ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL SURVEY OF OKLAHOMA'S ALL-BLACK TOWNS, PHASE II

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Abstract

In August 2023, the Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office, a division of the Oklahoma Historical Society, retained Stantec Consulting Services, Inc. (Stantec), to conduct an intensive-level architectural/historic resources survey of Langston, Taft, and Boley, three of the 14 extant All-Black Towns out of more than 50 that were founded, governed, and inhabited by Black Oklahomans starting after the Civil War through the early twentieth century.[1] This effort is the second phase of a project to document Oklahoma's All-Black Towns; the first phase, also completed by Stantec, involved an intensive-level architectural/historic resource survey of 192 resources in 13 of the 14 All-Black Towns. This survey is partially funded by the Underrepresented Community Grant program through the Historic Preservation Fund matching grant-in-aid from the National Park Service, Department of the Interior, and is part of the ongoing Oklahoma Comprehensive Survey Program, supported by both state and federal funds. Two National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) nominations for properties within the survey boundaries are being completed as part of the scope of this project and will be submitted under separate cover.

The purpose of the survey was to document historic resources associated with Langston, Taft, Boley, and identify individual resources or districts potentially eligible for the NRHP. As part of the survey methodology, Stantec completed preliminary research to identify locations of historic-age resources, constructed in or before 1978, within each town; conducted field investigations to document both previously and newly identified historic-age resources within each town's survey boundary; prepared an Oklahoma Historic Preservation Resource Identification form for each historic-age resource documented; and developed a historic context to evaluate the historic significance of resources and identify properties for potential nomination to the NRHP. The methodology in this report discusses the types of resources identified in the survey areas and the techniques used to collect information.

The survey documented a total of 275 resources within the three towns. Of these, 58 retain sufficient integrity to convey their historic significance and are recommended potentially eligible for the NRHP. The Taft Moton School Complex in Taft, Oklahoma, was selected as a property to be nominated to the NRHP, and a draft form will be developed and submitted. The Langston Jail, identified during Phase I of the Architectural and Historical Survey of Oklahoma's All-Black Towns, was also selected as a property to be nominated to the NRHP, and a draft form will be developed and submitted. The Abe Lincoln Trading Company building in Clearview was successfully nominated to the NRHP in phase I of the project.

[1] Langston and Taft were partially surveyed in phase I. A portion of Boley was previously documented and designated as a National Historic Landmark.

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2 Introduction

In October 2023, Stantec Consulting Services, Inc. (referred to as Stantec hereafter) historians conducted a historic resource survey of properties in Langston, Taft, and Boley, to identify resources constructed in or before 1978, 45 years before the date of survey, as potentially eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) and to develop a comprehensive historic context for the survey areas.[2] Each historic-age resource in Langston and Taft were documented, excluding those documented during the Phase I survey. In Boley, a representative selection of properties was identified for survey, excluding properties with prior National Historic Landmark designation.

In total, 275 historic-age resources, constructed in 1978 or before, were documented (**Table 1**). As a result of this survey, 58 resources are recommended potentially eligible for the NRHP. In coordination with OKSHPO and the property owners, Stantec selected the Taft Moton School Complex in Taft, Muskogee County, to be nominated to the NRHP, and a draft form will be developed and submitted as a part of this project. The Langston Jail, in Langston, Logan County, identified during Phase I of the Architectural and Historical Survey of Oklahoma's All-Black Towns, was also selected as a property to be nominated to the NRHP, and a draft form will be developed and submitted as a part of this project.

Table 1. Resources Surveyed in Three All-Black Towns (Historic-Age Resources)

All-Black Town	County	Number of Historic-Age Resources Surveyed	Number of Potentially NRHP Eligible Resources
Langston	Logan	142	35
Taft	Muskogee	80	6
Boley	Okfuskee	53	17
TOTAL		**275**	**58**

This report begins with an introduction to the project and the project area. Next, the research design, project objectives, and areas surveyed are described. The methodology, including the intensity of coverage and kinds of properties looked for; results of the survey including a discussion of properties recommended eligible for the NRHP; the kinds of historic properties present in the survey area; and specific properties identified, and the techniques of information collected will follow. Next, a thumbnail sketch of each individual property that warrants further contextual research and evaluation for NRHP eligible and historic context is presented. An annotated bibliography and project summary conclude the report. Included in the appendices are Geographic Information Systems (GIS)-based maps of the survey areas and survey results and the Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office (OKSHPO) Historic Preservation Resource Identification (HPRI) form for each resource. This information is on a compact disc with the survey data compiled in the OKSHPO's Access database.

[2] Portions of Boley, the fourteenth All-Black Town, were previously documented and designated as a National Historic Landmark. Resources previously designated as part of the National Historic Landmark were not revisited as a part of Phase II. Not all areas of Boley outside the NHL were documented by this survey.

3 Research Design

The research design includes the roadmap that was used for the project. Stantec submitted a survey plan to OKSHPO with survey boundaries and fieldwork methodologies in October 2023. In addition, the team completed a literature review with anticipated research gaps and a summarized how the historic context was expanded from Phase I. Property types anticipated in the survey areas; an explanation of compliance with historic resource survey; NRHP, and OKSHPO standards; and NRHP registration requirements used for evaluation are also included in this research design.

3.1 Survey Plan

A survey plan was created to facilitate and develop an approach to field investigations and an efficient documentation of up to 500 resources in several noncontiguous Oklahoma All-Black Towns. Phase II of the All-Black Towns project will focus on Langston, Taft, and Boley (partial). The Survey Plan will use the study areas provided by OKSHPO as a basic rubric for documenting historic-age resources based on their potential for significance and integrity. This plan was submitted to OKSHPO on October 12, 2023.

3.1.1 DESKTOP ANALYSIS OF OKLAHOMA'S ALL-BLACK TOWNS

Stantec historians conducted an aerial review, combined with a review of Google Streetview, of the included towns to identify historic-age resources (built in 1978 or earlier) within the provided study areas for each town. Initial analysis indicates historic-age resources include many different types and range from residential, religious, commercial, civic, and educational resource types among others.

3.1.2 FIELD INVESTIGATIONS AND SURVEY

An ArcGIS Online (AGOL) map was prepared with each town's study area (for Phase II: Langston, Taft, and Boley) as provided by OKSHPO. An aerial review was conducted to determine confirmable historic-age resources using aerial photographs. Coverage for each town varied by year and geographic location. All visible resources were assigned a historic-age, non-historic-age, or questionable (age undetermined and not confirmed by aerial review) designation on Stantec's AGOL map. Buildings determined to be nonhistoric-age according to the aerial review were not recorded. Those buildings for which a historic-age date of construction could not be confirmed (questionable) were assessed in the field with professional judgement. Those questionable resources that were determined in the field to have potential eligibility for the NRHP were recorded as historic-age resources. Those buildings designated as questionable that did not appear to have potential eligibility, regardless of apparent age, were not recorded as part of this effort.

Historic-age resources within the study area provided for each town were as comprehensively documented as possible, except for Boley. The scope for this project indicated that the survey of Boley was to be partial and exclude any resource within the National Historic Landmark boundary. Stantec historians were to survey an undetermined number of resources in Boley to meet the 500-resource benchmark from both phases of the All-Black Towns survey project. The resources recorded in Boley prioritized accuracy, efficiency, and appropriate representation of the town. The resources selected attempted to provide an accurate snapshot of the development of the town and attempted to include various types of resources including civic, recreational, education, religious, and domestic resources. The resource selections for Boley were further prioritized after communication with community leaders to incorporate local suggestions and ideas on which properties were most important to, or representative of, the community.

It was noted that a correctional facility, the Dr. Eddie Warrior Correctional Center, is within Taft's survey area provided by OKSHPO. Although portions of the facility are historic-age, photographs from the right-of-way did not provide sufficient context to properly record the complex or provide views for most of the historic-age resources and individual documentation was not undertaken.

Field investigations included photo documentation of each resource to the degree accessible from the public right-of-way. Documentation provided at least the minimum requirements for documented resources. At least two photographs were provided but included, where possible, a view of every elevation. Detail photographs of specific elements were provided as applicable. The surveyors did not have right-of-entry and did not attempt to take photographs from private property.

Other potential resources encountered during survey that were not identified in an aerial review were photographed to the minimum requirements described above if they had sufficient integrity and apparent potential for individual eligibility. Before leaving each town, surveyors endeavored to identify any smaller objects, signage, or other features that displayed a sense of historic community that may have been missed in the aerial review.

Prior to survey, an information sheet was developed to inform curious citizens and residents about the survey activities. The sheet included a project summary and OKSHPO contact information.

3.2 Literature Review and Historic Context Development

A historic context for Oklahoma's All-Black Towns was developed in Phase I of the project and describes significant trends and events that influenced the founding and development of these towns and the three areas of significance that apply most readily, Community Planning and Development, Ethnic Heritage/Black, and Architecture. For Phase II, the context has been updated to extend through 1974 and to include additional areas of significance related to the properties identified to be eligible to the NRHP as part of this project including Commerce, Education, and Recreation/Entertainment.

The team conducted a desktop review of sources that recognized important patterns, events, persons, and property types that shaped Oklahoma's All-Black Towns with a focus on Langston, Taft, and Boley. Black men, women, and children formed more than 50 of these towns between 1865 and 1925, with a spike in development during the Land Run of 1889. Now extremely rare and underrepresented, the few remaining towns are worthy of careful study and thorough survey to understand how they formed and evolved. Review of Internet-available previously prepared research and primary and secondary materials will guide development of reliable historiographical perspectives on Oklahoma's All-Black Towns. Sources were mined for appropriate themes, events, and related persons, and for history specific to these places. This research revealed those sources that can only be viewed on-site, thereby economizing research time. Research will complement and expand on the context developed during the first phase of this project. Types of online primary and secondary sources that were utilized include, but was not limited to:

- Research and materials previously collected by OKSHPO regarding All-Black Towns
- Research and historic context developed for the first phase of the architectural/historic survey of Oklahoma's All-Black Towns
- Synthetic modern, historic-period, and Internet secondary sources and references in their citations and bibliographies, such as:
    - Arthur L. Tolson, "Black Towns of Oklahoma," *The Black Scholar* 1, April 1970
    - Arthur Tolson, "The Negro in Oklahoma Territory, 1889–1907: A Study in Racial Discrimination" Ph.D. dissertation, 1966
    - Charles A. Humphrey and Donald E. Allen, "Educational and Social Needs in Small All-Black Towns," *The Journal of Negro Education* 47, Summer 1978
    - Daniel F. Littlefield Jr. and Lonnie E. Underhill, "Black Dreams and 'Free' Homes: The Oklahoma Territory, 1891–1894, *Phylon* 34, 1973
    - David A. Y. O. Chang, "From Indian Territory to White Man's County: Race, Nation, and the Politics of Land Ownership in Eastern Oklahoma, 1889–1940, Ph.D. dissertation, 2002
    - Edward McCabe, "Come Prepared or Not at All," *The Langston Herald*, a newspaper column that spanned 1894–1895
    - Harold M. Rose, "The All-Negro Town: Its Evolution and Function," *Geographical Review* 55, July 1965
    - James E. Woodard, "Vernon: An All Negro Town in Southeastern Oklahoma," *Negro History Bulletin* 27, February 1964

  - Jere Roberson, “Edward P. McCabe,” *The Encyclopedia of Oklahoma History and Culture*, https://www.okhistory.org/publications/enc/entry.php?entry=MC006
  - Jere W. Roberson, "Edward P. McCabe and the Langston Experiment," *The Chronicles of Oklahoma* 51, Fall 1973
  - Jimmie Lewis Franklin, *Journey Toward Hope: A History of Blacks in Oklahoma*, 1982
  - Joseph Taylor, “The Rise and Decline of a Utopian Community, Boley, Oklahoma,” *Negro History Bulletin* 3, March 1940
  - Kaye M. Teall, *Black History in Oklahoma: A Resource Book*, 1971
  - Kenneth Lewallan, "Chief Alfred Sam: Black Nationalism on the Great Plains, 1913–14," *Journal of the West* 16, January 1977
  - Larry O'Dell, “All-Black Towns,” *The Encyclopedia of Oklahoma History and Culture*, https://www.okhistory.org/publications/enc/entry.php?entry=AL009
  - Loren William Katz, *The Black West*, 1971
  - Mozell Hill, “The All-Negro Communities of Oklahoma: The Natural History of a Social Movement,” *The Journal of Negro History* 31, July 1946
  - Norman Crockett, "Witness to History: Booker T. Washington Visits Boley," *The Chronicles of Oklahoma* 67, Winter 1989–1990
  - Norman L. Crockett, *The Black Towns*, 1979
  - R. Edgar Iles, “Boley,” *Opportunity* 3, 1925
  - Sharon Jessee, “The Contrapuntal Historiography of Tony Morrison’s Paradise: Unpacking the Legacies of the Kansas and Oklahoma All-Black Towns,” *American Studies* 47, Spring 2006
  - Tara Aveilhe, “Oklahoma: Home to More Historically All-Black Towns than Any Other U.S. State,” University of Tulsa, Oklahoma Center for the Humanities, https://humanities.utulsa.edu/oklahoma-home-historically-black-towns-u-s-state/
  - *Tulsa World*, “Throwback Tulsa: The 13 Historic All-Black Towns That Remain in Oklahoma,” https://tulsaworld.com/news/local/history/throwback-tulsa-the-13-historic-all-black-towns-that-remain-in-oklahoma/collection_7d1d7b5d-662c-54a0-a072-bc560fdf6756.html#1
  - William E. Bittle and Gilbert L. Geis, “Racial Self-Fulfillment and the Rise of an All-Negro Community in Oklahoma,” in *The Making of Black America*, 1969
  - William H. Pease and Jane H. Pease, *Black Utopia: Negro Communal Experiments in American*, 1963
  - William Loren Katz, *The Black West: A Documentary and Pictorial History of the African American Role in the Westward Expansion of the United States*, second edition, 1996

- Library, archive, and museum digital collections, like those at the Oklahoma Research Center and university special collections
- NRHP individual and multiple-property nominations with analogous property types, especially the:
  - Boley, Oklahoma, Historic District,
  - Thematic Historic Local Government Buildings in Oklahoma’s All-Black Towns
  - Thematic Educational Resources of All-Black Towns in Oklahoma
- Historic-period newspaper coverage from archival repositories or subscription services, like Newspapers and Newspaper Archive, especially for Black-run newspapers, such as *The Boley Beacon*, *The Boley Progress*, *Langston Herald*, *The Langston City Herald*, *The (Oklahoma City) Dispatch*, *Oklahoma Guide*, *Oklahoma Safeguard*, and *Tulsa Oklahoma Eagle*.
- As needed for specific details about people associated with All-Black towns, subscription research services, including Ancestry and Family Search to tap federal decennial manuscript censuses, and equalization, marriage, birth, and death records
- Synthetic modern, historic-period, and Internet secondary sources and references in their citations and bibliographies relating to the histories of Taft, Langston, and Boley, such as:

  - Arthur Tolson, "A History of Langston, Oklahoma, 1890–1950" (M.A. thesis, Oklahoma A&M College, 1952).
  - Arthur Tolson, *The Black Oklahomans: A History, 1541–1972* (New Orleans: Edwards Printing Company, 1972).
  - Booker T. Washington, "Boley, a Negro Town in the West," *Outlook* 88 (4 January 1908).
  - "Facts about Boley Oklahoma: The Largest and Wealthiest Exclusive Negro City in the World" (Boley, Oklahoma, Commercial Club [1911]).
  - Hannibal B. Johnson, *Acres of Aspiration: The All-Black Towns of Oklahoma*, Fort Worth: Eakin Press, 2002.

  - Jere W. Roberson, "Edward P. McCabe and the Langston Experiment," *The Chronicles of Oklahoma* 51 (Fall 1973).
  - Larry O'Dell, "Boley," *The Encyclopedia of Oklahoma History and Culture*, https://www.okhistory.org/publications/enc/entry.php?entry=BO008.
  - Larry O'Dell, "Langston," *The Encyclopedia of Oklahoma History and Culture*, https://www.okhistory.org/publications/enc/entry.php?entry=LA020.
  - Larry O'Dell, "Taft," *The Encyclopedia of Oklahoma History and Culture*, https://www.okhistory.org/publications/enc/entry.php?entry=TA001.
  - Linda Gray, "Taft: Town on the Black Frontier," *The Chronicles of Oklahoma* 66, no. 4 (Winter 1988–89): 430-447.
  - Norman L. Crockett, "Witness to History: Booker T. Washington Visits Boley," *The Chronicles of Oklahoma* 67 (Winter 1989–90).
  - *Muskogee Daily Phoenix and Times-Democrat*, "City of Taft on Eve of Great Big Boom," March 13, 1907, 3. https://www.newspapers.com/image/legacy/584245411/.
  - "Taft," Vertical File, WPA Writers' Project, 1937, Research Division, Oklahoma Historical Society, Oklahoma City.
  - Tonya Bolden, *Searching for Sarah Rector: The Richest Black Girl in America*, New York: Abrams, 2014.
  - Zella Patterson, *Churches of Langston* (Oklahoma City, Okla.: Western Heritage Books, 1982).
  - Zella Patterson with Lynette Wert, *Langston University: A History* (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1979).
- Historic highway and plat maps, United States Geological Survey maps, and historic aerials, as available
- Vertical files at the public libraries and research centers including the Oklahoma Historical Society

3.3 Historic Resource Surveys

A historic resource survey is a process to identify and gather data about a community's historic resources.[3] Throughout this report, "resource" is the term applied to any building, structure, site, or object documented as part of the survey. There are two types of historic resource surveys: reconnaissance and intensive. Reconnaissance surveys involve inspection of an area to generally characterize common resource types and develop a plan for future survey efforts. Intensive surveys are a systematic documentation and evaluation of all resources within a survey area. Surveys are commonly used to identify historic resources eligible for local, state, or national designation. Both types of surveys involve the development of a historic context, which is a narrative of the broad patterns of historical development for the area under study. The historic context is used to evaluate the historic significance of resources in a survey area.

3.4 Types of Properties Anticipated

Based on preliminary desktop analysis, Stantec historians anticipated historic-age resources would be buildings, structures, and objects and include many different property types including residential, religious, commercial, civic/governmental, and educational. Although cemeteries are essential resources in All-Black Towns, this survey effort focused on buildings and their associated resources.

3.5 Compliance with NRHP and OKSHPO Standards and Guidelines

This project was conducted in accordance with the Secretary of the Interior's *Standards and Guidelines for Identification and Evaluation* and the guidelines for surveys set forth in OKSHPO's *Architectural/Historic Resource Survey: A Field Guide*.[4] Stantec project personnel are professionals who meet or exceed the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualification Standards for Architectural History and History and have extensive experience with similar projects.[5] They

[3] Derry et al., "National Register Bulletin 24: Guidelines for Local Surveys: A Basis for Preservation Planning."
[4] Childs, Burns, and Renaud, "The Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archeology and Historic Preservation"; Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office (OKSHPO), "Architectural/ Historic Resource Survey: A Field Guide."
[5] Ibid.

are trained in the content of the OKSHPO workshop, “Working with the National Register of Historic Places.” Emily Reed, Stantec Historic Preservation Program Manager, served as the Project Manager and oversaw all aspects of the survey and deliverables. Historians Kory Van Hemert and Jenya Green participated in field investigations, research, report preparation, and evaluations of significance. Historians Althea Wunderler-Selby and Jennifer Brosz participated in evaluations of significance and report preparations; Senior Historian Amy E. Dase participated in context development, report preparations, research, and quality management. Historic Preservation Specialist Izabella Nuckels completed quality control/quality assurance, and GIS Manager Sara Laurence created the mapping and graphics.

3.6 NRHP Evaluation

The NRHP is a federal list of historic resources deemed worthy of preservation for their historic significance. The list is administered by the National Park Service (NPS), and inclusion in the list is an honorary and administrative designation bestowed upon properties that meet registration criteria. In general, for a property to be deemed eligible for inclusion in the NRHP, it must be at least 50 years old and must possess historic significance and integrity.[6] Both individual properties and districts with a collection of resources can be listed in the NRHP.

3.6.1 HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE

The NPS established four criteria under which a property may be significant, and a resource must possess significance under at least one criterion to be eligible for the NRHP.[7] The four criteria are:

Criterion A Properties associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history;

Criterion B Properties associated with the lives of persons significant to our past;

Criterion C Properties that embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; and

Criterion D Properties that have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important to prehistory or history.[8]

3.6.2 INTEGRITY

For a historic resource to be eligible for the NRHP, it must retain enough physical and historical integrity to convey its significance.[9] The NPS has identified seven aspects of integrity:

Location Place where a historic property is situated or where an event occurred.

Design Elements on a historic property, such as structure, form, place, and style, which result from decisions made in the planning and construction of a historic property. These elements inform not only the aesthetic of the property, but also historic functions and technologies.

Setting The physical environment where a historic event occurred, or a property was constructed. The character of this place may contribute to the property’s significance.

[6] National Park Service, “National Register Bulletin 15: How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation,” 3.
[7] Ibid, 11.
[8] Ibid, 12–24.
[9] Ibid, 44.

Materials The physical elements used to construct a historic property. Exterior elements are particularly important with historic properties.

Workmanship Evidence of the craft and labor used to construct a historic property.

Feeling Retention of physical elements that convey a sense of a specific period of time, typically associated with the period of significance.

Association Evidence of a link between the place that an event occurred and a historic property.[10]

A resource need not possess all seven aspects to retain integrity; a combination of some or most may be sufficient.[11] Aspects of integrity can be weighted differently depending on the applicable NRHP criteria.[12] For example, a resource eligible under Criterion C should retain the aspects of integrity linked to physical qualities (design, materials, and workmanship) to a higher degree than one that is eligible for its historical associations (Criterion A or B). However, a resource that is eligible for its historical associations (Criterion A or B) should still possess sufficient physical integrity to be recognizably associated with the time or era in which it attained significance.

3.7 NRHP Registration Requirements

3.7.1 CRITERION A

Historic properties can be listed in the NRHP under Criterion A if they have an important association with significant historic events, a pattern of events, or trends, and if they retain physical and historical integrity to convey that significance. However, situated in underrepresented communities, most historic-age resources in Oklahoma's All-Black Towns have undergone alterations that compromise, to varying degrees, each aspect of integrity. Some eligible resources may not be in their original locations; these should either be in a historic-period location or one that is amenable to the resource's historic-period function. Integrity of setting, and the inimitably linked integrity of feeling, communicate an eligible resource's salient features, despite certain alterations, such that community members would recognize the building to its period of significance.

Resources eligible under Criterion A will have some intact historic-period physical characteristics with certain acceptable modifications that reflect improvement trends. Nevertheless, the original design intent should be evident with the presence of character-defining features, such as roof forms, fenestration patterns, and form- or style-specific details that embrace the intended design. Historic-period materials may be visible or hidden. Alterations and additions that obscure historic-period stylistic influences, materials, or workmanship may be acceptable since they often represent the desire for expansion. Most original materials should be present; exceptions are replaced windows and doors, if fenestration patterns, shapes, and size are unchanged, because updated materials provided improved insulation and more-efficient interior conditions. Replaced wall cladding is another exception; this type of alteration protected the building and displayed another indicator of desire to update failing materials or enhancement. Exposed exterior wood cladding required regular repair and paint; sturdy, if nonhistoric, replacement materials provided a cost-effective means to long-term low-maintenance upkeep. Thus, some resources with multiple material replacements are eligible under Criterion A because their overall form, scale, massing, composition, and details are sufficiently intact to convey the intended design. Lastly, although they may have been substantially altered, some extant resources are rare surviving examples of a property type, the most intact example of a type, or the only or best remnant resources that represents an area of significance; these resources may be considered eligible with appropriate justification to explain their exceptionality.

The associative qualities for resources eligible under Criterion A are paramount to understanding their historical significance. Integrity of association made possible through archival evidence that relates specific information about the

[10] National Park Service, "National Register Bulletin 15: How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation," 4445.
[11] Ibid, 44.
[12] Ibid, 45–46.

resources. Deed, manuscript decennial census records of population, contemporaneous newspapers, and other primary sources provide this documentation.

3.7.2 CRITERION B

Properties can be eligible for the NRHP under Criterion B if they are associated with specific individuals who made a significant contribution to the past, and if they retain physical and historic integrity to convey that significance. This criterion only applies to a property that best illustrates a person's contributions. However, situated in underrepresented communities, most historic-age resources in Oklahoma's All-Black Towns have undergone alterations that compromise, to varying degrees, each aspect of integrity. Some eligible resources may not be in their original locations; these should either be in a historic-period location or one that is amenable to the resource's historic-period function. Integrity of setting, and the inimitably linked integrity of feeling, communicate an eligible resource's salient features, despite certain alterations, such that community members would recognize the building to its period of significance.

Resources eligible under Criterion B will have some intact historic-period physical characteristics with certain acceptable modifications that reflect improvement trends. Nevertheless, the original design intent should be evident with the presence of character-defining features, such as roof forms, fenestration patterns, and form- or style-specific details that embrace the intended design. Historic-period materials may be visible or hidden. Alterations and additions that obscure historic-period stylistic influences, materials, or workmanship may be acceptable since they often represent the desire for expansion. Most original materials should be present; exceptions are replaced windows and doors, if fenestration patterns, shapes, and size are unchanged, since updated materials provided improved insulation and more-efficient interior conditions. Replaced wall cladding is another exception since this type of alteration protected the building and displayed another indicator of desire to update failing materials or enhancement. Exposed exterior wood cladding required regular repair and paint; sturdy, if nonhistoric, replacement materials provided a cost-effective means to long-term low-maintenance upkeep. Thus, some resources with multiple material replacements are eligible under Criterion B because their overall form, scale, massing, composition, and details are sufficiently intact to convey the intended design. Lastly, although they may have been substantially altered, some extant resources are rare surviving examples of a property type, the most intact example of a type, or the only or best remnant resources that represents an area of significance; these resources may be considered eligible with appropriate justification to explain their exceptionality.

The associative qualities for resources eligible under Criterion B are paramount to understanding their historical significance. Integrity of association made possible through archival evidence that relates specific information about the resources. Deed, manuscript decennial census records of population, contemporaneous newspapers, and other primary sources provide this documentation.

3.7.3 CRITERION C

Properties can be eligible for the NRHP under Criterion C for their physical design or construction if they:

- Embody distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction—most properties eligible under Criterion C are eligible based on this subcategory. To be significant, a property must illustrate the distinguishing features common to its particular style or type of resource, so that the property is a good representative example.
- Represent the work of a master—this generally refers to design or aesthetic accomplishments by a master craftsman, artisan, or architect.
- Possess high artistic value.
- Represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction—this subcategory applies to historic districts.

