

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Oklahoma	
COUNTY: Johnston	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 71.11.40.0017	DATE 11/5/71

1. NAME	
COMMON: Chickasaw National Capitols	
AND/OR HISTORIC:	

2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: Capitol Avenue, between 8th and 9th Streets			
CITY OR TOWN: Tishomingo			
STATE Oklahoma	CODE 40	COUNTY: Johnston	CODE 069

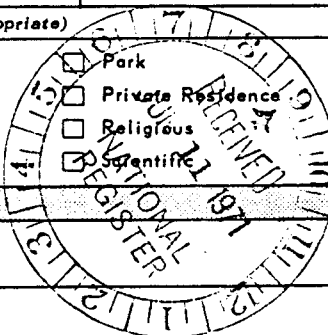
3. CLASSIFICATION			
CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both 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	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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY			
OWNER'S NAME: Johnston County			
STREET AND NUMBER: Johnston County Courthouse			
CITY OR TOWN: Tishomingo	STATE: Oklahoma	CODE 40	

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION			
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Office of the County Clerk			
STREET AND NUMBER: Johnston County Courthouse			
CITY OR TOWN: Tishomingo	STATE: Oklahoma	CODE 40	

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS			
TITLE OF SURVEY: Oklahoma Historic Sites Survey			
DATE OF SURVEY: 1958 <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local			
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Oklahoma Historical Society			
STREET AND NUMBER: Historical Building			
CITY OR TOWN: Oklahoma City	STATE: Oklahoma	CODE 40	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



STATE: Oklahoma
COUNTY: Johnston
ENTRY NUMBER: 71.11.40.0017
DATE: 11/5/71
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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

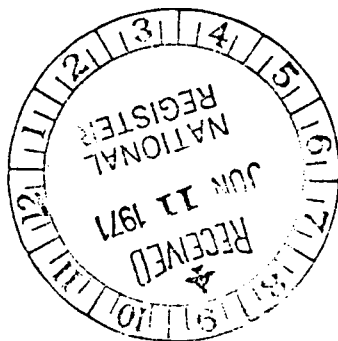
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The original Chickasaw capitol (1855-58) is a log structure approximately 14 x 24 feet. The hand-hewn logs have been rechinked, the hip roof reshingled. Otherwise it appears today much as it did when it served the tribe as its first council house at Good Spring on Pennington Creek a few hundred yards west of its present location. Attached to the outside wall of the capitol, beside the front door, is the tree trunk that served as the tribal whipping post, a Chickasaw institution until statehood in 1907.

hip

The third and last Chickasaw capitol (1896-1907) is a faintly Victorian, not unhandsome structure of gray, block granite from the "ten-acre-rock" quarry still in operation northwest of Tishomingo. It is a solid, three-story affair, approximately 50 feet square, with a crowning cupola. An inviting arched doorway on the south and paired, turret-like dormers on each side relieve the building's otherwise somewhat severe lines. But for some modernization on the second floor, which contains the courtroom, the courthouse is much the same as it was when used as seat of government for the Chickasaw Nation.

The log capitol is now enclosed in a strictly functional tile block building that the Oklahoma Historical Society is developing as a museum. It is open daily.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

4. 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) 1856 to present

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <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

In the 52 years it enjoyed complete independence in the conduct of tribal affairs, the Chickasaw Nation used three capitols. Two of these - the first and the last - still stand, side by side, in the Johnston county seat of Tishomingo. Together - as a museum and as county courthouse - they serve as an effective memorial to the last of the Five Civilized Tribes to migrate from the Southeast to present Oklahoma.

From the winter of 1838-1839, when they began moving west, until 1855, the Chickasaws were the somewhat reluctant sharers of southeastern Indian Territory with the Choctaws, who had come west some years earlier. Outnumbered better than three to one by the Choctaws, and relegated to the less developed section of the Choctaw Nation, the Chickasaws were soon demanding a nation of their own. In 1848 the tribe had its first formal written constitution. In 1855 a treaty signed at Washington defined the boundaries of the 4,707,903-acre Chickasaw Nation and granted the Chickasaws "the unrestricted right of self-government and full jurisdiction, over persons and property."

