used in construction of the buildings followed standard War Department plans, the use of regional native materials produced very fine examples of locally recognizable architecture which these buildings retain today. When completed the "Post on the Hill", consisted of seven stone and ten wood frame buildings. All seven of the stone buildings and four of the wooden buildings remain, of which these here nominated are the best and least altered remaining outside the existing National Historic Landmark.

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Continuation sheet Major Biographical References Item number 9

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Plan of Fort Gibson Post Hospital, Drawing No. 13, 1872, *ibid.*

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Plan of the Adjutant's Office, Fort Gibson, Drawing No. 11, 1872, *ibid.*

Plan of the Blacksmith Shop, Fort Gibson, Drawing No. 17, 1872, *ibid.*

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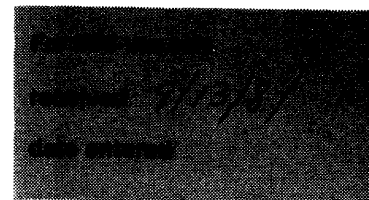
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Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

dnr-11

Name Fort Gibson Post-Civil War Military Buildings TR
State OKLAHOMA

Conn 11/14/85

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

1. Administration Building

Substantive Review *for* Keeper

Attest

William B. Bushy
11/14/85

2. Post Adjutant's Office

Substantive Review *for* Keeper

Attest

William B. Bushy
11/14/85

3. Blacksmith Shop

Substantive Review *for* Keeper

Attest

William B. Bushy
11/14/85

4. Commandant's Quarters

Substantive Review *for* Keeper

Attest

William B. Bushy
11/14/85

5. Officer's Quarters

Substantive Review *for* Keeper

Attest

William B. Bushy
11/14/85

6.

Keeper

Attest

7.

Keeper

Attest

8.

Keeper

Attest

9.

Keeper

Attest

10.

Keeper

Attest