However, situated in underrepresented communities, most historic-age resources in Oklahoma's All-Black Towns have undergone alterations that compromise, to varying degrees, each aspect of integrity. Some eligible resources may not be in their original locations; these should either be in a historic-period location or one that is amenable to the resource's historic-period function. Integrity of setting, and the inimitably linked integrity of feeling, communicate an eligible resource's salient features, despite certain alterations, such that community members would recognize the building to its period of significance.

Resources eligible under Criterion C will have some intact historic-period physical characteristics with certain acceptable modifications that reflect improvement trends. Nevertheless, the original design intent should be evident with the presence of character-defining features, such as roof forms, fenestration patterns, and form- or style-specific details that embrace the intended design. Historic-period materials may be visible or hidden. Alterations and additions that obscure historic-period stylistic influences, materials, or workmanship may be acceptable since they often represent the desire for expansion. Most original materials should be present; exceptions are replaced windows and doors, if fenestration patterns, shapes, and size are unchanged, since updated materials provided improved insulation and more-efficient interior conditions. Replaced wall cladding is another exception since this type of alteration protected the building and displayed another indicator of desire to update failing materials or enhancement. Exposed exterior wood cladding required regular repair and paint; sturdy, if nonhistoric, replacement materials provided a cost-effective means to long-term low-maintenance upkeep. Thus, some resources with multiple material replacements are eligible under Criterion C because their overall form, scale, massing, composition, and details are sufficiently intact to convey the intended design. Lastly, although they may have been substantially altered, some extant resources are rare surviving examples of a property type, the most intact example of a type, or the only or best remnant resources that represents an area of significance; these resources may be considered eligible with appropriate justification to explain their exceptionality.

The associative qualities for resources eligible under Criterion C are paramount to understanding their historical significance. Integrity of association made possible through archival evidence that relates specific information about the resources. Deed, manuscript decennial census records of population, contemporaneous newspapers, and other primary sources provide this documentation.

3.7.4 CRITERION D

Properties can be eligible under Criterion D for information potential, if their examination can yield important information that would contribute to understanding history. However, situated in underrepresented communities, most historic-age resources in Oklahoma's All-Black Towns have undergone alterations that compromise, to varying degrees, each aspect of integrity. Some eligible resources may not be in their original locations; these should either be in a historic-period location or one that is amenable to the resource's historic-period function. Integrity of setting, and the inimitably linked integrity of feeling, communicate an eligible resource's salient features, despite certain alterations.

Resources eligible under Criterion D must be in their original location. They should retain a high level of association in the form of archival evidence that relates specific information about who owned and operated the property, and their relationship within an All-Black Town. Land grant, deed, ad valorem tax, and manuscript decennial census records of population and agriculture provide this documentation. These resources should retain a high level of materials, meaning artifacts, since these are the best possible additional sources of information about the property's occupants, which can be used to corroborate the archival record and to yield information that documentary evidence does not. Because historic archeological sites are often disturbed through natural occurrences or human activity, the level of integrity for design, workmanship, setting, and feeling can be relaxed.

4 Project Objectives

The objective of this project is to conduct an architecture/historic survey of historic-age buildings associated with three of Oklahoma's 14 extant All-Black Towns, as defined by the August 2023 agreement between the OKSHPO and Stantec, based on the scope outlined in RFP URC-ABT-2022 Architectural and Historical Survey of Oklahoma's All-Black Towns, Phase II and NRHP Nominations. The project involved locating, identifying, and documenting resources within Langston, Taft, and Boley to the minimum level of documentation standards, which includes the creation of an Oklahoma Historic Resources Identification Form with at least two photographs. Stantec evaluated each documented resource for potential NRHP eligibility, and two properties were selected for individual NRHP nominations, to be completed outside of this survey effort and report. Stantec conducted the project in accordance with the Secretary of the Interior's *Standards and Guidelines for Identification and Evaluation* and the "Oklahoma Architectural/ Historic Survey Requirements" (updated 2020).

5 Areas Surveyed

The survey area generally consisted of the city limits of three non-contiguous All-Black Towns in Oklahoma: Langston, Taft, and Boley. All historic-age resources within the study area were documented in Langston, and most historic-age resources were documented in Taft and Boley. In Boley, Stantec historians determined a representative sampling of resources outside the National Historic Landmark for documentation to prioritize accuracy, efficiency, and appropriate representation. In Taft, survey excluded the Dr. Eddie Warrior Correctional Center within the study area provided. Survey from the public right-of-way would not provide sufficient context to properly record this complex or visually assess the integrity for most of these historic-age resources (**Figure 1**).

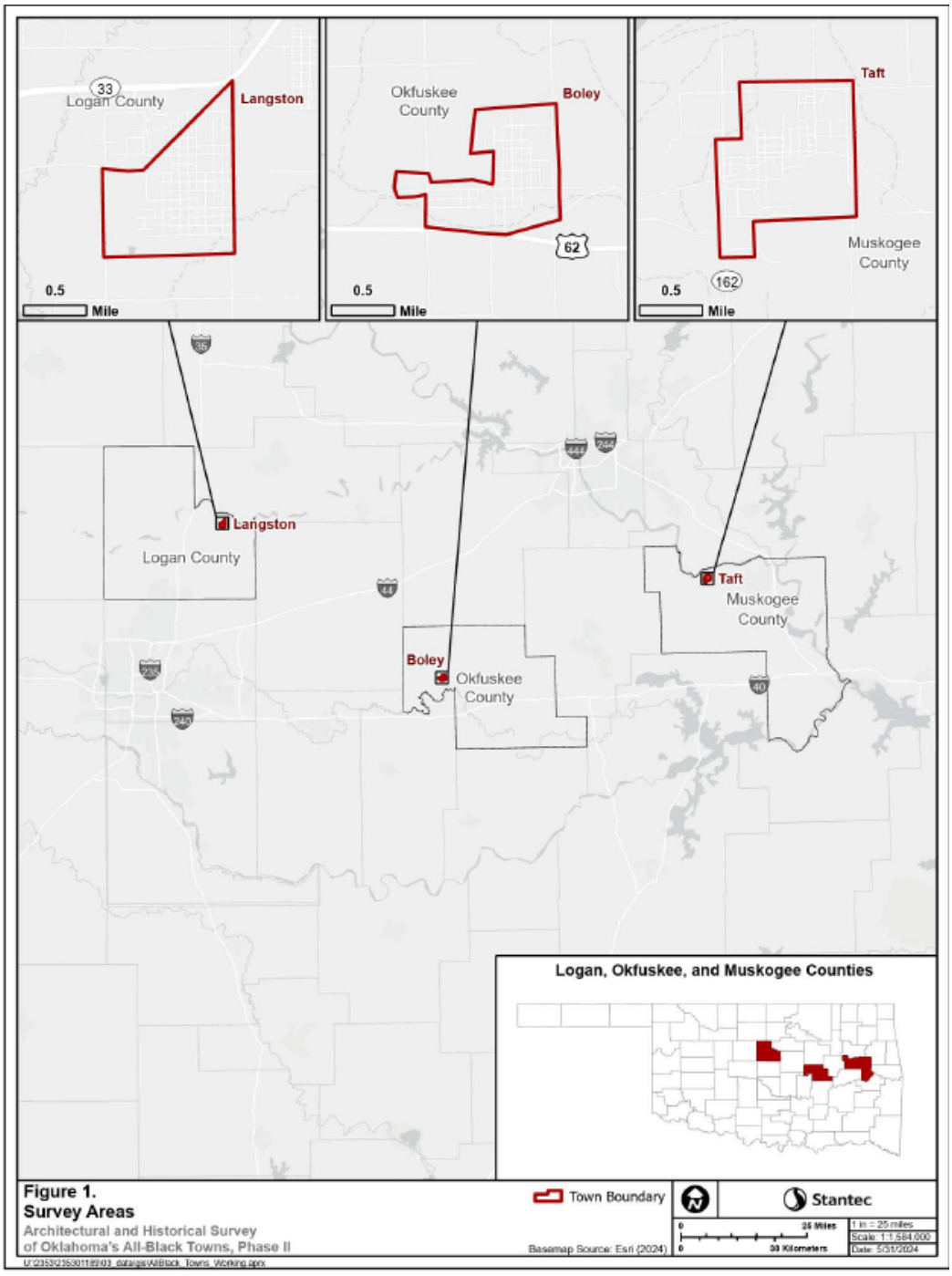


Figure 1. Map of the Three Surveyed All-Black Towns in Phase II. Source: Stantec, 2024.

6 Methodology

Stantec developed a methodology for this project based on standards set by the NPS and guidelines for historic resource surveys recommended by the OKSHPO. Approaches for research, survey, and evaluation were determined at the outset of the project and were adhered to throughout. This section describes the survey and research methods, which involved five main tasks: (1) field investigations preparation, (2) public involvement, (3) on-the-ground field investigations activities, (4) research, and (5) post-field data processing and evaluation.

6.1 Field Investigations Preparation

Stantec commenced project coordination with OKSHPO in September 2023. Initial tasks involved desktop research and preliminary analysis to create a list of historic-age resources in the study area and the preparation of a GIS map with known historic-age resources, and the locations of potential historic-age resources with unknown dates. Field investigations' intensity and types of properties anticipated to be extant in the survey areas were also identified.

6.1.1 DESKTOP ANALYSIS

The desktop review of preliminary source materials, including previous surveys and studies, historic aerials, NRHP nominations, and digital archival collections, informed field investigations and established a basis for a draft historical context. Stantec historians conducted an aerial review, combined with a review of Google Streetview, of the included towns to identify historic-age resources (built in 1978 or earlier, 45 years prior to the survey date) within the provided study areas for each town. The NRHP ArcGIS Online (AGOL) map for Oklahoma confirmed the locations of NRHP-listed properties and districts in the survey area.

6.1.2 FIELD MAP PREPARATION AND FIELD INVESTIGATIONS SCOPE

An AGOL map was prepared with each town's study area as provided by OKSHPO. Stantec conducted a review of aerial photographs to confirm the presence of historic-age resources. Aerial photography coverage for each town varied by year and geographic location. All visible resources were assigned a historic-age, non-historic-age, or questionable (age undetermined and not confirmed by aerial review) designation on Stantec's AGOL map. Buildings determined to be nonhistoric-age according to the aerial review were not recorded. Those buildings for which a historic-age date of construction could not be confirmed (questionable) were assessed in the field with professional judgement. Those questionable resources that were determined, in the field, to have potential eligibility for the NRHP were recorded as historic-age resources. Those buildings designated as questionable that do not appear to have potential eligibility, regardless of apparent age, were not recorded as part of this effort.

All historic-age resources in Langston were documented, and most historic-age resources in Boley and Taft were documented. In Boley, Stantec historians identified a representative sampling of resources outside the National Historic Landmark for documentation to prioritize accuracy, efficiency, and appropriate representation. In Taft, survey excluded the Dr. Eddie Warrior Correctional Center within the study area provided. Survey from the public right-of-way would not provide sufficient context to properly record this complex or visually assess the integrity for most of these historic-age resources.

Prior to survey, an information sheet was developed to inform interested citizens and residents about the survey activities. The sheet included a project summary and OKSHPO contact information.

6.2 Public Involvement

OKSHPO connected Stantec with Ms. Shirley Ann Ballard Nero, who is the Chair of the Black Heritage Committee for the Oklahoma Historical Society and has many connections with leaders in the three towns. Stantec worked with Ms. Nero to obtain contact information for at least one leader/stakeholder (often the mayor) in each town. Prior to fieldwork, each City contact was emailed to notify the communities of upcoming fieldwork and request any information town stakeholders would wish to provide. Community members provided information regarding the history and significance of several sites, which was incorporated into the HPRI forms as appropriate. During fieldwork, Stantec staff interacted with various curious community members. Members provided Stantec with tours and information on their respective towns and select resources.

6.3 Field Investigations

Field investigations occurred on select dates between October 16 and 20, 2023. After identifying the locations of all historic-age properties in each town, a unique Survey ID number (referred to as “Survey ID#” in this report) was assigned to each resource. Stantec historians documented historic-age buildings in the survey areas from the public right-of-way (ROW). Project historians began with windshield surveys within the established city limits of each of the 3 towns to confirm the location of each historic-age resource identified during the desktop study and identify any historic-age resources not identified during the desktop study. The surveyors did not have right-of-entry and did not attempt to take photographs from private property. In cases where resources were not visible from the public ROW, a review of aerial photographs was used as a tool to document and evaluate the resource. Stantec historians documented the characteristics of each resource on OKSHPO HPRI forms. Stantec historians noted any relevant property or historical information obtained from members of the public encountered during the survey. At least two photographs were taken of each resource, with additional photographs collected as necessary to document each resource.

Other potential historic-age resources encountered during the survey that were not identified in preliminary aerial review were photographed to the minimum requirements described if they retained sufficient integrity and apparent potential for individual NRHP eligibility. Before leaving each town, surveyors also identified and recorded any smaller objects, signage, or other features that display a sense of historic community that may have been missed in the aerial review.

6.4 Research

Using guidance from “Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office Comprehensive Historic Preservation Planning Process and Historic Context Development,” Stantec historians conducted archival research to develop a historic context. Available digital resources, including online newspaper archives and online articles; local digital repositories; and resources from the OKSHPO website and relevant databases enhanced the study of these areas.

6.5 Post-Field Processing and Evaluation

Following the completion of field investigations, Stantec historians saved all data and photographs and began evaluating historic resources for inclusion in the NRHP.

6.5.1 DATA PROCESSING

After field investigations, historians saved all photographs to Stantec servers, and loaded the photographs into the inventory form database with enough photographs to fully document each resource’s physical integrity. The field team documented the resources on OKSHPO HPRI forms; OKSHPO will, at some point in the future, load the survey data into the Oklahoma Landmarks Inventory Database, an online repository of the state’s documented resources.

6.5.2 NRHP EVALUATION

Surveyors assessed the significance of each resource following research and development of the historic context, which was developed along with the inventory form database. The context incorporates the NRHP Criteria for Evaluation and a discussion of the historical significance of resources within each town. The NRHP Criteria for Evaluation (**Section 3.6**) were applied to the surveyed resources. A detailed discussion of the integrity requirements for resources in Oklahoma's All-Black Towns is in **Section 3.7**.

7 Results

This section describes survey results and observations from the survey of 275 resources in the All-Black Towns survey areas, as defined in **Figures 1** and **2** in **Appendix A**. Tables summarizing survey results are included. Detailed information for each historic-age property is included on the survey inventory forms (**Appendix B**). Analysis of survey results and resources identified as potentially eligible for the NRHP are described in **Section 7**.

7.1 Summary of Results

Stantec surveyors documented 275 historic-age resources across the three All-Black Towns in this project. In the field, surveyors documented each resource with information about the historic function (**Table 2**), year of construction (**Table 3**), architectural style (**Table 4**), and whether it retains sufficient integrity to be potentially eligible for the NRHP (**Table 5**).

7.1.1 SUMMARY OF TOTAL RESULTS

Across the three All-Black Towns, Stantec historians documented 275 historic-age resources constructed between ca. 1900 and ca. 1985.[13] Twelve historic functions were identified. Most surveyed resources, or 77 percent, historically functioned as single dwellings. More than 34 percent of resources had no style; however, 10 architectural styles were recorded, the most common of which was Ranch, comprising 35.27 percent of total resources, followed by Bungalow/Craftsman which represented 14.55 percent of resources. In all, 58 of the 275 resources were determined potentially eligible for the NRHP (**Section 7**).

Table 2. Historic Function of Resources Surveyed in Three All-Black Towns (Historic-Age Resources)

Historic Function	Number of Historic-Age Resources	Percent of Total
Agricultural	2	0.73
Commerce/Trade	8	2.91
Domestic – Single Dwelling	212	77.09
Domestic – Multiple Dwelling	10	3.27
Domestic – Secondary Structure	5	1.82
Educational	7	2.55
Government – City Hall	2	0.73
Government – Other	3	1.09
Government – Post Office	1	0.36
Other	6	2.18
Religious	11	4.36
Recreation/Entertainment	8	2.91
TOTAL	**275**	**100**

[13] The survey cutoff date was 1978; however, one resource was included that was built after 1978 because of its association with an education complex.

Table 3. Year Built Date of Surveyed Resources (Historic-Age Resources)

Year Built	Number of Historic-Age Resources	Percent of Total
1900–1909	9	3.27
1910–1919	12	4.36
1920–1929	46	16.73
1930–1939	17	6.18
1940–1949	26	9.45
1950–1959	23	8.36
1960–1970	47	17.09
1971–1978	94	34.18
1978–1985	1	0.36
TOTAL	**275**	**100**

Table 4. Architectural Styles in the Survey Areas (Historic-Age Resources)

Architectural Style	Number of Historic-Age Resources	Percent of Total
Bungalow/Craftsman	40	14.55
Contemporary	1	0.36
International Style	1	0.36
Minimal Traditional	10	3.64
National Folk	12	4.36
Queen Anne	3	1.09
Ranch	97	35.27
Tudor Revival	4	1.45
No Style	96	34.91
Other	11	4.00
TOTAL	**275**	**100**

Table 5. Summary of Results Per Town (Historic-Age Resources)

All-Black Town	Number of Historic-Age Resources Surveyed	Range of Year Built Dates	Historic Functions Recorded	Architectural Styles	Number of Potentially NRHP Eligible Resources
Langston	142	1900–1975	Commerce/Trade (2) Education (2) Government (4) Other (2) Religion (8) Multiple Dwelling (6) Single Dwelling (116) Secondary Structure (2)	Craftsman/Bungalow (18) Contemporary (1) National Folk (6) Minimal Traditional (7) No Style (41) Other (8) Ranch (56) Queen Anne (1) Tudor Revival (4)	35
Taft	80	1900–1978	Agriculture (2) Commerce/Trade (3) Education (2) Government (1) Other (3) Recreation/Entertainment (1) Religion (1) Secondary Structure (1) Single Dwelling (66)	Craftsman/Bungalow (13) International Style (1) Minimal Traditional (2) National Folk (2) No Style (31) Other (1) Queen Anne (2) Ranch (28)	6
Boley	53	1900–1985	Commerce/Trade (3) Education (3) Government (1) Multiple Dwelling (4) Other (1) Recreation/Entertainment (7) Religion (2) Single Dwelling (30) Secondary Structure (2)	Craftsman/Bungalow (9) Minimal Traditional (1) National Folk (4) No Style (24) Other (2) Ranch (13)	17
TOTAL	**275**				**58**

7.2 Types of Properties Surveyed

Stantec historians surveyed agricultural, commercial, domestic, educational, governmental, recreational, and religious resources.

7.3 Historic Property Types Surveyed

Historic buildings, structures, and objects representing seven different property types were identified as part of this survey. Historic resource property types included residential, recreational, religious, educational, governmental, agricultural, and commercial. The majority of resources surveyed, 77 percent, were single-family dwellings.

Agricultural Resources

Two metal-clad, utilitarian agricultural outbuildings were surveyed.

Commercial Resources

Eight commercial buildings or sites were surveyed, constructed from wood, concrete masonry units, or poured concrete.

Domestic Resources

Ten multiple-family dwellings and 212 single-family dwellings were recorded. Of the single-dwellings surveyed, 147 represent mid-twentieth-century Bungalow-Craftsman inspired, Ranch, or Minimal Traditional architectural styles; another 96 dwellings have no clear stylistic influences. Outliers are National Folk and Queen Anne dwellings that are evidence of some All-Black Towns' late-nineteenth-century origins.

Educational Resources

The seven education-related buildings or objects surveyed range from modest wood-frame, wood-clad buildings to designed and styled buildings of rusticated stone and brick. Several are no longer in use, deteriorating, or ruinous.

Government Resources

Six government-related buildings or structures were surveyed including one post office, two city halls, two housing authority offices, and one water tower.

Recreational Resources

Eight recreational-related resources were surveyed including seven resources related to a rodeo, constructed of metal and concrete masonry units. One resource includes a metal-clad shelter and park.

Religious Resources

Of 11 churches and religious facilities surveyed, five are concrete-masonry-unit clad, one is wood-frame, four are brick-clad, and one is vinyl- and concrete-masonry-unit-clad.

8 Properties Potentially Eligible for the NRHP

Stantec historians evaluated 275 historic-age resources in the survey area to identify those that possess significance with an associated historic context and retain sufficient integrity to be potentially individually eligible for the NRHP. Historical and physical integrity was carefully evaluated for each resource. Groups of resources were evaluated as potential historic districts eligible for the NRHP, with areas lacking a concentration of potentially contributing resources considered ineligible.

Resources were evaluated for eligibility under each of the criteria, including Criterion D, traditionally reserved for archeological sites and their potential to yield important information. This type of analysis requires discipline-specific expertise that was outside the scope of work. However, these resources deserved full consideration under Criterion D, and their potential as local interpretations of a standard design or undocumented constructed technique was examined.



Figure 2.Ca. 1939 Langston Elementary School in Langston, Oklahoma. Survey ID #552. Source: Stantec, 2023.

8.1 List of Properties

Of the 275 surveyed resources, two resources, the Mt. Bethel Baptist Church and a dwelling at 317 N. Tolson Street (Survey ID #387 and Survey ID #730, respectively), were previously determined eligible; they are included in the potentially eligible resource count in this report, as integrity is sufficient to maintain the eligibility recommendation. One resource (Survey ID #540) was already listed in the NRHP and is not included in the list of potentially eligible resources.[14]

As a result of this survey, Stantec identified 58 resources as potentially eligible for the NRHP which are listed in **Table *6***; **Appendix A.2** has individual inventory forms for each resource. Thumbnail sketches of individual properties are described

[14] The Boley Rodeo Grounds were considered for nomination to the National Register as part of this project, based on the results of the survey. However, informal coordination with OKSHPO and the NPS indicated that the property would be unlikely to be listed in the National Register due to integrity issues. The eligibility recommendation for the survey was amended accordingly.

in **Section 8.2.1**. Four potential historic districts were identified and are described in **Section 8.2.1.2** along with their associated resources. **Section 8.2.2** provides an overview of Multiple-Property Documentation Forms.

Table 6. Properties Identified as Potentially Eligible for the NRHP

Survey ID	Town	Address	Current Property Name
213	Langston	112 Drexel Boulevard	Dwelling
214	Langston	122 E Drexel Boulevard	Dwelling
215	Langston	222 E Washington Avenue	Dwelling
218	Langston	103 W Commercial Street	Dwelling
219	Langston	111 W Commercial Street	Dwelling
220	Langston	119 W Commercial Street	Dwelling
247	Langston	411 E Hale Street	Dwelling
248	Langston	308 N Kansas Avenue	Dwelling
249	Langston	318 N Kansas Avenue	Dwelling
253	Langston	421 E Hale Street	Dwelling
284	Langston	415 N Oklahoma Avenue	Dwelling
292	Langston	101 E Washington Avenue	Dwelling
313	Langston	209 S Lincoln Boulevard	Dwelling
314	Langston	209 W Bond Street	Dwelling
315	Langston	215 W Bond Street	Dwelling
316	Langston	203 W Bond Street	Langston Housing Authority
351	Langston	N Massachusetts Avenue and W Wiley Jones Street	Dwelling
355	Langston	405 Martin Luther King Avenue	Dwelling
356	Langston	412 W Turner Street	Dwelling
367	Langston	100 W Wiley Jones Street	United States Post Office
382	Langston	101 N Tolson Street	Dwelling
387	Langston	423 W. Washington Street	Mt. Bethel Baptist Church
390	Langston	S Tolson Avenue and W Commercial Street	Langston Church of God in Christ
552	Langston	Martin Luther King Jr and Hale Street	Langston Elementary School Additions
553	Langston	421 Townsend Street	Dwelling
730	Langston	317 N. Tolson Street	Dwelling
889	Langston	101 N Tolson Street	Garage
236	Langston	323 Washington Avenue	Dwelling
252	Langston	315 Indian Meridian Road	Dwelling
302	Langston	123 Commercial Street	Dwelling
332	Langston	111 Drexel Street	Dwelling
353	Langston	111-103 Wiley Jones Street	Duplex
354	Langston	415 and 419 Martin Luther King Avenue	Duplex
550	Langston	203 Turner Street	Dwelling
806	Langston	318 Sammy Davis Jr. Drive	E. W. Perry -J.P. Patterson Baptist Student Center
111	Taft	402 Grant Avenue	Building
173	Taft	401 Spruce St	Dwelling
55	Taft	North of the junction of W Seminole St and N Walnut St	Building at Taft City Hall

Table 6. Properties Identified as Potentially Eligible for the NRHP

Survey ID	Town	Address	Current Property Name
56	Taft	North of the junction of W Seminole St and N Walnut St	Building at Taft City Hall
59	Taft	Northwest corner of Pine Street and Seminole Street	Flipper Chapel - African Methodist Episcopal
83	Taft	101 S Main	Masonic Temple Starlight Lodge
467	Boley	101-102 W 2nd Street	Duplex
471	Boley	109 S Walnut Street	Dwelling
472	Boley	N of W 3rd Street 130 ft. W of S Walnut Street	Dwelling
473	Boley	Walnut Street and W 3rd Street	Housing Authority Boley, Oklahoma
496	Boley	Seward Avenue and Oak Street	Church
506	Boley	214 N Pine Street	Dwelling
514	Boley	328 N Cedar Street	Dwelling
521	Boley	504 E Minnie Avenue	Amos Temple Christian Methodist Episcopal Church
522	Boley	350 N3670 Road	Dwelling
531	Boley	523 N Pecan Street	Dwelling
532	Boley	401 N Pecan Street	Dwelling
701	Boley	366117 U.S. Highway 62	McCormick's - T.R. McCormick Complex
852	Boley	62530 with N3665 Road	Kickback - T.R. McCormick Complex
853	Boley	366117 US Highway 62	Motel - T.R. McCormick Complex
880	Boley	Washington Ave between Seward and Grant Avenue	Boley Football Field Fence/Grandstand
468	Boley	West Side of S Walnut Street 100 ft. South of 2nd Avenue	Duplex
469	Boley	West Side of Walnut Street between 2nd and 3rd Avenues	Duplex

8.2 Property Summaries

In this section, properties recommended as potentially eligible for the NRHP, and their respective area(s) of significance are described.