Tribal council grounds had been established some years earlier at Good Spring on Pennington Creek in what is now the western section of Tishomingo. Here in 1853 a hewn-log council house had been erected. This log structure became the Nation's first capitol in August 1857 when a mass convention elected Cyrus Harris the first tribal governor. The capital became Tishomingo City in honor of Chief Tishomingo, the last Chickasaw war chief, in Mississippi.

A two-story, red brick capitol, with cupola and widow's walk, was completed in 1858 and the log capitol was moved to the Gov. Harris' nearby farm, where it was used for a time as a smokehouse. When the second capitol was destroyed by fire, a third and last was erected. It was first used in 1896. Since 1907, when Oklahoma became a state, it has served as Johnston County courthouse.

The log council house, meanwhile, was salvaged in the middle 1930s when it was brought back to town, placed on the courthouse grounds just west of the old capitol. In the 1960s it was moved

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

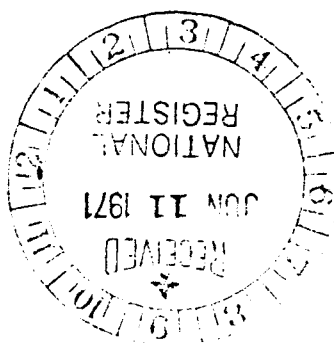
STATE	
Oklahoma	
COUNTY	
Johnston	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
76.01.90.0017	11/5/71

(Number all entries)

No. 8. Significance

Chickasaw National Capitols

again to a site immediately east of the courthouse, where it was carefully restored. In 1969 the Oklahoma Historical Society protected it with a cover building that now serves as a museum. Together the two Chickasaw capitols represent more than a century of growth and development of the tribe, as citizens of both the independent Chickasaw Nation and the State of Oklahoma.



9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Fraker, Elmer L., "Chickasaw Council House," Official Museum Leaflet, 1971.
 Thetford, Francis, "This is Oklahoma: Johnston County," Oklahoma's Orbit (Oklahoma City, Jan. 29, 1961), p. 8.
 Wright, Muriel H., A Guide to the Indian Tribes of Oklahoma, Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1951, pp. 84-97.

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	° ' "	° ' "		34 ° 14 ' 12 "	96 ° 39 ' 18 "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 0.2 acres

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Kent Ruth, Deputy		DATE April 1971
ORGANIZATION Oklahoma Historical Society		
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 Simon Shin

Title State Liaison Officer for NHP

Date NOV 9 1971

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Edward A. Connally
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

NOV 5 1971

Date _____

ATTEST:

W. H. Radford
 Keeper of The National Register

Date Oct. 27, 1971

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NO 0
HL

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER Various PAGE 22

Johnston County Courthouse (Chickasaw National Capitol, listed in National Register on November 5, 1971)

Location: Capitol Avenue, Tishomingo, Oklahoma 40, Johnston County 069

Owner: Johnston County, Tishomingo, Oklahoma

Description: Condition: good, unaltered

The oldest structure currently in use as a county courthouse in Oklahoma, the Johnston county Courthouse was built in 1898 of rough-cut pink granite blocks. The building was originally the capitol of the Chickasaw Nation. The great seal of the Chickasaws is on one side of the cornerstone. The structure has attic gables and the overall style is influenced by Romanesque Revival architecture. The building has a metal cupola and a tin roof, all painted with galvanized paint. The tympanum areas of the gables are decorated with triangular metal inserts with a circular design. These inserts are also glavanized. The front entranceway is recessed and has a Roman arch supported by polished, yellow granite columns. The building has beaded mortar work. The original windows and doors have been replaced by modern ones.

Significance: 1898; Builder/architect: Unknown

The Johnston County Courthouse is particularly significant because of its role in the history of the Chickasaw Nation. Built as their capitol building in 1898, the Chickasaws sold the building to Johnston County in 1910. Since that time it has served the citizens of the area as the center of county government. The structure's unusual Romanesque design makes it unique among the state's courthouses. It is also the oldest courthouse in Oklahoma.

Acreage: Approx. 1 acre

Quadrangle: 1:24,000/7.5 minute

Verbal Boundary Description: All of Block 76 of original town of Tishomingo, OK

UTM: 14 713700 3790810



Chickasaw National Capitols

712

6652 I SW
(REAGAN)

ADA 37 MI.
8 MI. TO OKLA. 7

40' 715

716