8.2.1 INDIVIDUAL RESOURCES POTENTIALLY ELIGIBLE FOR THE NRHP

8.2.1.1.1 Historic Resources in Langston, Oklahoma

Dwelling (Survey ID #284)

A ca. 1900 one-and-one-half-story, single-family dwelling of no particular style with a gable front National Folk form. It has a steeply pitched asphalt-clad roof. The dwelling is clad in brick with wood siding around window and door openings. Windows are single-hung vinyl units. A low-pitch, one-story, front gable porch spans the east façade, sheltering a single slab wood door. A through-the-cornice shed roof dormer is set into the upper story on the south elevation. A one-story addition is to the rear of the dwelling with an exterior deck on top, with entrances from an exterior stair and the upper story of the dwelling. Alterations include replacement door and windows, the infill of some window openings and resizing of window openings, the addition of the porch, painted brick cladding, and the addition of a rear volume, exterior staircase, and upper deck.

Dwellings, the most common property type in the All-Black Towns, exhibit forms and styles that were modest versions of contemporaneously popular choice. This resource is recommended eligible for the NRHP under Criterion A, in the area of Ethnic Heritage/Black, for associations with a defined All-Black Town founded to protect and provide opportunities in the Jim Crow era. This resource is also recommended eligible for the NRHP under Criterion C, in the area of Architecture, as a rare extant example of an early National Folk style dwelling. Although the resource is altered, it retains essential components like its massed plan and gable-front form, to convey the building's intended design. the house appears to retain original cladding materials.

This resource is recommended not eligible for the NRHP under Criterion B or D. Although potentially associated with a white county judge, William E. Dougherty, this association could not be confirmed, it is unclear if the judge lived here, and this association would not rise to the level of historic significance. No other associations were identified linking it to persons of historic importance; however, additional research may confirm and identify significant occupants. Because the building offers neither a local interpretation of a standard design nor an undocumented construction technique, it has limited potential to yield important information.

Langston Housing Authority Office (Survey ID #316)

A 1973 single-story postwar modern style governmental building. It has a flat metal roof. The building's walls are primarily clad in gray brick, with some vinyl cladding around entrances and above windows. The building has fixed and single-hung vinyl window units. A lower flat roof porch supported on brick piers is set asymmetrically on the north façade over a single glazed metal door. Alterations include the replacement vinyl cladding and windows.

Governmental buildings allowed All-Black Towns autonomy to conduct civic affairs, such as overseeing the creation of affordable housing. This resource is recommended eligible for the NRHP under Criterion A, in the area of Ethnic Heritage/Black, for associations with a defined All-Black Town founded to protect and provide opportunities in the Jim Crow era. This resource is also recommended eligible for the NRHP under Criterion A, in the area of Community Planning and Development, for associations with a deliberately designed town that had amenities intended to support surrounding farm families and encourage commercial and institutional improvements. The Langston Housing Authority Office, from its 1973 construction until the present, embodies Langston's planning efforts which resulted in the construction of approximately thirty affordable single- and multiple-family dwellings across the city. This planning effort reshaped the community of Langston. Finally, it is recommended eligible for the NRHP under Criterion C for Architecture. It is a good example of the postwar modern style and unique in the town. The building retains the essential components of a flat roof, prominent eave, unarticulated walls, and an asymmetrical façade, that convey the building’s intended design.

It is recommended not eligible for the NRHP under Criterion B or D. No associations were identified linking it to persons of historic importance. Because the building offers neither a local interpretation of a standard design nor an undocumented construction technique, it has limited potential to yield important information.

Post Office (Survey ID #367)

A ca. 1960 single story modern-style post office. It has a flat roof and brick-clad walls. The building has fixed metal windows and a glazed slab metal door with sidelights and transom. Decorative features include the unarticulated brick walls. The resource appears unaltered.

Post offices were significant in All-Black Towns because they signaled federal recognition of these communities. Governmental buildings, like post offices, allowed All-Black Towns autonomy to conduct civic affairs. This resource is recommended eligible for the NRHP under Criterion A, in the area of Ethnic Heritage/Black, for associations with a defined All-Black Town founded to protect and provide opportunities in the Jim Crow era. This resource is also recommended eligible for the NRHP under Criterion A, in the area of Community Planning and Development, for associations with a deliberately designed town that had amenities intended to support surrounding farm families and encourage commercial and institutional improvements. Finally, it is recommended eligible for the NRHP under Criterion C

for Architecture. It is likely one of the Modern-Style Thousand Series Post Offices that the United States Postal Service constructed between 1960 and 1970. The building exhibits character-defining features of these post offices including a flat roof, unarticulated brick walls, and fixed metal windows.

It is recommended not eligible for the NRHP under Criterion B or D. No associations were identified linking it to persons of historic importance. Because the building offers neither a local interpretation of a standard design nor an undocumented construction technique, it has limited potential to yield important information.

Dwelling (Survey ID #382)

A ca. 1930 single-story, single-family Tudor Revival-influenced bungalow. It has a steeply pitched, asphalt-clad, clipped, and crossed-gable roof. Walls are clad in giraffe stonework with raised pointing. The dwelling has three-over-one double-hung wood window units. A steep lower gable on the façade is set over a single glazed paneled wood door. The building has a stone wing wall and a prominent chimney. A low stone wall and piers may have previously supported a partial-width porch on the façade, but it is no longer extant. Other alterations include the addition of a rear porch and the boarding of most windows.

Dwellings, the most common property type in the All-Black Towns, exhibit forms and styles that were modest versions of contemporaneously popular choice. This resource is recommended eligible for the NRHP under Criterion A, in the area of Ethnic Heritage/Black, for associations with a defined All-Black Town founded to protect and provide opportunities in the Jim Crow era. This resource is recommended eligible under Criterion B for its association with prominent Langston educators Amelia and J. E. Taylor. This residence was the home of James Edgar and Amelia Robinson Taylor from ca. 1930 to Amelia's death in 1983. The Taylors were prominent educators and members of the Langston community. Amelia, a graduate of Langston University with a master’s in education from the University of Kansas, worked at the college as a music instructor from 1945–1962. J. E. Taylor worked from 1922–1949 as state leader of 4-H farm extension agents serving Black students, served as one of the supervisors of the farm extension program at Langston University, and was a member of the Langston Board of Education for over 20 years. This resource is also recommended eligible for the NRHP under Criterion C, in the area of Architecture, as a good representative example of a Tudor Revival-influenced bungalow. Although the resource is deteriorated, it retains the essential components of a steep gabled roof, clipped gable, and arched elements to convey the building's intended design. The house appears to retain its original stone cladding and some original windows, although they are in disrepair.

This resource is recommended not eligible for the NRHP under Criterion D. Because the building offers neither a local interpretation of a standard design nor an undocumented construction technique, it has limited potential to yield important information.

Garage Outbuilding (Survey ID #889)

A ca. 1930 single-story garage and storage shed. It has a low-pitched, asphalt-clad hipped roof. Walls are clad in giraffe stonework with raised pointing. The garage has a full width shed roof porch on the façade, which faces east. Two garage door openings are set on the south side of the façade. One is missing a door and the other contains a glazed wood paneled door. Windows have stone sills and double-hung wood sashes. Alterations include the missing garage door, loss of porch material, and loss of some window sashes.

Dwellings, the most common property type in the All-Black Towns, exhibit forms and styles that were modest versions of contemporaneously popular choice. This resource is recommended eligible under Criteria B and C as a contributing resource to the recommended eligible primary dwelling (Survey ID #382) for its associations with Amelia and J. E. Taylor and for its Tudor Revival-influenced architectural style.

This resource is recommended not individually eligible for the NRHP under Criterion A, B, C or D. This resource does not embody distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, represent the work of a master, or possess

high artistic value. Integrity of setting, materials, workmanship, and feeling are diminished due to vacancy, overgrown foliage, and missing building elements. No associations were identified linking it to persons or events of historic importance. Because the building offers neither a local interpretation of a standard design nor an undocumented construction technique, it has limited potential to yield important information.

Mt. Bethel Baptist Church (Survey ID #387)

A ca. 1950 single-story, gable-front, mid-century church with a concrete foundation, brick exterior, and medium-pitched, asphalt single-clad roof with minimal eave overhang. Brick wall buttresses with concrete caps accent the sides of the primary volume. Lower east- and west-facing cross gables near the back (south) elevation comprise the transept. The front (north) façade has a front-gabled brick vestibule, slightly lower than the main volume, with recessed, paired, glazed aluminum entrance doors. A stained-glass cross is above the entrance. Windows are metal sliders or single-hung. The one-story, rear brick wing has a flat roof accented by a brick soldier course. It was added between 1974 and 1981. The gable-front vestibule has a similar soldier course. It may be original or may be a later addition. Alterations include the rear addition, some window replacement, and door replacement.

This resource was previously determined eligible for the NRHP. No change in its eligibility is recommended.

Churches were an essential component of community building in All-Black Towns. This resource is affirmed as eligible for the NRHP under Criterion A, in the area of Ethnic Heritage/Black, for associations with a defined All-Black Town founded to protect and provide opportunities in the Jim Crow era. This resource is also considered eligible for the NRHP under Criterion A, in the area of Community Planning and Development, for associations with a deliberately designed town that had amenities intended to support surrounding farm families and encourage commercial and institutional improvements.

It is recommended not eligible for the NRHP under Criterion B, C, or D. No associations were identified linking it to persons of historic importance. It does not embody distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, represent the work of a master, or possess high artistic value. Furthermore, alterations have diminished integrity. Because the building offers neither a local interpretation of a standard design nor an undocumented construction technique, it has limited potential to yield important information.

Langston Church of God in Christ (Survey ID #390)

A 1959 single-story church of no particular style with an asphalt-clad front-gable roof. It is clad in concrete block and wood. The church has single, fixed, metal window units. A partial-width porch with a metal-clad flat roof projects from the façade over double wood slab doors. Alterations include replacement doors, replacement of some windowpanes, painting of concrete block and windowsills, and the addition of the porch.

Churches were an essential component of community building in All-Black Towns. This resource is recommended eligible for the NRHP under Criterion A, in the area of Ethnic Heritage/Black, for associations with a defined All-Black Town founded to protect and provide opportunities in the Jim Crow era. This resource is also recommended eligible for the NRHP under Criterion A, in the area of Community Planning and Development, for associations with a deliberately designed town that had amenities intended to support surrounding farm families and encourage commercial and institutional improvements. This resource is also recommended eligible under Criterion C in the area of Architecture. Although it lacks features associated with an architectural style, the building was carefully constructed in concrete block with defined and specific fenestration and is representative of the Church of God congregation, reflecting the values and income of the later assembled Church of God congregation compared to the more established Methodist and Episcopal congregations. The building retains its essential components and alterations are sympathetic.

It is recommended not eligible for the NRHP under Criterion B or D. No associations were identified linking it to persons of historic importance. Because the building offers neither a local interpretation of a standard design nor an undocumented construction technique, it has limited potential to yield important information.

Former Langston Elementary School (Survey ID #552)

This 1939 resource consists of two disconnected, single-story rectangular volumes. The volumes have rusticated sandstone walls with parapets centered on their east and west elevations. Prominent stone sills and concrete lintels bound window openings, which are missing window units. Roofs and doors are no longer extant.

Schools were critical to educating youths and adults in All-Black Towns, with enriching instruction in primary, secondary, and industrial curriculums. This resource is recommended eligible for the NRHP under Criterion A, in the area of Ethnic Heritage/Black, for associations with a defined All-Black Town founded to protect and provide opportunities in the Jim Crow era. This resource is also recommended eligible for the NRHP under Criterion A, in the area of Community Planning and Development, for associations with a deliberately designed town that had amenities intended to support surrounding farm families and encourage commercial and institutional improvements. Finally, it is recommended eligible for the NRHP under Criterion A in the area of Education; the resource is closely associated with the influential role education played in Langston.

It is recommended not eligible for the NRHP under Criterion B, C, or D. No associations were identified linking it to persons of historic importance. This resource does not embody distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, represent the work of a master, or possess high artistic value. Integrity of materials, workmanship, and association have been compromised by non-historic alterations. Because the building offers neither a local interpretation of a standard design nor an undocumented construction technique, it has limited potential to yield important information.

Dwelling (Survey ID #730)

A ca. 1925 one-and-a-half story, side-gabled, Tudor Revival style single-family dwelling. It has a stone foundation and uncoursed, rough-cut, rubblestone exterior walls with extruded mortar joints. The steeply pitched asphalt-clad roof with no eave overhang has a central gabled dormer with horizontal cladding. The front (east) façade has dominant and secondary flush cross gables and a massive, offset, stone exterior chimney. The open, partial-width, front porch is surrounded by a stone wall. Other alterations include the addition of a rear porch and the boarding of most windows. Windows are double-hung and single-hung. On the south side of the house, the slab wood door and slanted stone are part of the exterior cellar access. Alterations include some window replacement and/or boarding, door replacement and an altered porch railing.

This resource was previously determined eligible for the NRHP. No change in its eligibility is recommended.

Dwellings, the most common property type in the All-Black Towns, exhibit forms and styles that were modest versions of contemporaneously popular choice. Based on report findings, the dwelling’s area of significance is considered to be Ethnic Heritage/Black under Criterion A, for associations with a defined All-Black Town founded to protect and provide opportunities in the Jim Crow era. This resource is also considered eligible for the NRHP under Criterion C, in the area of Architecture, as a good representative example of a Tudor Revival -influenced bungalow. Although the resource is deteriorated, it retains the essential components of a steep gabled roof, prominent chimney, and cross-gabled elements to convey the building's intended design. The house appears to retain its original stone cladding and some original windows, although they are in disrepair.

This resource is recommended not eligible for the NRHP under Criterion B or D. No associations were identified linking it to persons of historic importance; however, additional research may identify owners or occupants with significance. Because the building offers neither a local interpretation of a standard design nor an undocumented construction technique, it has limited potential to yield important information.

E. W. Perry – J. P. Patterson Baptist Student Center (Survey ID #806)

A ca. 1964 single-story contemporary style religious facility with an asymmetrical front-gabled, metal-clad roof. The roof is a prow gable with wide eaves. The building is clad in brick and has hung and fixed metal windows. The primary entrance

is recessed under a partial-width integrated porch with a stylized support set in an integrated planter. Alterations include the replacement of some doors.

Religious facilities and educational properties were an essential component of community building in All-Black Towns. This resource, a Baptist Collegiate Ministry building, is recommended eligible for the NRHP under Criterion A, in the area of Ethnic Heritage/Black, for associations with a defined All-Black Town founded to protect and provide opportunities in the Jim Crow era. This resource is also recommended eligible for the NRHP under Criterion A, in the area of Community Planning and Development, for associations with a deliberately designed town that had amenities intended to support surrounding farm families and encourage commercial and institutional improvements. It is also recommended eligible under Criterion C as a good example of the Contemporary style. The building appears to retain all original materials and features, other than the replacement doors, including the prow gable and asymmetrical façade.

It is recommended not eligible for the NRHP under Criterion B or D. No associations were identified linking it to persons of historic importance. Because the building offers neither a local interpretation of a standard design nor an undocumented construction technique, it has limited potential to yield important information.

8.2.1.1.2 Historic Resources in Taft, Oklahoma

Flipper Chapel – African Methodist Episcopal Church (Survey ID #59)

A 1964 single-story church building composed of two connected volumes. The west volume is hipped, clad in vinyl, and has hung metal windows. It is connected to the front-gabled east volume via a hyphen. The east volume features the primary double entrance with slab metal doors under a projecting, flat-roofed porch with post supports. The east volume is clad in concrete blocks with wood board in the gable ends. It has sliding metal windows. Alterations include some replacement cladding and an addition to the rear of the east volume. The Flipper Chapel congregation dates to 1908. Religious facilities were first used at this location in 1964 in the west volume, originally constructed for educational purposes that same year. Religious services took place there until the east, sanctuary volume was constructed in 1971.

Churches were an essential component of community building in All-Black Towns. This resource is recommended eligible for the NRHP under Criterion A, in the area of Ethnic Heritage/Black, for associations with a defined All-Black Town founded to protect and provide opportunities in the Jim Crow era. This resource is also recommended eligible for the NRHP under Criterion A, in the area of Community Planning and Development, for associations with a deliberately designed town that had amenities intended to support surrounding farm families and encourage commercial and institutional improvements.

It is recommended not eligible for the NRHP under Criterion B, C, or D. No associations were identified linking it to persons of historic importance. It does not embody distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, represent the work of a master, or possess high artistic value. Integrity of materials, design, and workmanship are diminished by non-historic alterations. Because the building offers neither a local interpretation of a standard design nor an undocumented construction technique, it has limited potential to yield important information.

Masonic Temple Starlight Lodge (Survey ID #83)

A ca. 1965 single-story Masonic Temple meeting hall with an asphalt-clad front gable roof. It is clad in painted concrete block with plywood in the gable ends. The building has single-hung metal window units and a single slab metal door. Alterations include a mural painted on the concrete block and some windows boarded. The Starlight Lodge 89 has been active in Taft at least as early as 1911, when at least five other fraternal orders were also active, and transferred property to the First Baptist Church in 1952, indicating the lodge maintained a community-focused presence in the town. It is unclear how active the lodge is currently, but the building and landscape is minimally maintained.

Social buildings, like meeting halls, helped All-Black Towns build and create community. This resource is recommended eligible for the NRHP under Criterion A, in the area of Ethnic Heritage/Black, for associations with a defined All-Black

Town founded to protect and provide opportunities in the Jim Crow era. This resource is also recommended eligible for the NRHP under Criterion A, in the area of Community Planning and Development, for associations with a deliberately designed town that had amenities intended to support surrounding farm families and encourage commercial and institutional improvements.

It is recommended not eligible for the NRHP under Criterion B, C, or D. No associations were identified linking it to persons of historic importance. This resource does not embody distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, represent the work of a master, or possess high artistic value. Integrity of materials and workmanship have been compromised by non-historic alterations. Because the building offers neither a local interpretation of a standard design nor an undocumented construction technique, it has limited potential to yield important information.

Dwelling (Survey ID #111)

A ca. 1950 multiple story building with a flat roof and concrete walls in the International style. A cantilevered flat awning is set into the southwest corner of the building over a fixed metal ribbon window and a single paneled wood door reached by a stoop. Cantilevered awnings project from the southwest corner of the second and third stories over fixed metal ribbon windows. A sliding metal door is on the east façade. Part of the window on the first story appears infilled.

This building is zoned as commercial but appears to currently function as a dwelling. Dwellings, the most common property type in the All-Black Towns, exhibit forms and styles that were modest versions of contemporaneously popular choice. This resource is recommended eligible for the NRHP under Criterion A, in the area of Ethnic Heritage/Black under Criterion A, for associations with a defined All-Black Town founded to protect and provide opportunities in the Jim Crow era. This resource is also recommended eligible for the NRHP under Criterion C, in the area of Architecture, as a highly unusual design on a residential street. Its unarticulated concrete walls, horizontal clerestory ribbon window bays, and cantilevered awnings display a distinct architectural language that may be referencing the nearby detention facilities. Regardless, the dwelling's design and style are a striking example of mid-century residential architecture.

This resource is recommended not eligible for the NRHP under Criterion B or D. No associations were identified linking it to persons of historic importance; however, additional research may identify owners or occupants with significance. Because the building offers neither a local interpretation of a standard design nor an undocumented construction technique, it has limited potential to yield important information.

Dwelling (Survey ID #173)

A ca. 1935 single-story, single-family Craftsman-influenced bungalow dwelling with a complex, asphalt-clad roof. The dwelling has brackets, exposed rafters, and stone columnar porch supports. It is clad in giraffe stonework with wood cladding in the gable ends. There are multiple additions to the rear of the dwelling, including an attached garage. Other alterations include the replacement of some cladding.

Dwellings, the most common property type in the All-Black Towns, exhibit forms and styles that were modest versions of contemporaneously popular choice. This resource is recommended eligible for the NRHP under Criterion A, in the area of Ethnic Heritage/Black under Criterion A, for associations with a defined All-Black Town founded to protect and provide opportunities in the Jim Crow era. This resource is also recommended eligible for the NRHP under Criterion C, in the area of Architecture, as a good representative example of a Craftsman -influenced bungalow composed of local materials. Although the resource is altered with rear additions, they appear to have been added in the historic-period and the dwelling retains the essential components of exposed rafters, eave-line brackets, and substantial stonework columnar porch supports to convey the building's intended design. The house appears to retain its original stone cladding, windows, and doors.

This resource is recommended not eligible for the NRHP under Criterion B or D. No associations were identified linking it to persons of historic importance; however, additional research may identify owners or occupants with significance.

Because the building offers neither a local interpretation of a standard design nor an undocumented construction technique, it has limited potential to yield important information.

8.2.1.1.3 Historic Resources in Boley, Oklahoma

Church (Survey ID #496)

A ca. 1965 single-story church of no particular style with a metal-clad front gable roof. It is clad in concrete block and metal sheaths the gable end. The building has single-hung metal window units. A partial-width porch supported on decorative metalwork posts projects from the façade over a set of double, glazed, paneled wood doors. Alterations include an addition to the rear and the replacement metal wall and roof cladding.

Churches were an essential component of community building in All-Black Towns. This resource is recommended eligible for the NRHP under Criterion A, in the area of Ethnic Heritage/Black, for associations with a defined All-Black Town founded to protect and provide opportunities in the Jim Crow era. This resource is also recommended eligible for the NRHP under Criterion A, in the area of Community Planning and Development, for associations with a deliberately designed town that had amenities intended to support surrounding farm families and encourage commercial and institutional improvements.

It is recommended not eligible for the NRHP under Criterion B, C, or D. No associations were identified linking it to persons of historic importance. This resource does not embody distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, represent the work of a master, or possess high artistic value. Integrity of materials, workmanship, and design have been compromised by non-historic alterations. Because the building offers neither a local interpretation of a standard design nor an undocumented construction technique, it has limited potential to yield important information.

Dwelling (Survey ID #542)

A ca. 1900 one-story single-family National Folk Form dwelling with a shingle-clad side gable roof. The building is clad in horizontal wood siding and has two-over-two single-hung metal window units. The dwelling has a single glazed paneled wood door. A partial-width integrated porch is set into the ell formed by the building's main volume and a lower front gable projecting volume. Alterations include the replacement of all visible windows, and the loss of some cladding.

Dwellings, the most common property type in the All-Black Towns, exhibit forms and styles that were modest versions of contemporaneously popular choice. This resource is recommended eligible for the NRHP under Criterion A, in the area of Ethnic Heritage/Black, for associations with a defined All-Black Town founded to protect and provide opportunities in the Jim Crow era. This resource is also recommended eligible for the NRHP under Criterion C, in the area of Architecture, as a rare extant example of an early National Folk style dwelling. Although the resource is altered, it retains essential components like the gable and wing form and fenestration pattern, to convey the building's intended design. The house appears to retain original window, door, and cladding materials.

This resource is recommended not eligible for the NRHP under Criterion B or D. Although potentially associated with a former chief of police in the 1970s, Elijah Dean, this association could not be confirmed, and would not rise to the level of historic significance. No other associations were identified linking it to persons of historic importance; however, additional research may confirm and identify significant occupants. Because the building offers neither a local interpretation of a standard design nor an undocumented construction technique, it has limited potential to yield important information.

Dwelling (Survey ID #506)

A ca. 1915 one-story single-family dwelling with rough cut stone walls, an asphalt-clad hipped roof with a moderate eave overhang, and exposed rafters and purlins. A recessed porch at the southwest corner of the house is supported by three cylindrical metal posts atop a stone knee wall. The porch shelters a glazed paneled wood front door. Windows are wood, double hung, with massive stone or painted concrete sills and lintels. The only visible alteration is an early, rear, shed roof addition.

Dwellings, the most common property type in the All-Black Towns, exhibit forms and styles that were modest versions of contemporaneously popular choice. This resource is recommended eligible for the NRHP under Criterion A, in the area of Ethnic Heritage/Black, for associations with a defined All-Black Town founded to protect and provide opportunities in the Jim Crow era. This resource is also recommended eligible for the NRHP under Criterion C, in the area of Architecture, as a good representative example of a Craftsman-influenced compact bungalow. Although the resource is altered, it retains essential components like footprint, exposed rafters, and fenestration pattern, to convey the building's intended design. the house appears to retain original stone cladding with heavy, expressive lintels and sills.

This resource is recommended not eligible for the NRHP under Criterion B or D. No associations were identified linking it to persons of historic importance; however, additional research may identify significant owners or occupants. Because the building offers neither a local interpretation of a standard design nor an undocumented construction technique, it has limited potential to yield important information.

Dwelling (Survey ID #514)

A ca. 1930 a one-story, single-family dwelling with a stone foundation, clapboard wood siding, and an asphalt-clad pyramidal roof. The roof has a moderate pitch, wide eave overhang, and exposed rafters. A partial-width shed-roof porch is supported by decorative wrought iron posts atop concrete piers. Vertical boards with sawtooth ends accent the shed roof porch. Double hung wood window have horizontal rectangular lights. The paneled wood front door has a vertical metal screen or cover. The garage or shed added to the north side of the house is flush with the primary façade. Alterations include the garage addition and likely the front porch configuration.

Dwellings, the most common property type in the All-Black Towns, exhibit forms and styles that were modest versions of contemporaneously popular choice. This resource is recommended eligible for the NRHP under Criterion A, in the area of Ethnic Heritage/Black, for associations with a defined All-Black Town founded to protect and provide opportunities in the Jim Crow era. This resource is also recommended eligible for the NRHP under Criterion C, in the area of Architecture, as a good representative example of a National Folk style dwelling. Although the resource is altered, it retains essential components like the massed plan footprint, pyramidal roof, and fenestration pattern, to convey the building's intended design. The house appears to retain original window and cladding materials.

This resource is recommended not eligible for the NRHP under Criterion B or D. No associations were identified linking it to persons of historic importance; however, additional research may identify significant occupants. Because the building offers neither a local interpretation of a standard design nor an undocumented construction technique, it has limited potential to yield important information.

Amos Temple Christian Methodist Episcopal Church (Survey ID #521)

A 1970 one-story, L-plan church with a concrete foundation, windowless brick walls, and a metal-clad roof with a wide eave overhang. The primary front-gabled volume faces south, and a wing extends from its north end to the east. The façade of the primary volume features a brick bump-out with a white brick cross. A small-scale steeple is on the roof ridge above. Pressboard siding is within the east-facing gable end. The main roof extends over the sidewalk east of the main volume, supported by metal poles. The sheltered walkway leads to the glazed, aluminum-frame, double front doors. The church appears unaltered, other than the roof materials.

Churches were an essential component of community building in All-Black Towns. This resource is recommended eligible for the NRHP under Criterion A, in the area of Ethnic Heritage/Black, for associations with a defined All-Black Town founded to protect and provide opportunities in the Jim Crow era. This resource is also recommended eligible for the NRHP under Criterion A, in the area of Community Planning and Development, for associations with a deliberately designed town that had amenities intended to support surrounding farm families and encourage commercial and institutional improvements. Finally, it is recommended eligible for the NRHP under Criterion C, in the area of Architecture, as a good representative example of the property type, and of local postwar vernacular church architecture. The church appears to retain all original materials and features, other than the roof materials.

It is recommended not eligible for the NRHP under Criterion B or D. No associations were identified linking it to persons of historic importance. Because the building offers neither a local interpretation of a standard design nor an undocumented construction technique, it has limited potential to yield important information.

Dwelling (Survey ID #522)

A ca. 1915 a single-story, single-family dwelling with French eclectic-influenced details and a National Folk form. The dwelling has a steeply pitched, asphalt-clad, hipped roof with flared eaves. It is clad in vinyl and has double-hung wood window units. A partial width shed roof porch projects from the north façade over a single glazed paneled wood door. Alterations include a rear addition and the replacement wall cladding.

Dwellings, the most common property type in the All-Black Towns, exhibit forms and styles that were modest versions of contemporaneously popular choice. This resource is recommended eligible for the NRHP under Criterion A, in the area of Ethnic Heritage/Black, for associations with a defined All-Black Town founded to protect and provide opportunities in the Jim Crow era. This resource is also recommended eligible for the NRHP under Criterion C, in the area of Architecture, as a good representative example of a National Folk style dwelling. Although the resource is altered, it retains essential components like the massed plan footprint, pyramidal roof, and fenestration pattern, to convey the building's intended design. The house appears to retain original window, door, and porch materials.

This resource is recommended not eligible for the NRHP under Criterion B or D. No associations were identified linking it to persons of historic importance; however, additional research may identify significant occupants. Because the building offers neither a local interpretation of a standard design nor an undocumented construction technique, it has limited potential to yield important information.

Dwelling (Survey ID #531)

A 1921 single-story, single-family Craftsman style bungalow. It has an asphalt-clad front gable roof and walls clad in asbestos siding. The dwelling has double-hung wood window units and a glazed paneled wood door. Craftsman detailing includes brackets in gable ends and exposed rafters. Alterations include the replacement wall cladding.

Dwellings, the most common property type in the All-Black Towns, exhibit forms and styles that were modest versions of contemporaneously popular choice. This resource is recommended eligible for the NRHP under Criterion A, in the area of Ethnic Heritage/Black, for associations with a defined All-Black Town founded to protect and provide opportunities in the Jim Crow era. This resource is also recommended eligible for the NRHP under Criterion C, in the area of Architecture, as a good representative example of a Craftsman-influenced bungalow. The resource has minor alterations, and retains essential components like footprint, square columns, full-width porch, brackets in eaves, and fenestration pattern, to convey the building's intended design. It appears to retain original windows and doors.

This resource is recommended not eligible for the NRHP under Criterion B or D. No associations were identified linking it to persons of historic importance; however, additional research may identify significant occupants. Although potentially associated with the town's miller, D. D. Davis, not enough is currently known about Davis to recommend this resource eligible under Criterion B. Should further research on the activities of D. D. Davis and their impact to Boley be identified, the eligibility of this resource under Criterion B should be revisited. Because the building offers neither a local interpretation of a standard design nor an undocumented construction technique, it has limited potential to yield important information.

Stone WPA Football Field, Fence, and Grandstand at Boley School (Survey ID #880)

A 1940 WPA football stadium that includes stone walls (or fences) and a grandstand or bleachers. The walls are constructed of uncut native stone of auburn and buff colors. It is approximately 280 feet long on the north and south sides and constructed of random rubble stone. The grandstands are concrete. A metal fence and backstop have been added. The resource was also known as the Letchin A. Hill Athletic Stadium.

Schools were critical to educating youths and adults in All-Black Towns, with enriching instruction in primary, secondary, and industrial curriculums. This resource is recommended individually eligible for the NRHP under Criterion A, in the area of Ethnic Heritage/Black, for associations with a defined All-Black Town founded to protect and provide opportunities in the Jim Crow era. This resource is also recommended eligible for the NRHP under Criterion A, in the area of Social History, for associations with federal efforts to reduce the economic and social distress of the Nationwide Depression of the 1930s. It is recommended eligible for the NRHP under Criterion A in the area of Entertainment/Recreation; was undoubtedly a center for Boley youth to participate in sporting events, providing long-lasting recreational benefits to the community, and a popular place for local social gathering and entertainment. Finally, the resource is also recommended eligible for the NRHP under Criterion C, under Architecture, for the recognizable workmanship and methods of construction associated with New Deal construction.

It is recommended not individually eligible for the NRHP under Criterion B or D. No associations were identified linking it to persons of historic importance. Because the building offers neither a local interpretation of a standard design nor an undocumented construction technique, it has limited potential to yield important information.

8.2.1.2 Districts Potentially Eligible for the NRHP

Four historic districts are assessed for NRHP eligibility in this section; individual resource assessments follow each district assessment.

8.2.1.2.1 Langston Housing Authority Historic District, Langston, Oklahoma

The Langston Housing Authority built 26 single-family and multiple-family Ranch style dwellings in various locations across Langston in the early and mid-1970s.

Housing authority dwellings were critical to providing affordable housing in Langston, allowing for the persistence of the historically All-Black Town into the twenty-first century. These resources are recommended eligible for the NRHP as a potential discontiguous historic district with 26 contributing resources, including single-family Ranch style dwellings, and multiple-family Ranch style duplexes. The district is recommended eligible under Criterion A, in the area of Ethnic Heritage/Black, for associations with a defined All-Black Town founded to protect and provide opportunities in the Jim Crow era. This district is also recommended eligible for the NRHP under Criterion A, in the area of Social History, for associations with the direct efforts of the federal government through the local housing authority to promote the welfare of the town's residents, providing decent and affordable housing. Finally, it is recommended eligible for the NRHP under Criterion C, in the area of Architecture, because the component parts represent a highly intact and distinguishable example of a planned public housing project that, even though the design is not of high artistic value, exemplify the era of its construction. The discontiguous district boundary generally includes each Langston Housing Authority dwelling and its associated parcel. The period of significance begins with the earliest build dates, ca. 1970, and concludes in 1974, the 50-year guideline for NRHP resources.

The district is recommended not eligible for the NRHP under Criterion B or D. No associations were identified linking it to persons of historic importance. Because the district offers neither local interpretations of a standard design nor undocumented construction techniques, it has limited potential to yield important information.

Single-Family Ranch Style Dwellings (Survey IDs #220, 219, 335, 313, 356, 236, 252, 215, 253, 247, 248, 249, 214, 213, 292, 332, 302, 553, 550, 218, 315, 314)

These single-family Ranch style dwellings were all constructed ca. 1970 and are recognizable as a type within Langston. They are all single-story dwellings with a low-pitched, asphalt-clad, gable-on-hip roof with wide eaves. They are all clad in brick, typically red with minor variations, and have vinyl siding around the entrance and in the small, peaked gable on the hipped roof. The dwellings have individual, grouped, and paired single-hung metal window units. A recessed, partial-

width, integrated porch is in one corner of each building over a single paneled synthetic door. Alterations, where present, are limited to replacement doors and vinyl cladding.

Dwellings, the most common property type in the All-Black Towns, exhibit forms and styles that were modest versions of contemporaneously popular choice. None of these resources are recommended individually eligible for the NRHP under Criterion A, B, C, or D, but they are all recommended eligible as contributing resources to a potential discontiguous NRHP historic district under Criterion A, in the area of Ethnic Heritage/Black, for associations with a defined All-Black Town founded to protect and provide opportunities in the Jim Crow era. They are also recommended eligible for the NRHP under Criterion A, in the area of Social History, for associations with the direct efforts of the federal government through the local housing authority to promote the welfare of the town's residents, providing decent and affordable housing. Lastly, they are recommended eligible as contributing resources under Criterion C for Architecture because the component parts represent a highly intact and distinguishable example of a planned public housing project, even though the design is not of high artistic value, exemplifying the era of its construction.

These resources are recommended not eligible for the NRHP under Criterion B or D. No associations were identified linking them to persons of historic importance; however, additional research may identify significant occupants. Because these buildings offer neither a local interpretation of a standard design nor an undocumented construction technique, they have limited potential to yield important information.

Multiple-Family Ranch Style Dwellings (Survey IDs #353, 351, 354)

These multiple-family Ranch style dwellings were all constructed ca. 1970 and are recognizable as a type within Langston. They are all single-story dwellings with a low-pitched, asphalt-clad, gable-on-hip roof with wide eaves. They are all clad in brick, typically red with minor variations, and have vinyl siding around the entrance and in the small, peaked gable on the hipped roof. The dwellings have individual, grouped, and paired single-hung metal window units. A recessed, partial-width, integrated porch is at each corner of the building’s street facing façade, providing access to the primary entrance. Alterations, where present, are limited to replacement doors and vinyl cladding.

Dwellings, the most common property type in the All-Black Towns, exhibit forms and styles that were modest versions of contemporaneously popular choice. None of these resources are recommended individually eligible for the NRHP under Criterion A, B, C, or D, but they are all recommended eligible as contributing resources under Criterion A, in the area of Ethnic Heritage/Black, for associations with a defined All-Black Town founded to protect and provide opportunities in the Jim Crow era. They are also recommended eligible for the NRHP as contributing resources under Criterion A, in the area of Social History, for associations with the direct efforts of the federal government through the local housing authority to promote the welfare of the town's residents, providing decent and affordable housing. Lastly, they are recommended eligible as contributing resources under Criterion C for Architecture because the component parts represent a highly intact and distinguishable example of a planned public housing project, even though the design is not of high artistic value, exemplifying the era of its construction.

These resources are recommended not eligible for the NRHP under Criterion B or D. No associations were identified linking them to persons of historic importance; however, additional research may identify significant occupants. Because these buildings offer neither a local interpretation of a standard design nor an undocumented construction technique, they have limited potential to yield important information.

8.2.1.2.2 Moton School Campus Historic District, Taft, Oklahoma

The Moton School Campus was developed between 1925 and early 1970s. Taft’s independent school district began to develop the campus in 1925 with the construction of a brick school building (no longer extant). The Moton School Shop (Survey ID #55) was constructed in 1949.[15] The Moton High School was surveyed in Phase I of the Architectural and Historical Survey of Oklahoma’s All-Black Towns (Phase I Survey ID #244). Moton Elementary School (Survey ID #56)

[15] *Muskogee Morning News*, “Community News Briefs,” December 1, 1949, 1.

was built in 1961 and currently serves as Taft's City Hall. The Moton School Gymnasium (Survey ID #53) was added to the campus around 1973 and is currently leased to a film studio. A freestanding brick sign was added in front of Moton High School in the same year.

Schools were critical to educating youths and adults in All-Black Towns, with enriching instruction in primary, secondary, and industrial curriculums. These resources are recommended eligible for the NRHP as a potential historic district with five contributing resources: Moton High School, Moton Elementary School, the Moton School Shop, the Moton School Gymnasium, and the freestanding sign. The district is recommended eligible under Criterion A, in the area of Ethnic Heritage/Black, for associations with a defined All-Black Town founded to protect and provide opportunities in the Jim Crow era. It is recommended eligible for the NRHP under Criterion A in the area of Education; the resource is closely associated with the influential role education played in Taft. The district boundary includes the general parcel area as delineated by the trees at the parcel line, the historical boundary of the Taft School campus. The period of significance begins with the build date for the earliest extant resource in the complex, 1949, and concludes in 1974, the 50-year guideline for NRHP resources.

The district is recommended not eligible for the NRHP under Criterion B, C, or D. No associations were identified linking it to persons of historic importance. This resource does not embody distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, represent the work of a master, or possess high artistic value. Integrity of materials, workmanship, and design have been compromised by non-historic alterations. Because the district offers neither local interpretations of a standard design nor undocumented construction techniques, it has limited potential to yield important information.

Moton High School (Phase I Survey ID #244)

Moton High School was surveyed and recommended individually eligible in the Phase I of the Architectural and Historical Survey of Oklahoma's All-Black Towns. The information provided in the Phase I report is reproduced here.

A 1958 single-story Mid-Century Modern building that has a flat and slightly gabled asphalt-clad roof and concrete block- and brick-clad walls. The building has both groupings of glass block windows and one-over-one and two-over-two metal awning windows. Entrances contain double metal doors with a small, glazed pane. The primary entrance has brick surrounds, and a vertical brick wall that pierces the roof, and integrated planters on the façade are also brick. A ca. 1973 brick freestanding sign east of the high school building is also recommended eligible as a contributing resource to the Moton School Campus Historic District.

Schools were critical to educating youths and adults in All-Black Towns, with enriching instruction in primary, secondary, and industrial curriculums. This resource is recommended eligible for the NRHP under Criterion A, in the area of Ethnic Heritage/Black, for associations with a defined All-Black Town founded to protect and provide opportunities in the Jim Crow era. It is recommended eligible for the NRHP under Criterion A in the area of Education; although this area of significance is not explicitly documented in the related historic context, the resource is closely associated with the influential role education played in Taft. Finally, it is recommended eligible for the NRHP under Criterion C, in the area of Architecture, as a good representative example of the property type.

It is recommended not eligible for the NRHP under Criterion B or D. No associations were identified linking it to persons of historic importance. Because the building offers neither a local interpretation of a standard design nor an undocumented construction technique, it has limited potential to yield important information.

Moton Elementary School (Survey ID #56)

A 1961 variable-height building with single-story, flat-roofed volume surrounding a central, gabled volume that rises above. The lower volume has a distinct wide eave, which appears as a reference to the mid-century architectural style of the nearby Moton High School building. The building is clad in concrete and asbestos and has hung vinyl windows, and a

recessed double entry with glazed metal doors. Alterations include the replacement of some windows and a historic-age addition.

Schools were critical to educating youths and adults in All-Black Towns, with enriching instruction in primary, secondary, and industrial curriculums. This resource is not recommended individually eligible for the NRHP under Criterion A, B, C, or D, but is recommended eligible as a contributing resource under Criterion A, in the area of Ethnic Heritage/Black, for associations with a defined All-Black Town founded to protect and provide opportunities in the Jim Crow era. It is also recommended eligible for the NRHP under Criterion A in the area of Education; the resource is closely associated with the influential role education played in Taft.

It is recommended not eligible as a contributing resource for the NRHP under Criterion B, C, or D. No associations were identified linking it to persons of historic importance. Although it makes an architectural reference to a related building on the complex, it does not embody distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction The building does not represent the work of a master or possess high artistic value. On its own, integrity of materials is diminished by replacement windows. Because the building offers neither a local interpretation of a standard design nor an undocumented construction technique, it has limited potential to yield important information.

Moton School Shop (Survey ID #55)

A 1949 single-story building with flat roof and parapet. The building is clad in concrete blocks and has a central double slab entrance flanked by square window openings on the south façade. There is regular fenestration on the west, east, and north elevations but window types and materials were not identified. The building lost its original windows in a 1960 fire at the neighboring Moton School. The building was likely modified after the 1960 fire during the construction of the adjacent Moton Elementary School. These changes included removal of the building's original gable roof and installation of the parapet and flat roof and replacement of exterior cladding with concrete block that matches the elementary school cladding.[16] The recladding altered the shop's original fenestration pattern. Nonhistoric-age alterations include boarding of some windows and loss of a secondary door on the east elevation.

Schools were critical to educating youths and adults in All-Black Towns, with enriching instruction in primary, secondary, and industrial curriculums. This resource is not recommended individually eligible for the NRHP under Criterion A, B, C, or D, but is recommended eligible as a contributing resource under Criterion A, in the area of Ethnic Heritage/Black, for associations with a defined All-Black Town founded to protect and provide opportunities in the Jim Crow era. It is also recommended eligible for the NRHP under Criterion A, in the area of Education; the resource is closely associated with the influential role education played in Taft.

It is recommended not eligible as a contributing resource for the NRHP under Criterion B, C, or D. No associations were identified linking it to persons of historic importance. The building's original roofline and fenestration pattern has been altered and it does not represent the work of a master or possess high artistic value. On its own, integrity of design, materials, and workmanship are diminished by alterations. Because the building offers neither a local interpretation of a standard design nor an undocumented construction technique, it has limited potential to yield important information.

Moton School Gymnasium (Survey ID #53)

A ca. 1973 rectangular-plan building with a low-pitched front-gable roof clad in metal. The building has two double entrances on its façade. one has a set of double metal-slab doors and the other is infilled.

Schools were critical to educating youths and adults in All-Black Towns, with enriching instruction in primary, secondary, and industrial curriculums. This resource is not recommended individually eligible for the NRHP under Criterion A, B, C, or D, but is recommended eligible as a contributing resource under Criterion A, in the area of Ethnic Heritage/Black, for associations with a defined All-Black Town founded to protect and provide opportunities in the Jim Crow era. It is also

[16] Moton High School Yearbook Staff, *Moton High School Yearbook*, School Yearbooks, 1900–2016, Ancestry.com, 1951.

recommended eligible for the NRHP under Criterion A, in the area of Education; the resource is closely associated with the influential role education played in Taft.

it is not recommended eligible for the NRHP under Criterion B, C, or D. No associations were identified linking it to persons of historic importance. It does not embody distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, represent the work of a master, or possess high artistic value. Because the building offers neither a local interpretation of a standard design nor an undocumented construction technique, it has limited potential to yield important information.

8.2.1.2.3 Boley Housing Authority Historic District, Boley, Oklahoma

The Boley Housing Authority built six single-family and multiple-family Ranch style dwellings and two community and office buildings in Boley in the early and mid-1970s.[17] Three non-historic-age buildings are associated with these resources.

Housing authority dwellings were critical to providing affordable housing in Boley, providing for the persistence of the historically All-Black Town into the twenty-first century. These resources are recommended eligible for the NRHP as a potential historic district with eight contributing resources, including single-family dwellings, and multiple-family Ranch style duplexes with Contemporary-style influences, and minimally styled community and office buildings. The district is recommended eligible under Criterion A, in the area of Ethnic Heritage/Black, for associations with a defined All-Black Town founded to protect and provide opportunities in the Jim Crow era. This district is also recommended eligible for the NRHP under Criterion A, in the area of Social History, for associations with the direct efforts of the federal government through the local housing authority to promote the welfare of the town's residents, providing decent and affordable housing. Finally, it is recommended eligible for the NRHP under Criterion C, in the area of Architecture, because the component parts represent a highly intact and distinguishable example of a planned public housing project that, even though the design is not of high artistic value, exemplify the era of its construction. The district boundary generally includes the cluster of Boley Housing Authority dwellings and offices in the southwest corner of 2nd Avenue and Walnut Street. The period of significance begins with the earliest build dates, ca. 1970, and concludes in 1974, the 50-year guideline for NRHP resources.

The district is recommended not eligible for the NRHP under Criterion B or D. No associations were identified linking it to persons of historic importance. Because the district offers neither local interpretations of a standard design nor undocumented construction techniques, it has limited potential to yield important information.

Multiple-Family Dwellings (Survey ID #472, 469, 468, 467)

These multiple-family Ranch style dwellings with Contemporary influences were all constructed ca. 1970 and are recognizable as a type within Boley. They are all single-story duplexes with a concrete foundation, brick wall cladding, and a low-pitch, asphalt-clad, side gable roof. They have wide eaves, and some have lower cross gables at the ends of the primary façades. The brick cladding is accented by vertical paneling above gable end windows. Paired and single vinyl windows are single hung. The recessed front porch shelters two single, synthetic, paneled doors, and paired windows. Patios for each unit are recessed on the rear elevations. Alterations include synthetic replacement doors and windows. One duplex (Survey ID #472) does not appear to have Contemporary influences, and is a hipped-roof Ranch style dwelling, primarily clad in brick. The dwelling has single-hung vinyl window units. Alterations include the replacement windows.

Dwellings, the most common property type in the All-Black Towns, exhibit forms and styles that were modest versions of contemporaneously popular choice. None of these resources are recommended individually eligible for the NRHP under Criterion A, B, C, or D, but they are all recommended eligible as contributing resources under Criterion A, in the area of Ethnic Heritage/Black, for associations with a defined All-Black Town founded to protect and provide opportunities in the

[17] Not all resources within this district were able to be surveyed as part of this project. Two duplexes matching the other Ranch style dwellings, and one small office building all appear to be contributing resources to the potential district.

Jim Crow era. They are also recommended eligible for the NRHP under Criterion A, in the area of Social History, for association with the direct efforts of the federal government through the local housing authority to promote the welfare of the town's residents, providing decent and affordable housing. Lastly, they are recommended eligible as contributing resources under Criterion C for Architecture because the component parts represent a highly intact and distinguishable example of a planned public housing project, even though the design is not of high artistic value, exemplifying the era of its construction.

These resources are recommended not eligible for the NRHP under Criterion B or D. No associations were identified linking them to persons of historic importance; however, additional research may identify significant occupants. Because these buildings offer neither a local interpretation of a standard design nor an undocumented construction technique, they have limited potential to yield important information.

Single Family Dwellings (Survey IDs #471)

The single-family Boley Housing Authority dwelling was constructed ca. 1970. It is a single-story, single-family dwelling of no particular style with an asphalt-clad front gable roof. The dwelling is clad in brick with vinyl siding in the gable end and simple beam brackets in the wide eaves. It has single-hung vinyl window units. A partial width, recessed, integrated porch is centered on the façade over an asymmetrically placed single slab synthetic door. Alterations include the replacement vinyl siding and windows.

Dwellings, the most common property type in the All-Black Towns, exhibit forms and styles that were modest versions of contemporaneously popular choice. This dwelling is not recommended individually eligible for the NRHP under Criterion A, B, C, or D, but is recommended eligible as contributing resources under Criterion A, in the area of Ethnic Heritage/Black, for associations with a defined All-Black Town founded to protect and provide opportunities in the Jim Crow era. It is also recommended eligible for the NRHP under Criterion A, in the area of Social History, for association with the direct efforts of the federal government through the local housing authority to promote the welfare of the town's residents, providing decent and affordable housing. Lastly, they are recommended eligible as contributing resources under Criterion C for Architecture because the component parts represent a highly intact and distinguishable example of a planned public housing project, even though the design is not of high artistic value, exemplifying the era of its construction.

It is recommended not eligible for the NRHP under Criterion B or D. No associations were identified linking it to persons of historic importance; however, additional research may identify significant occupants. Because this building offers neither a local interpretation of a standard design nor an undocumented construction technique, it has limited potential to yield important information.

Office (Survey ID #473)

A 1970 single-story government building with an asphalt-clad front gable roof. The square plan building is clad in brick and has single-hung metal window units and a single slab wood door. Decorative features include wide eaves and brick windowsills. The building appears to be unaltered.

This resource is not recommended individually eligible for the NRHP under Criterion A, B, C, or D but is recommended eligible as a contributing resource under Criterion A, in the area of Ethnic Heritage/Black, for associations with a defined All-Black Town founded to protect and provide opportunities in the Jim Crow era. It is also recommended eligible under Criterion A, in the area of Social History, for association with the direct efforts of the federal government through the local housing authority to promote the welfare of the town's residents, providing decent and affordable housing. Lastly, it is recommended eligible as a contributing resource under Criterion C for Architecture as a component part of a highly intact and distinguishable example of a planned public housing project, even though the design is not of high artistic value, exemplifying the era of its construction.

It is recommended not eligible for the NRHP under Criterion B or D. No associations were identified linking it to persons of historic importance; however, additional research may identify significant occupants. Because this building offers neither a local interpretation of a standard design nor an undocumented construction technique, it has limited potential to yield important information.

8.2.1.2.4 T. R. McCormick Commercial Historic District, Boley, Oklahoma

The ca. 1957 T. R. McCormick complex includes the original restaurant (Survey ID #701), a motel (Survey ID #853), a former gas station (Survey ID #852). They were part of a mid-century commercial business in Boley built to take advantage of highway traffic with the construction of United States Highway (US) 62 in the area. One nonhistoric-age accessory building is associated with the resources (Survey ID #870).

Commercial buildings were vital magnets of trade in the All-Black Towns. The resources are recommended eligible for the NRHP as a potential historic district with all buildings as contributing. The district is recommended eligible under Criterion A, in the area of Ethnic Heritage/Black, for associations with a defined All-Black Town founded to protect and provide opportunities in the Jim Crow era. The district resource is also recommended eligible for the NRHP under Criterion A, in the area of Community Planning and Development, for associations with a deliberately designed town that had amenities intended to support surrounding farm families and encourage commercial and institutional improvements. It is recommended eligible for the NRHP under Criterion A, in the area of Commerce; although this area of significance is not explicitly documented in the related historic context, the potential district is closely associated with Boley's later commercial development. Finally, the district is recommended eligible for the NRHP under Criterion B for its association with T. R. McCormick who, through his successful commercial ventures and political career shepherded the development of Boley in the mid to late twentieth century. The district boundary generally encompasses the commercial area south of the junction of US 62 and Pecan Street, including the buildings identified (Survey ID #701, 853, 852, and 870). The period of significance extends from ca. 1957, when the grocery store was completed, to 1974, the 50-year guideline for NRHP resources.

The district is recommended not eligible for the NRHP under Criterion C, or D. The buildings do not represent the work of a master or possess high artistic value. Because the district offers neither local interpretations of a standard design nor undocumented construction techniques, it has limited potential to yield important information.

McCormick's (Survey ID #701)

This ca. 1957 resource is a single-story restaurant of no particular style with a low-pitch asphalt-clad side gable roof. It is clad in concrete block with wood siding panels in the gable ends. The building has fixed and single-hung metal window units. A full-width porch, supported on unmilled wood porch posts, spans the north façade over a single slab wood door. Alterations include the replacement door and porch posts. This restaurant was built as part of T. R. McCormick's business venture at this site, originally begun with this restaurant (McCormick's Grill) built circa 1957 after the completion of US 62. McCormick previously had a business north of old Highway 62 (no longer extant). Due to the restaurant's success, he swiftly built an adjacent motel, a gas station, cleaners, and bus stop. McCormick also served as mayor of Boley and was instrumental in providing Boley with amenities like paved roads and a water system. McCormick was the chair of the Boley Chamber of Commerce in 1960, mayor in 1975, and a committee member of the Civic Council in 1996.

This resource is recommended individually eligible for the NRHP under Criterion A, in the area of Ethnic Heritage/Black, for associations with a defined All-Black Town founded to protect and provide opportunities in the Jim Crow era. It is also recommended eligible under Criterion A, in the areas of Community Planning and Development and Commerce, for associations with a deliberately designed town that had amenities intended to support surrounding farm families and encourage commercial and institutional improvements.

It is recommended not individually eligible for the NRHP under Criterion B, C, or D. Although its historical associations with T.R. McCormick are apparent in association with the district, the building does not achieve significance on its own.

No associations were identified linking it to persons of historic importance. It does not embody distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, represent the work of a master, or possess high artistic value. Because the building offers neither a local interpretation of a standard design nor an undocumented construction technique, it has limited potential to yield important information.

Motel (Survey ID #853)

A ca. 1959 motel with a single-story volume to the south and a two-story volume to the north. The building has an asphalt-clad gable roof. Its walls are clad in concrete block. Wood siding panels sheath the second story. The building has a mix of single-hung and sliding metal window units. A porch extends along the east façade and wraps around the north elevation of the two-story volume. Metal supports extend from ground level to the wide eave overhang of the two-story volume to create a second-story porch. Single glazed slab wood doors are placed along the east façade. A set of double glazed, slab wood doors is on the second story of the north elevation. Alterations include the addition of the two-story volume and enclosure of at least one door opening. This motel was built as part of T. R. McCormick's business venture at this site, originally begun with the adjacent restaurant built circa 1957 after the completion of US 62. McCormick previously had a business north of old Highway 62 (no longer extant). Due to the restaurant's success, he swiftly built an adjacent motel, a gas station, cleaners, and bus stop. McCormick also served as mayor of Boley and was instrumental in providing Boley with amenities like paved roads and a water system. McCormick was the chair of the Boley chamber of commerce in 1960, mayor in 1975, and a committee member of the civic council in 1996.

This resource is recommended individually eligible for the NRHP under Criterion A, in the area of Ethnic Heritage/Black, for associations with a defined All-Black Town founded to protect and provide opportunities in the Jim Crow era. It is also recommended eligible under Criterion A, in the areas of Community Planning and Development and Commerce, for associations with a deliberately designed town that had amenities intended to support surrounding farm families and encourage commercial and institutional improvements.

It is recommended not individually eligible for the NRHP under Criterion B, C, or D. Although its historical associations with T.R. McCormick are apparent in association with the district, the building does not achieve significance on its own. No associations were identified linking it to persons of historic importance. It does not embody distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, represent the work of a master, or possess high artistic value. Because the building offers neither a local interpretation of a standard design nor an undocumented construction technique, it has limited potential to yield important information.

Former Gas Station (Survey ID #852)

A ca. 1959 a single-story commercial building of no particular style with a flat roof. Concrete block clads the walls. Visible windows include a metal casement window and a vinyl sliding window. The building has a glazed paneled wood door. Alterations include the appendage of a metal-clad shed roof addition to the rear, the replacement vinyl window, and a replacement garage door. This former gas station was built as part of T. R. McCormick's business venture at this site, originally begun with the adjacent restaurant built circa 1957 after the completion of highway 62. McCormick previously had a business north of old Highway 62 (no longer extant). The restaurant was successful, and he swiftly built an adjacent motel, a gas station, cleaners, and bus stop. McCormick also served as mayor of Boley and was instrumental in providing Boley with amenities like paved roads and a water system. McCormick was the chair of the Boley chamber of commerce in 1960, mayor in 1975, and a committee member of the civic council in 1996.

This resource is recommended individually eligible for the NRHP under Criterion A, in the area of Ethnic Heritage/Black, for associations with a defined All-Black Town founded to protect and provide opportunities in the Jim Crow era. It is also recommended eligible under Criterion A, in the areas of Community Planning and Development and Commerce, for associations with a deliberately designed town that had amenities intended to support surrounding farm families and encourage commercial and institutional improvements.

It is recommended not individually eligible for the NRHP under Criterion B, C, or D. Although its historical associations with T.R. McCormick are apparent in association with the district, the building does not achieve significance on its own. No associations were identified linking it to persons of historic importance. It does not embody distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, represent the work of a master, or possess high artistic value. Because the building offers neither a local interpretation of a standard design nor an undocumented construction technique, it has limited potential to yield important information.

8.2.2 MULTIPLE-PROPERTY DOCUMENTATION FORM FOR THE NRHP

The surveyed resources were evaluated for a potential NRHP Multiple-Property Documentation Form (MPDF) representing the All-Black Towns of Oklahoma. This type of nomination documents groups of properties related to a specific historic context, provides guidelines for property types, their significance, and registration requirements. An MPDF is a unifying umbrella-like cover document that encapsulates a contextual history—like that of the All-Black Towns—and a broad understanding of related property types—in this case, agricultural, commercial, domestic, educational, governmental, and religious resources. The contextual documentation in a SHPO/NPS–approved MPDF provides the preponderance of historical evidence and evaluation processes, simplifying the NRHP nomination process.

A fully developed MPDF for the All-Black Towns would incorporate the results of this report, Phase I of the Architectural and Historical Survey of Oklahoma’s All-Black Towns, and could further develop additional areas of significance, particularly Commerce, Education, and Politics/Government. The component parts of the MPDF provided in this survey report are the historic context, “Oklahoma’s All-Black Towns, 1865–1974,” its related registration requirements, and identification and evaluation methods. An MPDF also would include a detailed description of associated property types and their significance.

9 Historic Context

Stantec developed a historic context within which to understand and evaluate resources in the All-Black Towns of Oklahoma for the period between 1865 and 1973. This section describes significant trends and events that influenced the founding and development of these towns and the three areas of significance that apply most readily, Community Planning and Development, Ethnic Heritage/Black, and Architecture. Many other areas of significance are likely applicable to the documented resources but were not explicitly represented in the historic context. The most common of these areas are Commerce and Education. However, in All-Black Towns, since businesses were so integral to commercial development and schools were so closely associated with the influential role of education, these and other areas of significance can apply with appropriate and specific justification.

Reports suggest that about 50 All-Black Towns once existed in Oklahoma, a number unprecedented among the states, and some have been recognized with historical designations. Today, 30-plus locations are discernible in archival sources but, on the ground, only 14 All-Black Towns are extant (**Table 7**). This historic context focuses on the 14 extant communities. Some of the best examples of buildings in these towns are already listed in the National Register: a National Historic Landmark (Boley), three schools (W. E. B. Du Bois School [burned 1991], Summit, Muskogee County; Rosenwald Hall, Lima, Seminole County; Mill-Washington School, Red Bird, Wagoner County), two churches (Bethel Missionary Baptist Church, Tatums, Carter County, and St. Thomas Primitive Baptist Church, Summit, Muskogee County), two city halls (Red Bird City Hall, Wagoner County, and Taft City Hall, Muskogee County), a post office (Vernon Post Office, McIntosh County), a commercial building (A. J. Mason Building, Tullahassee, Wagoner County), and dwellings (Morris House, Langston, Logan County, and Reverend L.W. Thomas Homestead, Summit, Muskogee County), including a small historic district (Langston University Cottage Row Historic District, Langston, Logan County).

Table 7. Select All-Black Towns, By Estimated Founding Date, Their Estimated Duration, and Territory.

All-Black Town	Estimated Duration	Territory
North Fork Colored	1869–?	Indian
Arkansas Colored	1869–?	Indian
Canadian	1869–?	Indian
Gibson Station	1870–at least 1962	Indian
Lincoln City	1889–?	Oklahoma
Arcadia	1890–?	Indian
Langston	1890–present	Oklahoma
Liberty	1893–?	Oklahoma
Tatums	1894–present	Indian
Wybark	1896–at least 1952	Indian
Summit	1896–present	Indian
IXL	1896–present	Indian
Grayson (initially Wildcat)	1897–present	Indian
Foreman	1898–at least 1952	Indian
Tullahassee	1899–present	Indian
Overton	1900–?	Indian
Wellston Colony	1900–?	Oklahoma
Bluff	1901–1934	Indian
Iconium	1902–?	Indian
Clearview (initially Lincoln)	1903–present	Indian
Marshalltown	1904–?	Indian
Red Bird	1902–present	Indian
Taft	1902–present	Indian
Rentiesville	1903–present	Indian
Boley	1903–present	Indian
Brooksville (initially Sewell)	1903–present	Oklahoma
Bailey	1904–at least 1952	Indian
Chase	1906–at least 1962	Indian
Ferguson	1907–?	Oklahoma
Lima	1907–present	Indian
Gay (initially Lenton)	1908–1932	Indian
Vernon	1911–present	Indian
Lewisville	1911–at least 1962	Indian
Bookertee	1919–at least 1952	Indian

9.1 Oklahoma's All-Black Towns, 1865–1973

Researchers have delved into the remarkable and unusual history of Oklahoma's All-Black Towns for decades. To learn about these towns as individual places and shared communities is to explore how common experiences connected and benefited a complicated intersection of people from differing ethnic heritages. Regardless of derivation, the Black men, women, and children who sought independence and autonomy in these towns were able to partially avoid the realities of a racist standard.

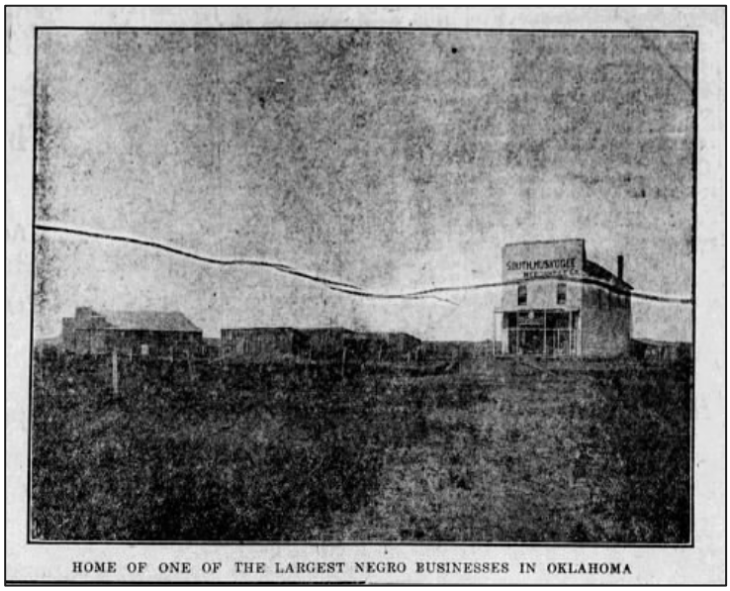

HOME OF ONE OF THE LARGEST NEGRO BUSINESSES IN OKLAHOMA

Figure 3. The largest black-owned business in Oklahoma. Source: The Topeka Plaindealer, "South Muskogee Boasts Real Negro Mercantile Establishment," December 1, 1922. https://www.newspapers.com/image/legacy/381863395/

The definitions of All-Black Towns in Oklahoma guide the pertinent NRHP areas of significance that best apply to the resources. In many ways, these All-Black Towns were not entirely dissimilar from the traditional organically developed freedmen's communities common in the South since the people who inhabited both types of settlements all sought self-determination. However, in the twin Oklahoma and Indian Territories, with their many Native American groups, land ownership was considerably more likely for freedmen, and this conspicuous advantage foreshadowed a social movement with its own distinctive landscapes. Early studies, not surprisingly, report on these places as all-Negro towns; by 1970, the term all-Black replaced the offensive phrase.[18] In 1998, the Oklahoma Historical Society investigated communities that could be considered all-Black. To meet project qualifications, a town had to have: Black founders, a Black-dominated governance structure, Black town officials, or a Black postmaster.[19] This is the definition of All-Black Towns. Towns that meet this definition, combined with their representation in the archival record, may have resources that achieve an Ethnic Heritage/Black area of significance. County plat maps, deeds, and other legal records, plus newspapers document how Black entrepreneurs devised means for people of color to enjoy the protection of and opportunities in the All-Black Towns. These sources support a Community Planning and Development area of significance. Last, the buildings, structures, and objects in the All-Black Towns define the local built environment, which includes myriad property types like dwellings, and commercial, educational, governmental, and religious buildings. These resources are the underpinnings of an architectural area of significance.

9.1.1 EARLY BLACK SETTLEMENTS

The earliest All-Black Town populations derived from two sources, the enslaved of the Native American Tribes and free Black people. In the 1830s and 1840s, the United States government forcibly relocated 60,000 Native Americans, their enslaved, and free Black people to Indian Territory, in present-day Oklahoma. These men, women, and children, relocated along the route known as the Trail of Tears, were the first Black settlers in Indian Territory.[20] By 1839, the Five

[18] R. Edgar Iles, "Boley: An Exclusively Negro Town in Oklahoma," *Opportunity*, Volume (1925); Mozell C. Hill, "The All-Negro Communities of Oklahoma; The Natural History of a Social Movement: Part I," *The Journal of Negro History*, Volume 31, No. 3 (1946); William E. Bittle and Gilbert L. Geis, "Racial Self-Fulfillment and the Rise of an All-Negro Community in Oklahoma," *The Phylon Quarterly*, Volume 18, No. 3 (1957); James E. Woodard, "Vernon: An All-Negro Town in Southeastern Oklahoma," *Negro History Bulletin*, Volume 27, No. 5 (1964); Harold M. Rose, "The All-Negro Town: Its Evolution and Function," *Geographical Review*, Volume 55, No. 3 (1965); Arthur Lincoln Tolson, "The Negro in Oklahoma Territory, 1889–1907: A Study in Racial Discrimination" (University of Oklahoma, 1966).
[19] Hannibal B. Johnson, *Acres of Aspiration: The All-Black Towns of Oklahoma* (Eakin Press, 2002).
[20] Johnson, *Acres of Aspiration*.

Tribes—the Choctaw, Cherokee, Muscogee/Creek, Seminole, and Chickasaw Nations—held an estimated 4,500 to 5,000 people of African descent in the territory. Of approximately 15,000 Cherokee people removed, an estimated 15 percent had African lineage.[21]

In the aftermath of the Civil War, Oklahoma's first All-Black Towns developed as newly deemed Black Americans sought access to economic opportunities and spaces where racial persecution was less likely. In 1866, treaties with the Five Tribes prohibited slavery in Indian Territory.[22] The Muscogee, Seminole, and Cherokee authorized full citizenship to freedmen; for many, rights included land allotments to men, women, and children.[23] In 1866, a treaty between the federal government and the Cherokee Nation, for example, specified that all former slaves, Cherokee or freedmen, who resided on their land before June 1861 could settle 160 acres.[24] Another treaty that same year allowed 40 acres to Choctaw and Chickasaw people and their descendants.[25] In this way, many Black people of all ages achieved land ownership decades before thousands of white settlers migrated westward.

Little is known about the earliest All-Black Towns, most long erased from the landscape. Those settled before 1880 were known as Arkansas Colored, Canadian Colored, North Fork Colored, Marshalltown, Tullahassee, and Gibson Station.[26] These places, with populations derived from a remnant mix of freed people and their descendants, arose through clusters of Black families gaining access to land ownership. Here, freedmen settled on farms and served in leadership roles on tribal councils and city boards.[27] Their homes would have been dugouts or log cabins. It is unclear how prescribed early Black hamlets may have been, but it is probable they developed organically, like most small settlements, with schools, churches, and cemeteries the most common institutions represented and otherwise limited amenities.

9.1.2 BLACK COLONIZATION EFFORTS AFTER RECONSTRUCTION

Another Black population, the freedmen of the South, was the next large group to migrate and found all-Black communities. In 1877, when the federal government withdrew Reconstruction policy-enforcing troops from the South, white violence escalated against Black Americans and their communities.[28] Positioned to pursue newly granted social, economic, and political prospects, they suffered increased racially motivated violence and restrictive state and local laws. Black southerners were motivated to identify locations for new communities free from external persecution. The concept of all-Black communities with safety, opportunity, and dignity gained momentum and leaders formed organizations to promote the idea. These groups, formed in the nineteenth century, pursued multiple versions of single-race colonies—all-Black settlements in the American West, an all-Black state in Oklahoma, and Black American colonies abroad—that early-twentieth-century leaders would iterate.[29]

Some post-Reconstruction Black settlers came to Oklahoma by way of Kansas between 1879 and 1881. Large numbers of formerly enslaved Black people, deemed "Exodusters," left the southern states for Kansas, claimed to be the "Garden Spot of the Earth" and the "quintessential Free State."[30] Kansans made no particular appeal to newcomers, but with former abolitionist Republicans in power, compared to other places in the country, they at least appeared to welcome both white and Black settlers.[31] Organizers formed a Colonization Council that laid plans for routes and stops. As described in

[21] Patrick Neal Minges, *Slavery in the Cherokee Nation: The Keetoowah Society and the Defining of a People, 1855–1867* (Routledge, 2015).
[22] U. S. Department of the Interior, Treaty with the Seminoles (1866).
[23] George O. Carney, "Historic Resources of Oklahoma's All-Black Towns: A Preservation Profile," *Chronicles of Oklahoma*, Volume 69, No. 2 (1991); Johnson, *Acres of Aspiration*.
[24] U. S. Department of the Interior, Treaty with the Seminoles.
[25] U. S. Department of the Interior, Treaty with the Seminoles.
[26] Larry O'Dell, "All-Black Towns," in *The Encyclopedia of Oklahoma History and Culture*, 2022.
[27] Warigia M. Bowman, "Connections Between Black Wall Street and Oklahoma's All-Black Towns," *Tulsa Law Review*, Volume 57, No. 1 (2021): 296.
[28] Johnson, *Acres of Aspiration*.
[29] *The (New Orleans) Times-Picayune*, "Negro Colonization: the View of Leaders of the Colored Race Thirty-Five Year Ago," October 18,, 1889; *The (Purcell) Territorial Topic*, "To Secure Oklahoma: The Colored Contingent's Design Attracting Much Attention," March 6,, 1890.
[30] Johnson, *Acres of Aspiration*.
[31] Nell Irvin Painter, *Exodusters: Black Migration to Kansas after Reconstruction* (Norton & Company, 1986), 158-159.

Booker T. Washington's, *My Larger Education,* this later wave of migrants usually arrived with some personal capital and a better understanding of what awaited them in the territories.[32] When the harsh 1881 Kansas winter slowed their flow, Black migrants viewed the more-southern Twin Territories—the Indian Territory and the Oklahoma Territory—as additional locations for resettlement.[33] A general exodus to the western states continued through the end of the nineteenth century.

By 1881, three prominent Black leaders each targeted the Twin Territories for the resettlement of Black communities. Interestingly, the associations they formed to organize and encourage participation were each named for the state that would develop decades later. St. Louis lawyer and former consul general to Liberia James Milton Turner founded the Freedmen's Oklahoma Association with Hannibal C. Carter. Carter founded the Freedmen's Oklahoma Immigration Association in Chicago. Politician W. L. Eagleson founded the Oklahoma Emigration Association.[34] The same year, their efforts were temporarily stymied for the larger Black population when the territories' General Land Office commissioner limited settlement to freedmen the Five Tribes formerly enslaved. Yet, the idea of the Twin Territories providing refuge persisted.[35]

Despite the continued effort to bring Black freedmen to the Territories, any All-Black Towns settled during this period remain unknown. Those that may have launched would likely have had dispersed rural farms with modest dugouts, log, or wood-frame homes, all surrounding a nearby node with one or more buildings for trade, education, and religion. Such communities would likely have been organically clustered around these viable gathering places that might have a single nucleus or two or three nuclei, scattered discontiguously with one or more services. Tullahassee, for example, formed naturally for decades. When the railroad built through in 1899, a more-formal town plan evolved.

9.1.3 TERRITORIAL RAILROAD EXPANSION

White and Black migrants recognized the potential bounty of the Twin Territories. As railroad companies acquired rights of way through the territories, "boomers" settled on the land without legal authorization beginning in the early 1880s.[36] The Indian Appropriations Act of 1889 authorized the federal government to purchase two million acres from the Muskogee/Creek and Seminole Nations, opening it for settlement that April.[37] White and Black migrants streamed into the newly opened area and 50,000 "sooners" settled in that year. By 1890, the Twin Territories were home to 21,000 Black people; by 1900, this number had increased more than 2.5 times, to 57,000.[38] By this time, the decades'-long presence of Black communities in Oklahoma, the influx of southern Black migrants, and the work of committed town promoters and activists converged to initiate settlement in all-new All-Black Towns.

Between 1897 and 1907, railroads traversing the Twin Territories bolstered migration to and manifested unprecedented urbanization on the rural landscape. In 1880, the territories had 289 miles of track. By 1892, routes already included the Missouri, Kansas, and Texas, from Kansas to Texas; the Atlantic and Pacific; the St. Louis and San Francisco, connecting

[32] Painter, *Exodusters*, 245.
[33] Johnson, *Acres of Aspiration*; Arthur Lincoln Tolson, "Black Towns of Oklahoma," *The Black Scholar*, Volume 1, No. 6 (1970).
[34] Norman L. Crockett, *The Black Towns* (University of Kansas Press, 1979); Johnson, *Acres of Aspiration*; Daniel F. Littlefield Jr. and Lonnie E. Underhill, "Black Dreams and 'Free' Homes: The Oklahoma Territory, 1891–1894," *Phylon*, Volume 34, No. 4 (1973).
[35] Tolson, "The Negro in Oklahoma Territory, 1889–1907.
[36] Johnson, *Acres of Aspiration*.
[37] Johnson, *Acres of Aspiration*.
[38] Johnson, *Acres of Aspiration*.

Arkansas and Texas; the Atchison Topeka, and Santa Fe, linking Kansas to the future Oklahoma City; and the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific, between Kansas and Texas (**Figure 4**). Railroad construction halted during the Panic of 1893 but rebooted when these mainlines sponsored regional branches that fostered dense and sometimes redundant networks that would add up to almost 6,550 miles in the next century.[39] A later route, was the Fort Smith and Western Railroad, intersected two of the extant All-Black Towns, and connected its Arkansas-based eastern terminus, with Guthrie, Oklahoma.[40]

The railroads not only induced migration and grew the population, but they also supplanted overland travel as relatively cheaper, faster, and more reliable, particularly for agricultural yields. Rails removed geographical limitations and bound the agricultural economy to larger and more-distant markets. With rail service, newly established All-Black Towns had passenger depots, and means to support expanded commercial activity. Several towns flourished with agricultural processing facilities like a mill or gin that had rail access and benefited local farmers.

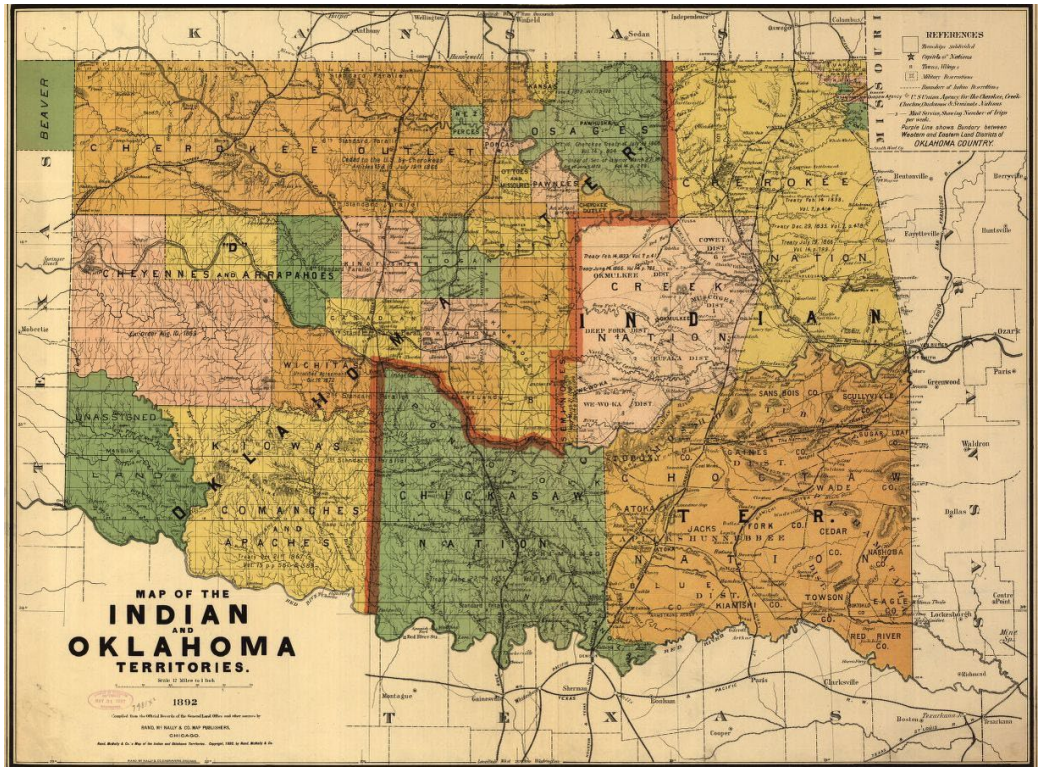


Figure 4. By 1892, numerous railroad routes crisscrossed the Indian and Oklahoma Territories, and even more would follow in the next few decades. Source: McNally and Company Rand, "Map of the Indian and Oklahoma Territories" (Chicago: Rand, McNally and Company, 1892). https://www.loc.gov/resource/g4021e.ct000224/?r=-0.648,-0.04,2.295,0.818,0.

[39] Augustus J. Veenendaal Jr., "Railroads," in *The Encyclopedia of Oklahoma History and Culture*, 2022.
[40] Augustus J. Veenendaal Jr., "Fort Smith and Western Railway," in *The Encyclopedia of Oklahoma History and Culture*, 2022.

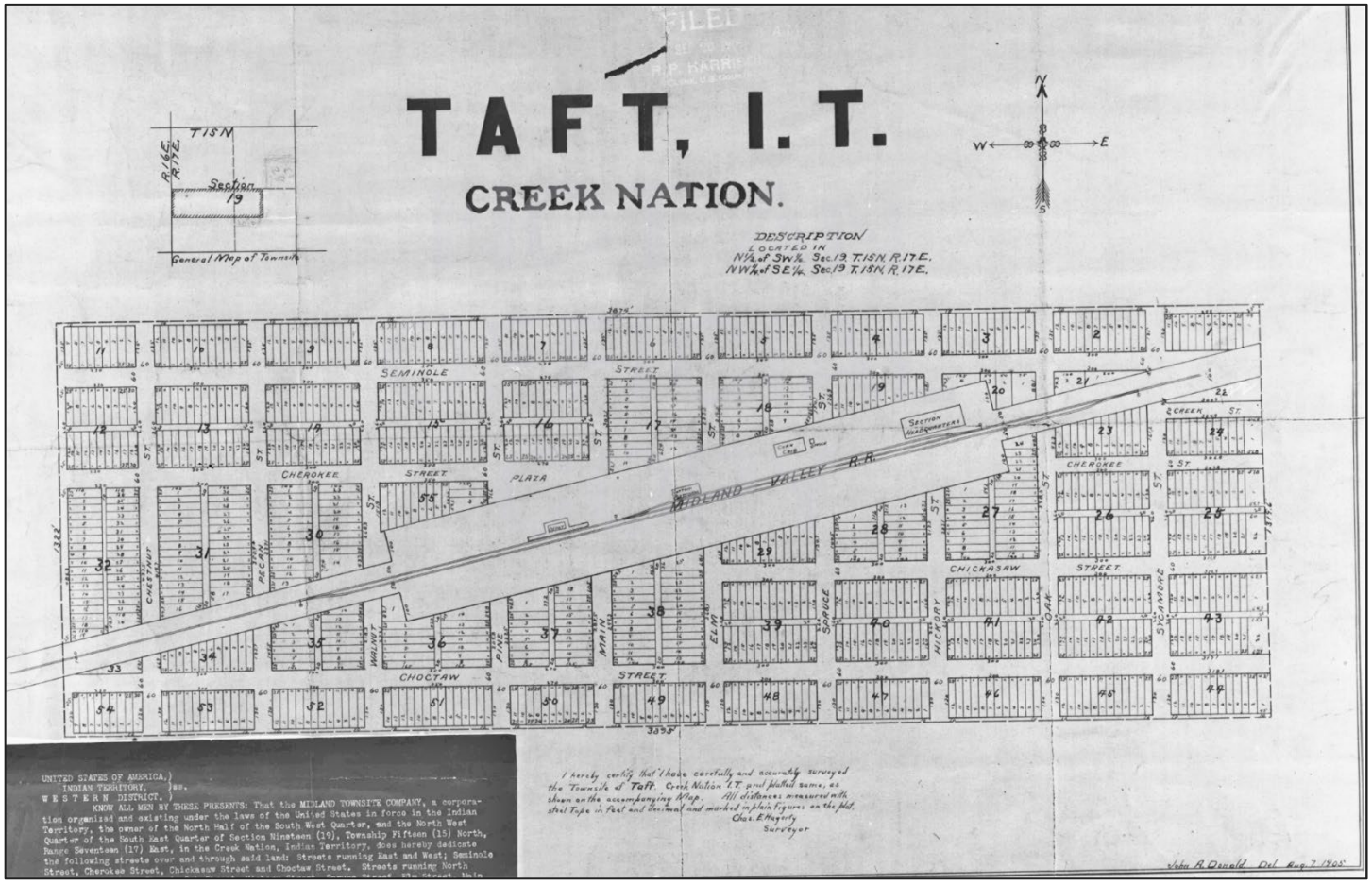


Figure 5. In Taft, the Midland Valley Railroad bisected the town. Besides a depot, the section headquarters, a cotton platform, a corn crib, and an office were along the line. Source: Muskogee County, Taft, 1904 [Plat Map], Document 1972792 1904, Muskogee County Clerk, Muskogee, https://okcountyrecords.com/.

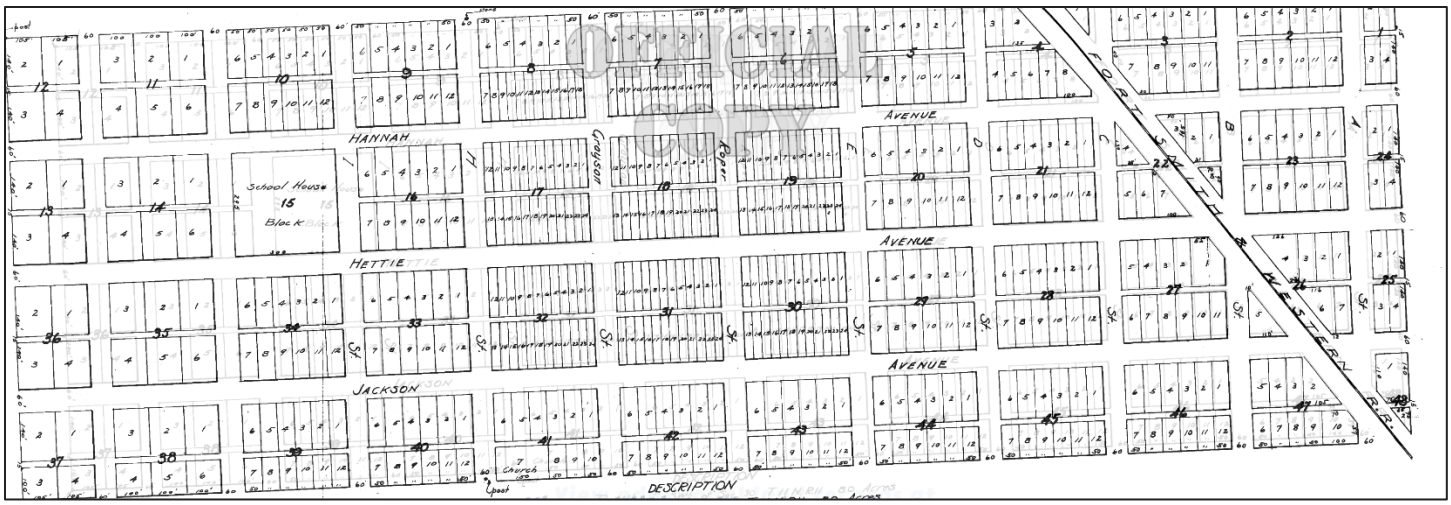


Figure 6. In Clearview, the Fort Smith and Western Railroad intersected the east side of town. The school and a church location are evident. Source: Okfuskee County, Clearview, 1904 [Plat Map], Documents 1878086 and 1878087, 1904, Okfuskee County Clerk, Okemah, https://okcountyrecords.com/.

9.1.4 PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Most of the All-Black Towns were founded during the period of railroad expansion, just before Oklahoma achieved statehood, with a handful established later as tracks continued to be laid in the territories. Most formed in the eastern Indian Territory where the early presence of freedmen and their honed local experiences helped facilitate eastern town formation. Those in the western Oklahoma Territory were all settled during or after 1889. In both territories, the ready availability of cheap land through grants, lotteries, or auctions attracted southern freedmen to settle in and near these towns.[41]

Oklahoma's surviving All-Black Towns share many attributes, chief among them their significance as planned places. Several entrepreneurial Black men, and a few women, inspired to move westward and attentive to railroad expansion, capitalized on land purchases sited along railroads. These planners realized that built-in transportation would fortify local agricultural development, the economic backbone of any rural town. Achieving access to larger and more-remote markets, the potential for success was plausible. The plats they developed display gridded block and lot configurations except, notably, where railroads intersected at an angle (**Figure 5** and **Figure 6**). The plat for Langston highlighted autonomy, noting it as the only distinctively Black city in America (**Figure 7**). The names of these communities were frequently plain, but some had powerful meanings. Surnames and familiar biblical terms were customary, and others broadcast dedication to uplift, like Bookertee, for Black leader Booker T. Washington; Lincoln, for the president who issued the Emancipation Proclamation that freed slaves; and Douglas, for abolitionist Frederick Douglass.

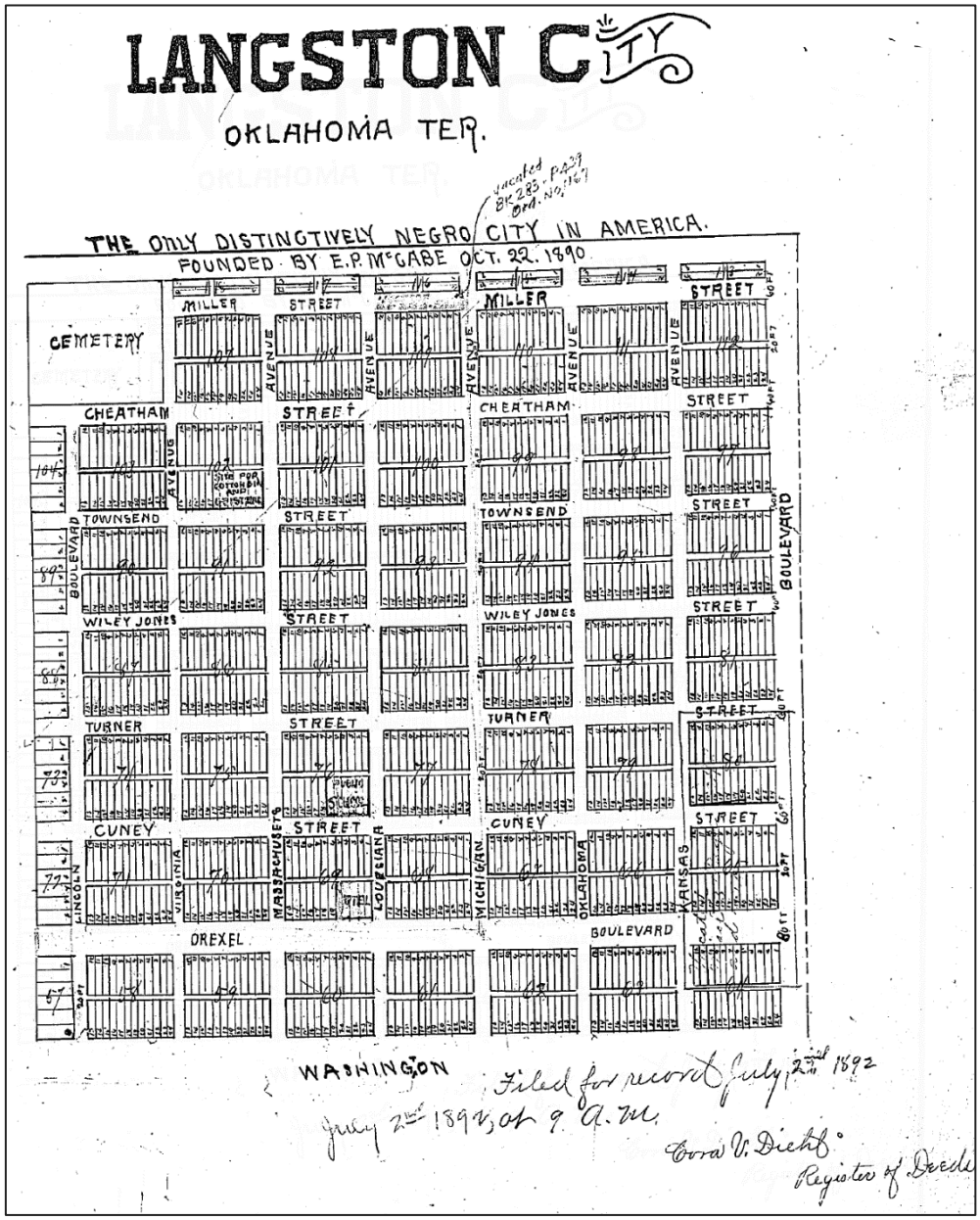


Figure 7. Town founder Edward Preston McCabe called out the town's Black autonomy on the plat for Langston. The plat also highlighted the cemetery location. Source: Logan County, Langston, 1892 [Plat Map], Document 10684038, 1892, Logan County Clerk, Guthrie, https://okcountyrecords.com/.

[41] Crockett, *The Black Towns*.

Street names were very plain, like Main Street and Broadway, many named a series of trees, letters of the alphabet, or Native American tribes; one was named Fortune, a likely indication of optimism.

The planners also had to be promoters, advertising residential and commercial lots for sale in newspapers and through sales agents deployed to southern states.[42] Readers learned of economic possibilities, the availability of land, and the chance to live in a community of shared experiences and personal safety.[43] Langston town founder and newspaper owner Edward Preston McCabe printed that the venture was “not a picnic” but an avenue to better conditions.[44] Because illiteracy was an issue among southern freedmen and newspapers would not easily reach them, town planners relied on kinship ties to encourage large family groups to the newly established communities.[45] Black migrants envisaged these new towns as their “promised land,” based on the words of newspapers and sales agents.

One of the most important institutions in All-Black Towns was a United States post office. Post offices, incubators for the speedy transference of information and communication, were harbingers of the nation’s democratic system in each small town. The postal service was one of the few public or private institutions that treated people with equanimity. It was one of the first and, for a long time, the only, federal agency that employed women, and hired many Black workers after the Civil War.[46] At the turn of the twentieth century, a post office signaled acceptance and approval from the federal government, giving each All-Black Town legitimacy and agency.



Figure 8. Residents of Red Bird gather in front of the wood-frame depot with its wide eaves. Source: Anonymous, [Townspeople of Red Bird, Oklahoma, in Front of Railroad Depot], International Center of Photography.

Locally owned and published newspapers were another stride toward independence. Newspapers were instrumental in community engagement, sparking debate and fostering associations with neighbors. For Black Americans, newspapers played a vital role in distributing information about public health, addressing temperance, tobacco use, and birth control. Newspapers were the voices that shared race wrongs, clashes, progress, and movements and main themes. Besides conveying national and regional news, newspapers were

[42] *The (Natchez) Weekly Democrat*, "Over the Country: A New Colonization Scheme," September 2, 1891, 6; *The Chicago Chronicle*, "Langston, A Unique Community," November 7, 1897.
[43] William J. McAuley, "History, Race, and Attachment to Place Among Elders in the Rural All-Black Towns of Oklahoma," *Journal of Gerentology*, Volume 53B, No. 1 (1998): S38.
[44] Susan Hardwick, *Mythic Galveston: Reinventing America's Third Coast* (Johns Hopkins University Press, 2002).
[45] Crockett, *The Black Towns*.
[46] Daniel P. Carpenter, "State Building through Reputation Building: Coalitions of Esteem and Program Innovation in the National Postal System, 1883–1913," *Studies in American Political Development*, Volume 14, No. October.

choice for advertising goods and myriad community events.[47] Schools, churches, and fraternal organizations sponsored ice cream socials, fairs, rallies, and entertainment evenings.[48]



Figure 9. Sarah Rector, the daughter of freed Creek parents, received a land allotment that afforded her wealth at a young age. Source: Selena Hill, "Meet Sarah Rector, the 11-Year-Old Who Became the Richest Black Girl in America in 1913," The Black Enterprise, February 1, 2020, https://www.blackenterprise.com/sarah-rector-11-year-old-richest-black-girl/.

The towns' downtowns offered commerce and community. Railroad depots, sited alongside the tracks, were the transportation hubs for goods and passengers (**Figure 8**). Businesses sold goods and services from one or two streets with several small wood-frame or masonry commercial-block buildings, their proprietors facilitating exchanges for cash or credit. Commerce included stores of many kinds, but especially groceries, and the occasional bank or hotel. Banks in Langston, Boley, and Taft propped businesses, homeowners, and farmers with capital for loans. Hotels offered nondiscriminatory accommodations for traveling Black guests. Services included barbershops, real estate agencies, and cafés. Because their occupants desired autonomous civic affairs, some communities had a city hall and a jail. The All-Black Towns had local politicians responsible for managing community business and public works. Some towns had fraternal organizations that supported social change and imbued middle-class values of industry, thrift, and temperance.

From these All-Black Towns, a few residents achieved influential political milestones in state and national civil rights during the Jim Crow–era. Elbert L. Barber led Red Bird in a failed effort to defeat a 1910 state constitutional amendment with a grandfathered policy that prevented Black men from voting.[49] Years later, Red Bird resident I. W. Lane won a lawsuit that went to the U.S. Supreme Court on appeal after the county registrar denied his attempt to register to vote.[50] Warrior A. Rentie, with the help of William H. Twine Sr., was the first Creek freedmen to gain guardianship over his own children. With another colleague, they founded the Negro Guardianship League.[51] Twine was a civil rights attorney and newspaper editor, known as a crusading defender for Black participation in the statehood convention and for lawsuits intended to overthrow Jim Crow conditions.[52] Sarah Rector, a young girl born near Taft, achieved a different kind of fame when national Black leaders Booker T. Washington and W. E. B. Du Bois took an interest in her welfare on behalf of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (**Figure 9**). As a freed Muscogee/Creek citizen, she had received a land allotment that, it was discovered in 1913, had an oil source that would reap her millions. When reports surfaced that her white estate managers were mishandling Rector's estate, the agency formed a children's department.[53]

Educational programming in several All-Black Towns proved a two-fold success, teaching young and adult students, and drawing an educated work force to their communities. Most towns had at least one primary school. The Rosenwald Fund,

[47] Frederick German Detweiler, *The Negro Press in the United States* (University of Chicago Press, 1922).
[48] *The (Oklahoma City) Black Dispatch*, "Some Oklahoma Towns," October 6, 1921, 6.
[49] Johnson, *Acres of Aspiration*.
[50] U.S. Supreme Court, Lane v. Wilson, 307 U.S. 268 (1939); Alfred L. Brophy, "Lane v. Wilson (1939)," in *The Encyclopedia of Oklahoma History and Culture*, Oklahoma Historical Society, 2022.
[51] R. Darcy, "With Statehood Came White Supremacy: African American Leaders Become Janitors," in *Oklahoma Political Science Association* (Durant, OK, 2001; reprint, repr.).
[52] Avodale Braimah, "William Henry Twine (1862–1933)," (*BlackPastOnline*, 2014; reprint, repr.).
[53] Tonya Bolden, *Searching for Sarah Rector: The Richest Black Girl in America* (Abrams, 2014).

established in 1917, aided hundreds of rural school building projects for Black students across the county until the program ended in 1932. In Oklahoma, the fund supported construction of 176 schools, 16 teacherages, and 6 shop buildings in 44 counties.[54] The fund helped with school construction projects in five All-Black Towns in the 1920s: Brooksville, IXL, Lima, Tatums, and Vernon (**Figure 10**). Secondary and higher education opportunities founded in several All-Black communities attained recognition. In 1897, the Oklahoma Colored Agricultural and Normal University opened, the sole historically Black college in the state, which was renamed Langston University in 1941. Inman E. Page, one of the first two Black men to be educated at Brown University, was the controversial school president who oversaw campus development for the land-grant college for its first few decades. As the epitome of industrial education that Booker T. Washington advocated, the Halochee Industrial Institute in Taft was considered the offspring of the forefather's infamous Tuskegee Institute. Taft also attracted state institutions for Black youth including the Deaf, Blind and Orphans Institute and the State Training School for Girls. The music education program developed at the Rentiesville Musical and Industrial School brought prominence to that community.



Figure 10. The 1896 wood-frame IXL school was replaced by a new building in the 1920s with aid from the Rosenwald Fund. Source: Anonymous, The IXL Schoolhouse*, Oklahoma Territorial Plaza Trust.*



Figure 11. The wood-frame Bethel Missionary Baptist Church was built in 1919. Source: Erin O'Hare, "View Finder: New York Times Opinion Writer Jamelle Bouie Develops His Perspective as a Photographer," Charlottesville Weekly, May 29, 2019, https://www.c-ville.com/view-finder-new-york-times-opinion-writer-jamelle-bouie-develops-his-perspective-as-a-photographer/.

The high proportion of churches in All-Black Towns reflects the centrality of religion to these communities. Church congregations held both religious and secular gatherings, and regularly scheduled, holiday, and revival services.[55] Churches were a source for organizing men's and women's auxiliaries that resulted in community engagement and uplift. The most common religious affiliations were with the African Methodist Episcopal and Baptist denominations. Most were wood-frame buildings (**Figure 11**), but some later-built churches were constructed of masonry. Each of these places has a cemetery, as well; in some cases, the burial ground is all that

[54] Cynthia Savage, "Rosenwald Schools," in *The Encyclopedia of Oklahoma History and Culture* (Oklahoma Historical Society, 2022). https://www.okhistory.org/publications/enc/entry.php?entry=RO029.
[55] *The Okfuskee County News*, "Iron Post Items," June 10, 1909, 8.



Figure 12. This family home, outside of Nicodemus, Kansas, is representative of a rural home associated with an All-Black Town. The wood-frame house is well-appointed with screens covering fenestration and a cellar. The family's equines and canines were valuable contributors to their work force. Source: Anonymous, Historic American Building Survey: Nicodemus Historic District, Nicodemus, Graham County, Kansas, n.d. Library of Congress.



Figure 13. This two-story wood-frame home in Boley exhibits hybrid high-style designs with Queen Anne–inspired turned porch posts and decorative bargeboard and classically influenced corner pilasters and symmetrically placed fenestration. Source: Heather Warlick, "President Abraham Lincoln's Legacy: Oklahoma's Black Towns," The Oklahoman 2009, https://www.oklahoman.com/story/news/politics/2009/02/12/president-abraham-lincolns-legacy-oklahomas-black-towns/61465068007/.

remains of some All-Black Towns. Unlike many Black graveyards, especially in the South, these were not relegated to marginal areas, but planned spaces for residents to bury the deceased. The All-Black Town cemeteries have attributes common to Black graveyards, like limited permanent markers and many grave locations indicated with plants or temporary markers. They also have in common with historic-period cemeteries, encircling fences, entrance signs, paths or walkways, and burial with some family groups clustered together.

Dwellings were and are the most common property type in the All-Black Towns. Houses near and in the towns were usually modest one-story wood-frame buildings. Town dwellers were typically southern migrant freedmen and their descendants. They lived in homes with forms and styles that were modest versions of contemporaneously popular choices, with very few that would be considered high-style examples (**Figure 12**). Most extant homes in these towns were built after 1900 and employed the tremendously widespread bungalow form. These dwellings often followed standard plans that building and lumber companies sold. After World War II, infrastructure in the towns usually included telephones and electricity, but water, sewer, and natural gas systems were not always available for town residents.[56]

[56] McAuley, "History, Race, and Attachment".

However, most people associated with the All-Black Towns were not town dwellers but dispersed on the surrounding rural farmsteads. Most people associated with the All-Black Towns were homesteaders who sought out these communities and chose to live near, but not in them. These men and women had usually received land allotments, and some purchased or rented land. They could rely on their nearby All-Black Town for governmental, commercial, and institutional needs. Their living accommodations might be dugouts, one-room log houses, or a two-room wood-frame dwelling, and each signified a legal claim to property (**Figure 13**).[57] By 1910 in Taft, for example, Black family farms surrounded the community and were positioned on both sides of the Arkansas River (**Figure 14**).[58]

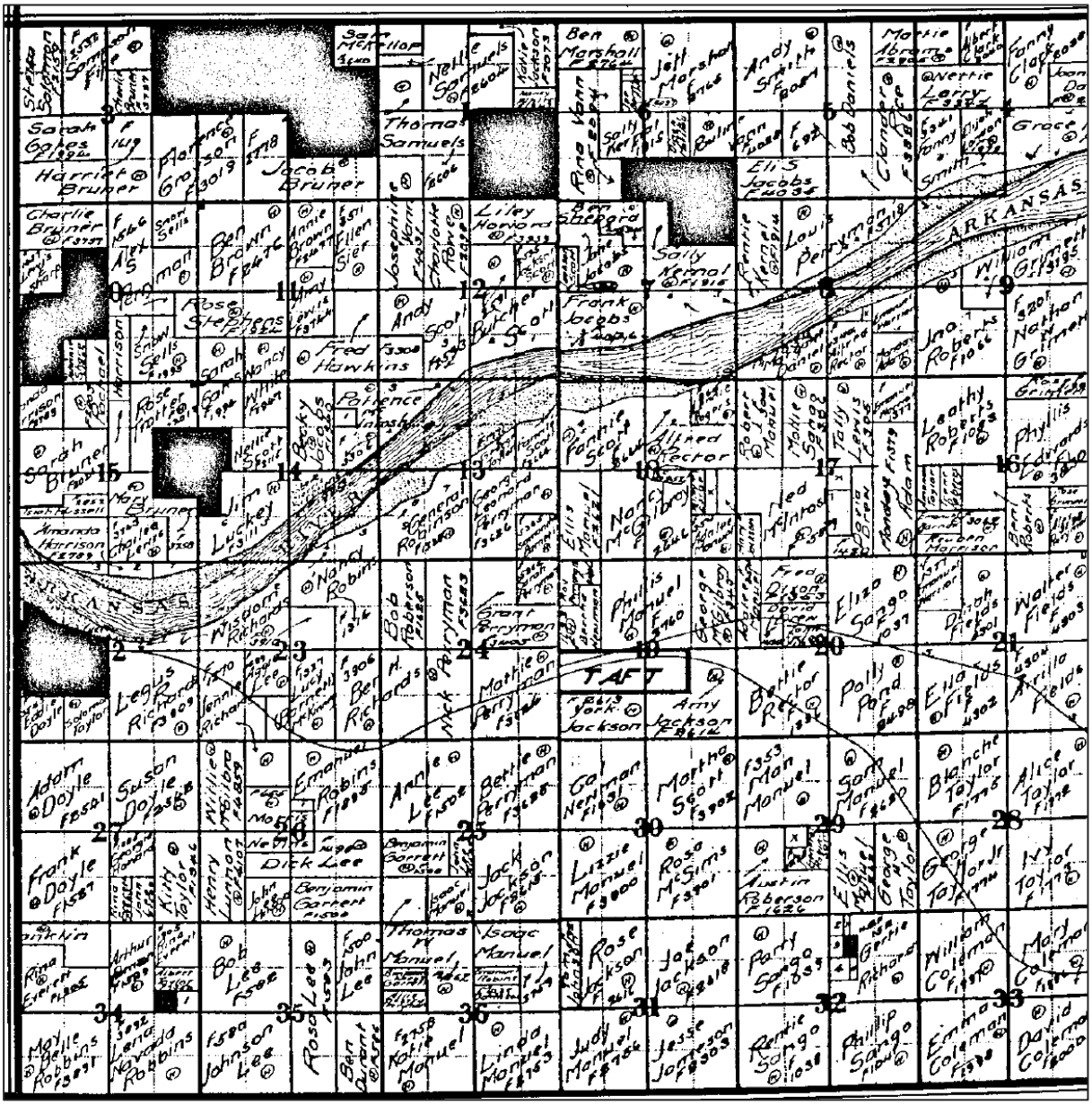


Figure 14. In 1910, the names of Black families, indicated with an F, for freedmen, surrounded Taft, near the center. The shaded quarter sections were the only land white families occupied in the vicinity. Source: Gray, "Taft: Town on the Black Frontier."

[57] M. Jeff Hardwich, "Homesteads and Bungalows: African-American Architecture in Langston, Oklahoma," *Perspectives in Vernacular Architecture*, Volume 6 (1997): 25.
[58] Linda C. Gray, "Taft: Town on the Black Frontier," *Chronicles of Oklahoma*, Volume 65, No. 4 (1988).

9.1.5 STATEHOOD AND JIM CROW

Black migrants had viewed the Twin Territories as a haven from the hostile South, but Oklahoma statehood in 1907 resulted in the institutionalization of racist segregation policies that would extend for decades. Instead of the hoped-for limited outside interference or prejudice that the mild-mannered state constitution appeared to embrace, the Oklahoma legislature enacted discriminatory Jim Crow laws, policies that banned interracial marriage and segregated public accommodations, like schools, libraries, and railroad cars and depots.[59] Langston founder Edward Preston McCabe and other Black leaders lobbied against Oklahoma Senate Bill 1, with violence resulting in the All-Black Towns of Taft and Red Bird. The U.S. Supreme Court upheld the law in 1914.[60] Severe white animosity continued in subsequent decades, culminating in the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre that devastated 30 city blocks and the homes of 15,000 Black residents. In the aftermath, nearby Red Bird and Tullahassee experienced population increases.[61]

This de jure segregation had direct implications for the All-Black Towns. Some turned to more-radical colonization plans. Some all-Black towns experienced population loss in the 1910s, when a man known as Alfred C. Sam, a self-proclaimed African chief, traveled to several All-Black Towns persuading hundreds to invest in his Akim Trading Company. For an investment of $25, an entire family could travel to Africa's Gold Coast to form a colony on his land. About 600 set up camps near Weleetka, in Okfuskee County, to await passage. In 1914, the 60 delegates who made the first and only voyage on the *Liberia* with Sam considered themselves misled when local landowners prohibited the colony. Sam's effort to form an autonomous Black American community in Africa failed and several voyagers returned to Oklahoma.[62]



Figure 15. The All-Black Town Bookertee was named for the infamous forefather of the Tuskegee Institute, Booker T. Washington. Source: Department Oklahoma State Highway, "General Highway Map, Okfuskee County, Oklahoma" (Oklahoma State Highway Department, 1936). https://dc.library.okstate.edu/digital/collection/OKMaps/id/7086/.

Meanwhile, a few new All-Black Towns formed in the aftermath of statehood amid the sustained exclusionary social and economic system. Ferguson and Lima were founded in 1907, Gay was platted in 1908, and Vernon and Lewisville were established in 1911. Bookertee, formed in 1919, was probably the last All-Black Town founded in Oklahoma (**Figure 20**).

9.1.6 EDUCATION

Public education in Oklahoma's All-Black Towns occurred within the statewide context of legally mandated segregation at educational facilities. Oklahoma's 1907 constitution enshrined segregation in law from the state's earliest days. Article XIII, Section 3 proclaimed:

[59] Johnson, *Acres of Aspiration*.
[60] Larry O'Dell, "Senate Bill One," in *The Encyclopedia of Oklahoma History and Culture*, 2022.
[61] Crockett, *The Black Towns*, S39.
[62] Bob Drummond, "Clearview: Town Full of History Seeks Future," *The Daily Oklahoman*, October 25, 1981, 6; Larry O'Dell, "Chief Alfred Sam," in *The Encyclopedia of Oklahoma History and Culture*, 2022.

> Separate schools for white and colored children with like accommodations shall be provided by the legislature and impartially maintained. The term 'colored children' as used in this section shall be construed to mean children of African descent. The term 'white children' shall include all other children.[63]

Laws passed shortly after statehood reinforced segregated education. This legislation mandated the complete segregation of facilities for Black and white students at private and public institutions and prevented teachers from working at institutions that enrolled both Black and white students.[64]

The new State of Oklahoma enacted legislation that allowed counties to organize school districts.[65] In 1908, former Indian Territory had 2,200 school districts in 41 counties, and former Oklahoma Territory had 3,441 school districts in 34 counties.[66] The State structured a school system so that the majority race in each school district ran the school board that governed the district. Each county was responsible for maintaining at least one "separate" school for the minority race or for organizing the minority to attend a segregated school in a nearby district.[67] Most separate schools were for Black students, and the term became synonymous with Black-majority schools in Oklahoma.[68] A tax levied on property in the school district supported the majority school, while a tax levied on property in the county, initially capped at one mill[69], funded the separate school.[70]

Although the State raised the county tax that funded separate schools to 2 mills in 1921, this scant funding was insufficient to equip buildings with appropriate facilities or adequately compensate teachers.[71] Many separate schools lacked funding for necessities like desks and stoves for heat, leading a state superintendent's report to call them "unfit for human occupancy."[72] School districts with large numbers of separate schools did not have funds for adequate buildings and teacher salaries were docked or the school year shortened to compensate for these shortages.[73] The majority of separate schools served Black students, who overwhelmingly suffered the consequences of this inequitable distribution of capital. During the 1927–1928 school year, Oklahoma had 539 separate schools with 43,740 Black pupils and only 21 separate schools for 676 white students. That year, 69 school districts across Oklahoma, had schools for Black students controlled by Black school boards.[74] These school districts' ability to levy a property tax on district residents gave these communities the rare capacity to raise funds and equip schools more appropriately.

Philanthropic organizations sought to remedy the dire conditions that legally mandated school segregation created. Between 1917 and 1932, many schools benefited from the Julias Rosenwald Fund. The fund primarily aided school construction for Black students in 15 states, including Oklahoma, which began receiving Rosenwald Fund disbursements in 1920.[75] More than 150 Rosenwald schools were constructed in Oklahoma during the program's operation. Starting in 1928, the fund also financed libraries and transportation for Black students to attend school. The fund issued one-third of the cost of books for a library and paid for shipping, and the local community and public-school fund was responsible for the remainder. The program developed more than 60 libraries in Oklahoma elementary and high schools.[76] Oklahoma's Black schools also benefited from the Anna T. Jeanes Fund, which subsidized teacher and supervisor pay for Black

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[63] Leonard B. Cayton, "A History of Black Public Education in Oklahoma" (PhD Dissertation, University of Oklahoma, 1977), Connecting Repositories, 37.
[64] Cayton, "A History of Black Public Education," 42–43.
[65] Cameron, *Second Biennial Report*, 72.
[66] Cameron, *Second Biennial Report*, 72–73.
[67] Cynthia J. Savage, "The Julius Rosenwald Fund: Northern Philanthropy in Oklahoma's Separate Schools," *Chronicles of Oklahoma*, Volume 77, No. 1 (Spring, 1999): 5.
[68] Cayton, "A History of Black Public Education," 43; Savage, "The Julius Rosenwald Fund," 5.
[69] Millage is a tax on property that is calculated in mills per dollar. One mill equals one tenth of one cent, or one-thousandth of a dollar. Millage differs by jurisdiction and is set by each school district to fund its operation.
[70] Savage, "The Julius Rosenwald Fund," 5.
[71] Savage, "The Julius Rosenwald Fund," 5.
[72] John Vaughan, *Twelfth Biennial Report of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction* (Oklahoma Board of Education via Oklahoma Digital Prairie, 1928), 71.
[73] Vaughan, *Twelfth Biennial Report*, 68.
[74] Vaughan, *Twelfth Biennial Report*, 64–65.
[75] Savage, "The Julius Rosenwald Fund," 7–8, 12.
[76] Savage, "The Julius Rosenwald Fund," 13–14.

schools in rural areas.[77] The John F. Slater Fund funded high school developments known as County Training Schools, intended to prepare teachers to instruct rural Black pupils.[78]

Oklahoma's Black educators did not stand idly by as Black students bore the severe deprivation of the segregated education system, instead organizing efforts to counter inequities. The Oklahoma Association of Negro Teachers (OANT) formed in 1907, when 67 educators gathered at Langston's Colored Agricultural and Normal University. The OANT encouraged leadership among Black educators, gathered information on the condition of Black education in the state, offered teacher training, and lobbied for the revision of the Oklahoma constitution to prompt greater and equitable funding for separate schools. This last effort ultimately led to an increase in the millage levied for Black schools, expanding appropriations for separate schools by $18 million.[79] Following the 1954 U.S. Supreme Court *Brown v. Board of Education* decision, the OANT created a program to safeguard opportunities for Black teachers anticipating challenges gaining employment due to impending school integration. The organization merged with the Oklahoma Education Association in 1955 and disbanded in 1958.[80]

The U.S. Supreme Court ruled the "separate but equal" principle underpinning segregated education unconstitutional in its 1954 *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas*, decision, paving the way for public school integration. In response to this mandate for integration, in January 1955, the Oklahoma legislature passed a resolution to end the county tax levy for separate schools and consolidated school taxes in a common fund to be disbursed based on school attendance. Later that year, with the governor's support, Oklahoma voters approved the Better Schools Amendment to the state constitution.

Despite these positive changes, school segregation in Oklahoma persisted. Rural districts in particular resisted pressure to integrate; most of the 273 schools that did so during the 1955–1956 school district were in cities. Some school districts, particularly outside of urban areas, did not have biracial populations, so schools remained practically segregated despite the mandate for integration.[81] The approximately 12 high schools that existed in All-Black Towns in 1956 continued to serve only Black students that year.[82] Post–World War II building programs at Oklahoma's Black high schools attested both to the continuation of segregation in education and the postwar rise in the number of Black students completing high school.[83] In parts of southeast Oklahoma, new Black high schools were planned and constructed and others renovated or modernized even after the *Brown v. Board of Education* decision.[84] The Oklahoma School Code continued to mandate separate schools into the 1960s.[85] In 1961, only 24 percent (n=9,806) of Oklahoma's Black school-age population were enrolled in an integrated school.[86] Although this was better than the national average—by the 1960–1961 school year, just more than 7 percent of Black public school children in 17 southern states and Washington, D.C., attended school with white children—it was not until the 1972 creation of a cross-district busing plan that the true beginning of the end of legalized segregation occurred in Oklahoma's public schools.[87]

9.1.7 DECLINE

Agrarian-based communities reeled during the years between the world wars in both Black and white rural communities. The proliferation of post–World War I domestic manufacturing centers enticed farm workers to industrialized cities and towns for consistent work. Small production facilities like broom factories, since the state was a leading producer of broom

[77] Vaughan, *Twelfth Biennial Report*, 35.
[78] Vaughan, *Twelfth Biennial Report*, 36.
[79] Cayton, "A History of Black Public Education"; Melvin R. Todd, "Oklahoma Association of Negro Teachers," in *The Encyclopedia of Oklahoma History and Culture*, Oklahoma Historical Society, 2024.
[80] Todd, "Oklahoma Association of Negro Teachers."
[81] Eunice S. Newton and Earle H. West, "The Progress of the Negro in Elementary and Secondary Education," *The Journal of Negro Education*, Volume 32, No. 4 (Autumn, 1963): 472.
[82] Thelma D. Perry and Julius H. Hughes, "Educational Desegregation in Oklahoma," *The Journal of Negro Education*, Volume 25, No. 3 (Summer, 1956): 309.
[83] Newton and West, "The Progress of the Negro in Elementary and Secondary Education," 476.
[84] Perry and Hughes, "Educational Desegregation in Oklahoma," 309.
[85] Dianna Everett, "Better Schools Amendment," in *Encyclopedia of Oklahoma History and Culture*, Oklahoma Historical Society, 2024.
[86] Newton and West, "The Progress of the Negro in Elementary and Secondary Education," 473.
[87] Newton and West, "The Progress of the Negro in Elementary and Secondary Education," 473; Oklahoma Historical Society, Segregation in Schools, 2024.

corn, and bottling plants opened in many locations. Larger factories attracted former farm laborers to industrial shops in Oklahoma City, Enid, Muskogee, Tulsa, Shawnee, and Guthrie where lumber, printing, milling, and machine shops needed employees.[88] Efforts to instill industrial and other skills had helped buoy some All-Black Towns, but without a stronger economic foundation, most were impermanent.[89]

For farmers, dependence on cotton as the monoculture cash-crop was a huge vulnerability, and several towns could not persist with agriculture as their fickle economic underpinning. The boll weevil, disease, and weather events incited crop fluctuations that overwhelmed farmers. Combined with the decreased values of agricultural products, rural families were compelled to leave their homes.[90] The 1930s intensified movement away from rural communities as the Dust Bowl eviscerated farms and the Great Depression spun a lengthy and unprecedented economic crisis. Many independently owned railroad companies, lifelines for All-Black Town merchants and farmers, collapsed.[91] While that mode of transport lagged, the automobile was increasingly prevalent, and other and larger urban centers became more readily accessible.[92]

The WPA became the best-known New Deal agency with a range of programs, the most visible of which was construction of thousands of public improvements, some in Oklahoma's All-Black Towns. Among these were buildings, structures, and objects that filled local needs during a time of severe financial crisis for communities, big and small. The federal government paid for labor and a local sponsor supplied construction materials. The agency was responsible for more than 4,000 schools and miles of storm drains, sewer lines, and roads. In the Dust Bowl, the WPA planted more than 24 million trees to relieve soil loss. In Oklahoma, the WPA spent millions and employed thousands.[93] Schools and infrastructure were the most likely WPA projects in the All-Black Towns, and these contributed to the communities' evolution of planning and development.

During and after World War II, while these communities continued to depopulate, the town plans evolved to share another developmental attribute. Wartime experiences gave Black service men and women who shipped overseas exposure to a measure of equality, and those employed in stateside war-related industries glimpsed the potential for parity in jobs and education. Jobs at the McAlester Army Ammunition Plant and the army and air bases in Oklahoma offered some opportunities. Manufacturing enterprises attracted employees away from farms and small towns to work in mills, meatpacking, printing, metal products, and textiles.[94] Construction of new commercial, institutional, and religious buildings generally ceased as the populations in All-Black Towns declined. As a result, most of the smaller downtowns were never fully built out. Only select lots on downtown blocks filled with improvements, as opposed to side-by-side, back-to-back downtown commercial buildings or residential areas with rows houses on postage-stamp-size lots lining the blocks.

Intended as safe havens for Black residents, racist treatment still hindered Oklahoma's All-Black Towns (**Figure 21**). Residents faced harassment, hostility, and threat of violence when traveling outside of their towns or to nearby white communities seeking employment, political engagement, or government and commercial services. Although All-Black Towns afforded residents' political engagement in local matters, whites who controlled county-level government wielded influence by withholding funding for schools and infrastructure.[95] Residents of All-Black Towns were legally permitted to vote; however, constant intimidation, redistricting, and gerrymandering reduced their access on election day. This

[88] Dianna Everett, "Manufacturing," in *The Encyclopedia of Oklahoma History and Culture*, 2022.
[89] Tolson, "Black Towns".
[90] Crockett, *The Black Towns*; Johnson, *Acres of Aspiration*.
[91] Johnson, *Acres of Aspiration*.
[92] Charles A. Humphrey and Donald E. Allen, "Educational and Social Needs in Small All-Black Towns," *The Journal of Negro Education*, Volume 47, No. 3 (Summer, 1978): 245.
[93] William H. Mullins, "Works Progress Administration," in *The Encyclopedia of Oklahoma History and Culture*, 2022.
[94] Everett, "Manufacturing".
[95] Crockett, *The Black Towns*.

curtailed fair representation and funding for public works. White residents in nearby communities habitually refused to hire Black men and women or to rent or sell land to them, deepening economic disparities.[96]

Nevertheless, the success of the All-Black Towns was an environment of respect, support, and self-sufficiency. The many services supplied from these towns sustained Black farmers in their quest to achieve economic independence. In town, a farm family purchased provisions and services from the merchants they patronized. City halls, post offices, jails, and schools furnished civic amenities, and churches and cemeteries satisfied religious and social affiliations. Literary societies, public debates, and newspapers encouraged interaction and awareness of current events. Booster organizations, like business leagues, boards of trade, and commercial clubs, pooled funds and gave financial assistance at times. These groups encouraged a shared commitment to “buy Black” that propped local merchants and institutions. Entrepreneurs had established and designed, and area residents had chosen, these communities as theirs. These places offered many Black residents their first feelings of liberty and dignity, and prospects to control their livelihoods. They found agency in owning property, voting, and operating their farms and businesses without assistance from or under the control of whites.


See! Clara Kimball Young in "EYES OF YOUTH", at Aldridge Thea. Sat. Evening and Night June 11' 1921

The Largest C[illegible]ulated Negro Journa[illegible] homa.

An Advertisement in this paper will go into every State in the Union.

A Paper with a policy and a purpose.

The Black Dispatch

FAITH

We Stand

For the right of the voice of men to be heard in their own Government.

For Democracy that is an actuality—not ritualistic.

PRICE 5 CENTS

OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA, JUNE 10, 1921

VOL. VI, NO. 27

LOOT, ARSON, MURDER!

Four Million Dollars Lost

Sarah Page Not To Be Found

Tulsa Yanks Land Away From Blacks With Fire Ordinance

Tulsa, Okla., June 1. (Special)—The Negro district of Tulsa was confined to a section of land, about a mile square, in the northeastern portion of the city. It, more directly speaking, laid between the forks of the Midland Valley, Frisco and M. K. & T. Railroads. The business and industrial section of Tulsa has in recent years built up to the Negro belt, which when it was first located was an isolated spot in the lowlands. With the coming of the oil boom and the rapid expansion of the business district of Tulsa, it was soon discovered that the only available tracts of property left in the city was completely covered by the Negroes in this block belt.

Some time ago the Railroads attempted to purchase a large tract of land, beginning at Archer and running north and east for depot and terminal purposes. The attempt failed. Individual Negroes had been offered large sums of money to release their holdings along the railway right-of-way, but to no avail. In fact, the inhabitants of this most prosperous black community each year proceeded to get a firmer hold upon this much coveted section, by the erection of permanent brick structures and the increase in land holdings. To show that the natural trend of the business district was in this direction is but for one to go one block east past the Negroes and observe that the industrial section had been continued from that point.

Greenwood, the principal street in the Negro district, was paved and was at night a seething mass of black folks, equal to Chicago's State street or Beale Street in Memphis. The statement that the Negroes lost one and one-half million dollars worth of property in the colossal tragedy of June 1st is an erroneous statement.

SOUND LEADERSHIP NEEDED

(From Okmulgee Democrat)

Not Belgium, but Greenwood Street in Tulsa, Oklahoma

The picture above is the ruins and remains of what was once beautiful North Greenwood, in the business section. The view begins at Archer Street looking towards Stand Pipe Hill, where the murderous machine guns were placed and swept the valley. The man in the street with the gun is one of the State Militia.

Figure 16. For two days in 1921, a horrific massacre in Tulsa killed and injured hundreds of Black residents. In the All-Black Towns, this traumatic event raised concerns within their communities. Source: The Black Dispatch, "Loot, Arson, Murder!" (Oklahoma City), 1921-06-10, June 10, 1921, https://gateway.okhistory.org/ark:/67531/metadc152336/m1/1/zoom/?resolution=4&lat=5065.462483437172&lon=2093.820990572807

Economic and social factors depressed the All-Black Towns and ultimately caused their decline but did not strip them of their achievements. The towns that persisted had more diversified economies and sufficient services for nearby residents into the latter half of the twentieth century. In fact, most of the towns have homes with a median construction date of about 1960.[97] A few businesses are extant, and several have active schools and church congregations. Residents, past and present, continue to celebrate these places. Even as they have dwindled, they portray distinctive landscapes that are evidence of a surge in racial fulfillment and self-realization. These enclaves are significant for resulting in a positive and permanent group ideology without white or Native American interference. In effect, the All-Black Towns of Oklahoma institutionalized a social movement.[98]

[96] O'Dell, "All-Black Towns".
[97] McAuley, "History, Race, and Attachment", S36.
[98] McAuley, "History, Race, and Attachment", S38.

9.2 Developmental Components of the All-Black Towns

A brief narrative history of the three All-Black Towns documented describes each of them, in terms of location, establishment/prominent citizens, economy, religious institutions, educational facilities, and decline/recent status. A summary table shows their estimated establishment dates and select amenities (**Table 8**).

Table 8. Select All-Black Towns Surveyed

Town	Date Established*	Churches	Schools	Post Offices	Hotels	Stores	Other	Railroad Depots
Langston	1890	Yes	Langston University	Yes	Yes	Yes	*Langston City Herald*	No
Taft	1902	Yes	Halochee Industrial School	1904	Yes	Yes	Bank, *Enterprise*, *Tribune*	Yes
Boley	1903	Yes	Creek-Seminole College, Methodist Episcopal College	Yes	Yes	Yes	Electrical generating plant, water system, ice plant, banks, *The Boley Progress*	Yes

9.2.1.1 Langston

9.2.1.1.1 Location

Langston is in central Oklahoma within Logan County, approximately 10 miles from the county seat of Guthrie, in former Oklahoma Territory.

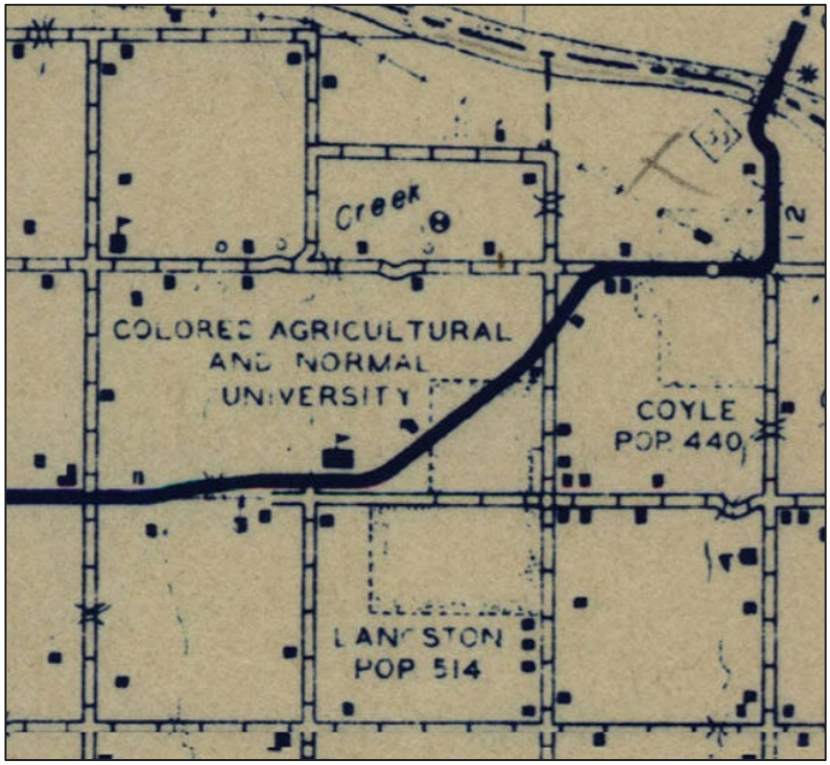


Figure 17. Map of Langston. Source: Oklahoma State Highway Department, "General Highway and Transportation Map, Logan County, Oklahoma" (Oklahoma State Highway Department, 1942). https://dc.library.okstate.edu/digital/collection/OKMaps/id/6990/rec/1.

9.2.1.1.2 Establishment/Prominent Residents

Edward Preston McCabe, a Kansas politician and advocate for Black colonization of Oklahoma, founded Langston in 1890.[99] The town had a post office by 1892.[100] McCabe acquired land from white developer Charles H. Robbins. The town was named for noted Black politician John Mercer Langston, who, among other accomplishments, had organized the law department at Howard University and served in the Virginia House of Representatives.[101]

9.2.1.1.3 Economy

Although Langston was not on a railroad—approximately 1.5 miles from the Eastern Oklahoma Railroad, and 4 miles from the Rock Island Railroad—it prospered with commercial development.[102] McCabe passionately promoted Black settlement of the new city in his newspaper, the *Langston City Herald*. An 1892 edition called Langston "the only distinctively negro city in America."[103] An 1891 visitor to Langston reported 15 buildings, including 2 stores, and others under construction.[104] In 1895, a telephone line was planned.[105] By 1907, Langston businesses were a cotton gin, several grocery stores, and a confectionary, blacksmith shop, meat market, hardware store, and saloon."[106] Cotton farming was a common livelihood.[107]

9.2.1.1.4 Religious Institutions

Langston had a church in 1892.[108] By 1907, Langston was home to African Methodist Episcopal, Missionary Baptist, Catholic, and Presbyterian churches.[109]

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[99] Jere W. Roberson, "Edward P. McCabe and the Langston Experiment," *Chronicles of Oklahoma*, Volume 51, No. 3 (1973).
[100] Elbert P. McCabe, "Langston City," *The Langston City Herald*, November 17, 1892, 3.
[101] Roberson, "McCabe and Langston"; Johnson, *Acres of Aspiration*.
[102] *The (Langston) Western Age*, "Opportunity for Negroes," June 7, 1907, 3.
[103] McCabe, "Langston City," 3.
[104] G. W. Washington, "From Langston City, O.K," *(Guthrie) Oklahoma State Capital*, March 21,, 1891, 7.
[105] *Langston City Herald*, "City News," April 13, 1895, 4.
[106] *The (Langston) Western Age*, "Opportunity for Negroes," 3.
[107] *The Oklahoma State Capital*, "Langston Light," March 23, 1898, 3; *Langston City Herald*, "Cotton at Langston," February 6, 1897, 4.
[108] McCabe, "Langston City," 3.
[109] *The (Langston) Western Age*, "Opportunity for Negroes," 3.

9.2.1.1.5 Educational Facilities

In 1892, Langston had a school with almost 200 pupils.[110] For several years, Black citizens advocated before the Oklahoma Industrial School and College Commission for colleges to serve Black students.[111] Langston University, Oklahoma's only historically Black college or university (HBCU), was founded in 1897 as the Colored Agricultural and Normal University. The September 1898 opening dedication attracted at least 400 people.[112] The Morris House, a boarding house for students, opened in 1904.[113] In the 1930s and 1940s, the school built several teacher cottages.[114]

9.2.1.1.6 Decline/Recent Status

Langston University is the only HBCU in the state of Oklahoma, and its continued draw has bolstered the community substantially. The university has generated jobs for faculty and administrative support.[115] It also prevented much of the typical population decline that most other All-Black Towns experienced. In 2010, Langston had a population of 1,724.[116]

9.2.1.2 Taft

9.2.1.2.1 Location

Taft is at the confluence of the Arkansas and Verdigris Rivers, in present-day Muskogee County, part of former Indian Territory, approximately 8 miles west of the county seat at Muskogee.

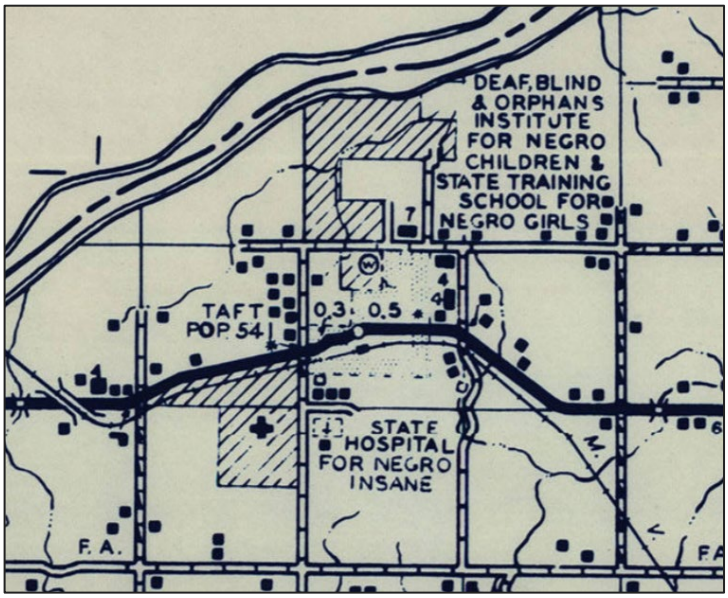


Figure 18. Map of Taft. Source: Oklahoma State Highway Department, "General Highway and Transportation Map, Muskogee County, Oklahoma."

9.2.1.2.2 Establishment/Prominent Citizens

In 1902, having received land allotments under the Dawes Act of 1887, Thomas and Phillis Manuel settled the future site of Taft with their extended family.[117] One mile to the east was the townsite of Twine, where the Midland Townsite Company hoped to purchase land from owner John Rector. Unable to acquire the desired parcels at that location, the company bought the nearest available tract, 120 acres to the west, and moved the post office to the newly platted town of Taft on November 18, 1904. The Midland Townsite Company platted the town, and Taft was incorporated on May 8, 1907, and named in honor of the contemporaneous Secretary of War, William Howard Taft.[118] Taft's founding population primarily relocated from the southern states, rather than from tribal lands.[119] The city hall was built in 1910.[120]

[110] McCabe, "Langston City," 3.
[111] Langston University, "History of Langston University," in *Langston University* (2022; reprint, repr.).
[112] *The Oklahoma State Capital*, "Langston University," September 24, 1898, 6.
[113] Listed in the NRHP in 1994.
[114] Listed in the NRHP in 1998.
[115] *The Oklahoma State Capital*, "Langston Light," 3; *Langston City Herald*, "Cotton at Langston," 4.
[116] City of Langston, "About the Langston City," in *Langston, Oklahoma* (2022; reprint, repr.); Larry O'Dell, "Langston," in *The Encyclopedia of Oklahoma History and Culture*, 2022.
[117] Gray, "Taft".
[118] Gray, "Taft".
[119] Gray, "Taft".
[120] Listed in the NRHP in 1984.

Taft has the distinction of electing the first Black woman mayor in the United States. Lelia Foley-Davis, born in 1941, was elected in 1973, and named the state's Outstanding Woman of the Year in 1974. Foley-Davis was mayor through the early 1980s. She regained her seat in 2000 and has continued to serve on the Taft Board of Trustees.[121]

In 1908, William H. Twine and Warrior A. Rentie, president of the Anti-Jim Crow League, filed a lawsuit contesting segregation in train cars as a violation of civil rights and the constitution. When the Taft railroad depot burned after the state enacted Jim Crow segregation laws, some assumed that citizens started the fire as retaliation. The community also organized and opposed separate waiting rooms, another version of Jim Crow laws, along with residents of other All-Black Towns in Oklahoma.[122] Residents raised $1,500 to replace the Taft depot, but railroad officials denied receiving the money.[123]

9.2.1.2.3 Economy

By about 1904, Taft had a depot for the Midland Valley Railroad, which connected Hope, Arkansas, to Wichita, Kansas, via about northeastern Oklahoma. Settlers represented an array of professions that by 1911 included farmers, merchants, mechanics, and professionals.[124] Like other All-Black Towns, Taft quickly developed a business community to provide necessities for locals. Within a decade of its founding, Taft had 37 businesses—groceries, hardware stores, a bakery, meat market, barber shops, cotton gins, and a two-story brick depot."[125] The local farming community, which grew cotton as its staple crop, patronized these businesses. A white businessman from Muskogee, John Coulter, operated a bank in Taft between 1906 and 1928.[126] The Halochee Industrial institute sparked a building boom and increased local real estate prices beginning in 1906.[127]

9.2.1.2.4 Religious Institutions

The African Methodist Episcopal Church was one of the first institutions in Taft. Creek freedman Phillis Manuel donated the land from her allotment. In addition, the Star Light Masonic Lodge was established first in Twine in 1904, and it moved to Taft with the rest of the community a few months later.[128]

9.2.1.2.5 Educational Facilities

Taft's citizens focused on establishing educational opportunities. Some residents joined the Negro Press Association for the Oklahoma and Indian Territories organized in Guthrie in 1906, encouraging exchanges on current events and race issues. The group exerted its support for full and equal rights for Black students in Oklahoma. That year, Warren E. Glenn established the Halochee Industrial Institute.[129] The curriculum included literature and practical classes like blacksmithing, wheel-writing, sewing, and dressmaking. The institute had a small broom factory in 1907.[130] By 1908, Taft had its own public school district.[131]The State of Oklahoma purchased the Halochee Industrial Institute campus in 1909 and soon located the Deaf, Blind, and Orphans Institute (DB&O), one of several segregated state institutions, at the property.[132] . These students were similarly schooled in grammar with practical classes on a breadth of subjects, including grammar, gardening, farming, cooking, sewing, shoe-cobbling, carpentry, and harness-making. The first class graduated in 1926.[133]

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[121] Larry O'Dell, "Taft," in *The Encyclopedia of Oklahoma History and Culture*, 2022.
[122] *Democrat Beckham County* (Erick, OK) February 6, 1908.
[123] Gray, "Taft".
[124] *Taft Enterprise*, "The Character Peculiar to the Taft Negroes," April 18, 1911, 1.
[125] *Taft Enterprise*, "The Character Peculiar to the Taft Negroes," 1.
[126] Gray, "Taft".
[127] Muskogee Daily Phoenix and Times-Democrat, "City of Taft on Eve of Great Big Boom," March 13, 1907, 3.
[128] O'Dell, "Taft".
[129] Gray, "Taft".
[130] Gray, "Taft".
[131] Cameron, *Second Biennial Report*; *Muskogee Times-Democrat*, "To Contractors," August 18, 1908, 4.
[132] Gray, "Taft," 440–441.
[133] Gray, "Taft".

9.2.1.2.6 Other State Institutions

The State of Oklahoma built two more segregated state institutions at Taft. By 1917, the State Training School for Negro Girls (State Training School) had opened on the Deaf, Blind and Orphans Institute campus.[134] The school was fundamentally a correctional institution for “delinquent” girls that the State committed to the facility. In 1934, Oklahoma established the State Hospital for the Negro Insane, for the mentally ill, south and west of Taft.[135] By 1937, Taft’s three state institutions, were known collectively as the Consolidated Negro Institutions of Oklahoma.[136] Around 1953, the State of Oklahoma changed the State Hospital’s name to Taft State Hospital and separated its administration from that of the Consolidated Negro Institutions.[137] The Deaf, Blind and Orphans Institute and the State Training School continued to operate jointly as the Consolidated Negro Institutions until 1961, when the institute ceased operations.[138] These state facilities employed Taft residents when most All-Black Towns were experiencing population declines—Taft’s population rose from 690 in 1930 to 772 in 1940.[139]

9.2.1.2.7 Decline/Recent Status

In an unusual twist, Taft grew during and in the immediate aftermath of the Great Depression, hitting its peak population of 772 in 1940 before steadily declining in the decades that followed. Renewed interest in the town has helped steady the population, which was 197 in 2000, and 250 in 2010.[140]

[134] Oklahoma Planning and Resources Board, *A Ten-Year Plan for the State Penal and Correctional System in Oklahoma*, Oklahoma Department of Libraries via Oklahoma Digital Prairie, January 1939.
[135] O'Dell, “Taft.”
[136] *Okfuskee County News*, “McCormick to Study Program,” September 3, 1937, 6.
[137] Oliver Hodge, Oklahoma Educational Directory, 1952–1953, Bulletin No. 109-B, 1952; Oklahoma Educational Directory, 1953–1954, Bulletin No. 109-C, 1953.
[138] Oliver Hodge, Oklahoma Educational Directory, 1961–1962, Bulletin No. 109-K, 1961; Cathy Spaulding, “Remembrances Slated for Fort Gibson, Taft,” *Muskogee Phoenix*, May 25, 2017.
[139] Oklahoma Department of Commerce, “Population for State, Counties, Cities and Towns of Oklahoma: 1890–2010”.
[140] O'Dell, "Taft".

9.2.1.3 Boley

9.2.1.3.1 Location

Boley is in central Oklahoma in Okfuskee County, former Indian Territory, approximately 20 miles west of Eufaula, the county seat.

9.2.1.3.2 Establishment/Prominent Citizens

Boley was established in 1903 and incorporated in 1905 in Okfuskee County on the Fort Smith and Western Railroad. The town was named for J. B. Boley, a railroad official of the same railway.[141] The original townsite was on land that Abigail Barnett McCormick inherited from her father, James Barnett, a Creek freedman. Townsite manager Thomas M. Haynes was instrumental in Boley's development and involved with many of its early commercial enterprises.[142] Settlers moved to Boley from Georgia, Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida.[143] Boley's post office opened on July 7, 1903.[144] Its first postmasters were Laborn Mims, Thomas Haynes, and Hallie S. Jones.[145] A Black station agent for the Fort Smith and Western Railroad managed the company's affairs in town.[146] By 1911, Oklahoma's largest All-Black Town had 4,000 residents.[147]

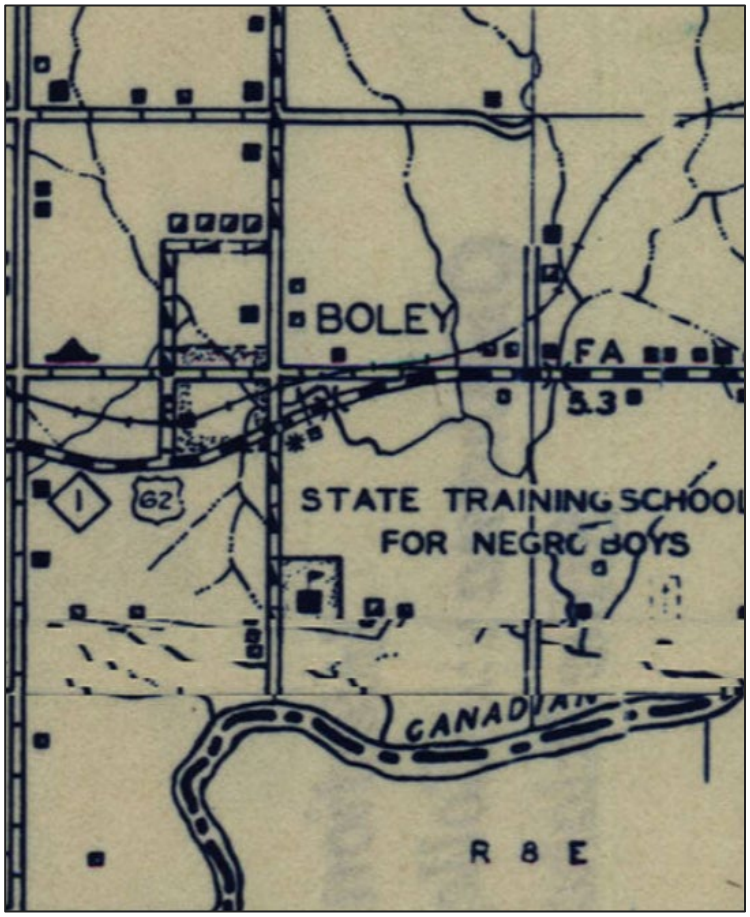


Figure 19. Map of Boley. Source: Oklahoma State Highway Department, "General Highway and Transportation Map, Okfuskee County, Oklahoma" (Oklahoma State Highway Department, 1937). https://dc.library.okstate.edu/digital/collection/OKMaps/id/6990/rec/1.

9.2.1.3.3 Economy

Agriculture was the backbone of Boley's economy. Black farmers owned and operated most farms in the Boley vicinity. [148] Cotton was the area's principal crop, although fertile land around Boley also supported cultivation of corn, wheat, oats, and potatoes. [149] Farm families patronized commercial and industrial enterprises in town, using its railroad depot to ship processed goods to market. By early 1905, Boley had twenty businesses, including a dry good store, drugstore, hardware, millinery, grocers,

[141] Larry O'Dell, "Boley," in *The Encyclopedia of Oklahoma History and Culture*, Oklahoma Historical Society, 2024.
[142] Marcia M. Greenlee, "Boley Historic District, Boley, Okfuskee County," (1974), National Register of Historic Places Inventory Nomination Form; *Weekly Progress*, "Mr. T. M. Haynes, the Founder of Boley," December 22, 1910, 1.
[143] Greenlee, "Boley Historic District, Boley, Okfuskee County".
[144] U.S. Postal Service, "Post Office by County," Postal History—Postmaster Finder, 2024.
[145] *Weekly Progress*, "Mr. T. M. Haynes, the Founder of Boley".
[146] *Weekly Progress*, "Boley The Colored Town and Haven of the Negro," March 9, 1905, 1.
[147] O'Dell, "Boley".
[148] Iles, "Boley".
[149] Iles, "Boley"; *Weekly Progress*, "Boley The Colored Town and Haven of the Negro".

shoe shops, restaurants, real estate offices, a hotel, a cotton gin, a shingle mill, and two sawmills. [150] By 1914, a second cotton gin had opened near the rail depot.[151]

The town's first and longest-running newspaper, the *Boley Progress*, opened in 1905 with O. H. Bradley as editor.[152] Boley businessmen founded the Farmers and Merchants Bank in 1905.[153] A second financial institution, Boley's First National Bank, was touted as the "First National Bank Established by Negroes in the United States."[154] By 1914, the town had a telephone exchange, a light and power company which powered public street lights, and a waterworks.[155] By 1923, opportunities for socializing and recreation in town included a Masonic Lodge and a movie theater.[156]

9.2.1.3.4 Religious Institutions

Numerous churches were among Boley's cornerstone institutions. By the time the town was incorporated in 1905, Boley had Colored Methodist Episcopal, Methodist Episcopal, and Baptist congregations.[157] By 1923, the town had at least seven church buildings: St. Catherine's Roman Catholic, Ward Chapel African Methodist Episcopal, Prewitt's Methodist Episcopal Church, Antioch Baptist Church, Holiness Church, a Colored Methodist Episcopal Church, and a Christian Church.[158]

9.2.1.3.5 Educational Facilities

As in most All-Black Towns, education was a priority for Boley's residents. Thomas Haynes was involved in establishing Boley's first school.[159] By March 1905, the town had a schoolhouse with two teachers and 150 pupils.[160] In 1911, Boley had two colleges, a high school, and a public school.[161] The Colored Methodist Episcopal Church sponsored the Oklahoma Normal and Industrial School.[162] J. C. Leftwich, who was involved in a number of educational endeavors in All-Black Towns, founded the Creek-Seminole College around 1906. Its Boley building burned down in 1914 and Leftwich moved the institution to Clearview.[163]

Boley also had two institutions that served the ill or disadvantaged. A tuberculosis sanitarium was located a mile southeast of the post office until 1925, when it became a home for wards of the state.[164] The United Brothers of Friendship and Sisters of the Mysterious Ten, a Black benevolent organization established in 1861 with free and enslaved men and women as members, operated a home for widows and orphans by 1923.[165]

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[150] *Weekly Progress*, "Boley The Colored Town and Haven of the Negro".
[151] Sanborn Map Company, Boley, Okfuskee County, Oklahoma (ProQuest Digital Sanborn Maps, 1867–1970), 1914, Fire Insurance Map.
[152] Greenlee, "Boley Historic District, Boley, Okfuskee County"; *Boley Progress*, "[The Boley Progress]," March 9, 1905, 2.
[153] *Weekly Progress*, "Locals," March 9, 1905, 4.
[154] *Weekly Progress*, "First National Bank of Boley Oklahoma," September 16, 1926, 2.
[155] Sanborn Map Company, Fire Insurance Map, 1914.
[156] Sanborn Map Company, Boley, Okfuskee County, Oklahoma (ProQuest Digital Sanborn Maps, 1867–1970), 1923, Fire Insurance Map.
[157] *Weekly Progress*, "Locals".
[158] Sanborn Map Company, Fire Insurance Map, 1923.
[159] *Weekly Progress*, "Mr. T. M. Haynes, the Founder of Boley".
[160] *Weekly Progress*, "Boley The Colored Town and Haven of the Negro".
[161] *Weekly Progress*, "All About Boley, Write for It," September 7, 1911, 8.
[162] Melissa N. Stuckey, "Boley, Indian Territory: Exercisisng Freedom in the All-Black Town," *The Journal of African American History*, Volume 102, No. 4 (2017).
[163] Larry O'Dell, "Colleges, African American," in *The Encyclopedia of Oklahoma History and Culture*, Oklahoma Historical Society, 2010.
[164] Sanborn Map Company, Fire Insurance Map, 1923; Joyce Peterson, "Boley Townsfolk Just Want Their School," *The Daily Oklahoman*, May 29, 1983, 22A.
[165] Sanborn Map Company, Fire Insurance Map, 1923; State Historical Society of Missouri, United Brothers of Friendship and Sisters of the Mysterious Ten Collection, 2023.

9.2.1.3.6 Decline/Recent Status

Investment in community institutions and recognition of Boley's important role in Oklahoma history helped the town experience renewed growth in the twenty-first century. Like communities across the rural south, Boley shrank in the 1920s and 1930s due to poor cotton farming conditions, the Great Depression, and the pull of economic opportunities in expanding urban areas. Boley's population decreased from 1,154 in 1920 to 874 in 1930, dropping as low as 423 in 1980. Boley's remaining residents continued to celebrate the town's history and create new traditions. In 1961, Boley's Chamber of Commerce hosted its first rodeo, a community tradition that drew thousands of attendees and persists today.[166] Boley's downtown business district was recognized as a National Historic Landmark in 1974.[167] In 2020, Boley's population was 1,087.[168]

[166] *Black Dispatch*, "Boley Rodeo Opens Tonight," June 2, 1961, 1; *Black Dispatch*, "More Than 10,000 Attend Boley Championship Rodeo," June 16, 1961, 8.
[167] Greenlee, "Boley Historic District, Boley, Okfuskee County".
[168] O'Dell, "Boley".

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11 Summary

In 2023, Stantec, contracted by the OKSHPO, conducted an architectural and historic resources survey of three of the 14 extant All-Black Towns in the state and completed an accompanying historic context. As a result of the project, 275 historic-age resources in the All-Black Towns of Langston, Taft, and Boley were surveyed. An OKSHPO Historic Resource Inventory form was created for each property, and each resource was evaluated for inclusion in the NRHP. Furthermore, a historic context was developed to sufficiently evaluate the significance of proposed historic districts and individual properties. After survey and data analysis, 58 resources were recommended as potentially eligible for the NRHP and one of these historic resources, the Taft Moton School Campus was selected for individual nomination to the NRHP as part of this project. The Langston Jail, identified as part of the first phase of the survey of Oklahoma’s All-Black Towns, was selected as the second individual nomination to the NRHP. Areas of significance identified included Criterion A in the areas of Community Planning and Development, Commerce, Education, Social History, and Ethnic Heritage/Black at the local level, Criterion B, and Criterion C in the area of Architecture at the local level. To accompany the survey, the project team will also complete NHRP nominations for the Taft Moton School Campus in Taft, Oklahoma, and for the Langston Jail in Langston, Oklahoma.

APPENDIX

A.1 Maps

A.2 Historic Resource Survey Forms

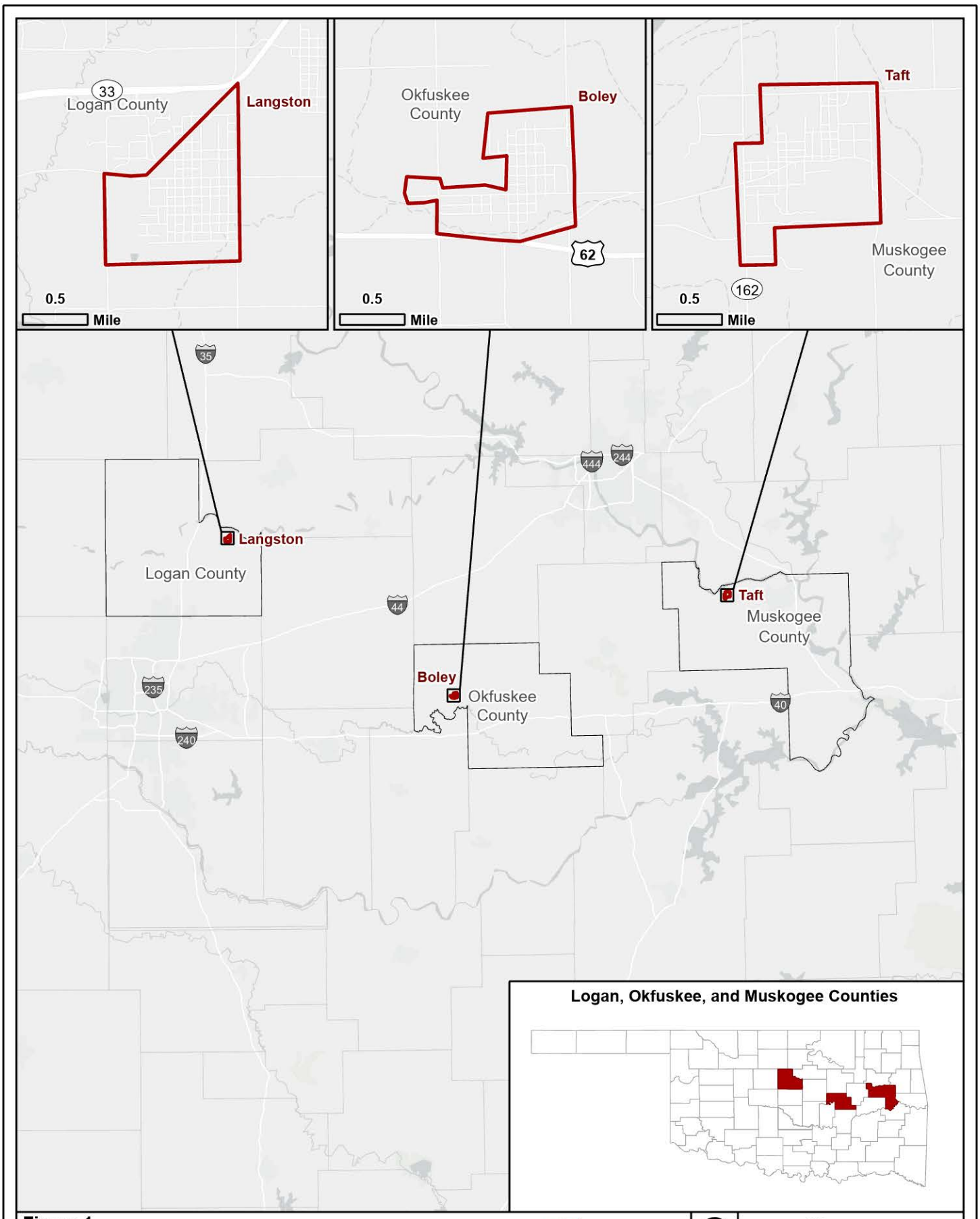


Figure 1.
Survey Areas
Architectural and Historical Survey
of Oklahoma's All-Black Towns, Phase II

Town Boundary

Basemap Source: Esri (2024)

Stantec

0 25 Miles
0 30 Kilometers

1 in = 25 miles
Scale: 1:1,584,000
Date: 5/31/2024

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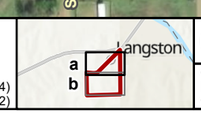
Figure 2a. Surveyed Properties, Langston

Architectural and Historical Survey of Oklahoma's All-Black Towns, Phase II

Town Boundary

Documented Resource

Data Source: Stantec (2023, 2024)
Aerial Source: Maxar (2022)



Stantec

0 400 Feet
0 120 Meters

1 inch = 400 feet
Scale: 1:4,800
Date: 11/20/2024

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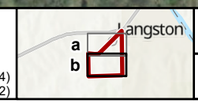
Figure 2b. Surveyed Properties, Langston

Architectural and Historical Survey of Oklahoma's All-Black Towns, Phase II

Town Boundary

Documented Resource

Data Source: Stantec (2023, 2024)
Aerial Source: Maxar (2022)



Stantec

0 400 Feet
0 120 Meters

1 inch = 400 feet
Scale: 1:4,800
Date: 11/20/2024

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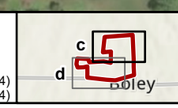
Figure 2c. Surveyed Properties, Boley

Architectural and Historical Survey of Oklahoma's All-Black Towns, Phase II

Town Boundary

Documented Resource

Data Source: Stantec (2023, 2024)
Aerial Source: Maxar (2024)



Stantec

0 400 Feet
0 120 Meters

1 inch = 400 feet
Scale: 1:4,800
Date: 11/20/2024

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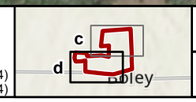
Figure 2d. Surveyed Properties, Boley

Architectural and Historical Survey of Oklahoma's All-Black Towns, Phase II

Town Boundary

Documented Resource

Data Source: Stantec (2023, 2024)
Aerial Source: Maxar (2022, 2024)



Stantec

0 400 Feet
0 120 Meters

1 inch = 400 feet
Scale: 1:4,800
Date: 11/20/2024

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Figure 2e. Surveyed Properties, Taft

Architectural and Historical Survey of Oklahoma's All-Black Towns, Phase II

Town Boundary

Documented Resource

Data Source: Stantec (2023, 2024)
Aerial Source: Maxar (2024)

Stantec

0 400 Feet
0 120 Meters

1 inch = 400 feet
Scale: 1:4,800
Date: 11/20/2024

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Figure 2f. Surveyed Properties, Taft

Architectural and Historical Survey of Oklahoma's All-Black Towns, Phase II

Town Boundary

Documented Resource

Data Source: Stantec (2023, 2024)
Aerial Source: Maxar (2024)

e
f
Taft

Stantec

0 400 Feet
0 120 Meters

1 inch = 400 feet
Scale: 1:4,800
Date: 11/20/2024

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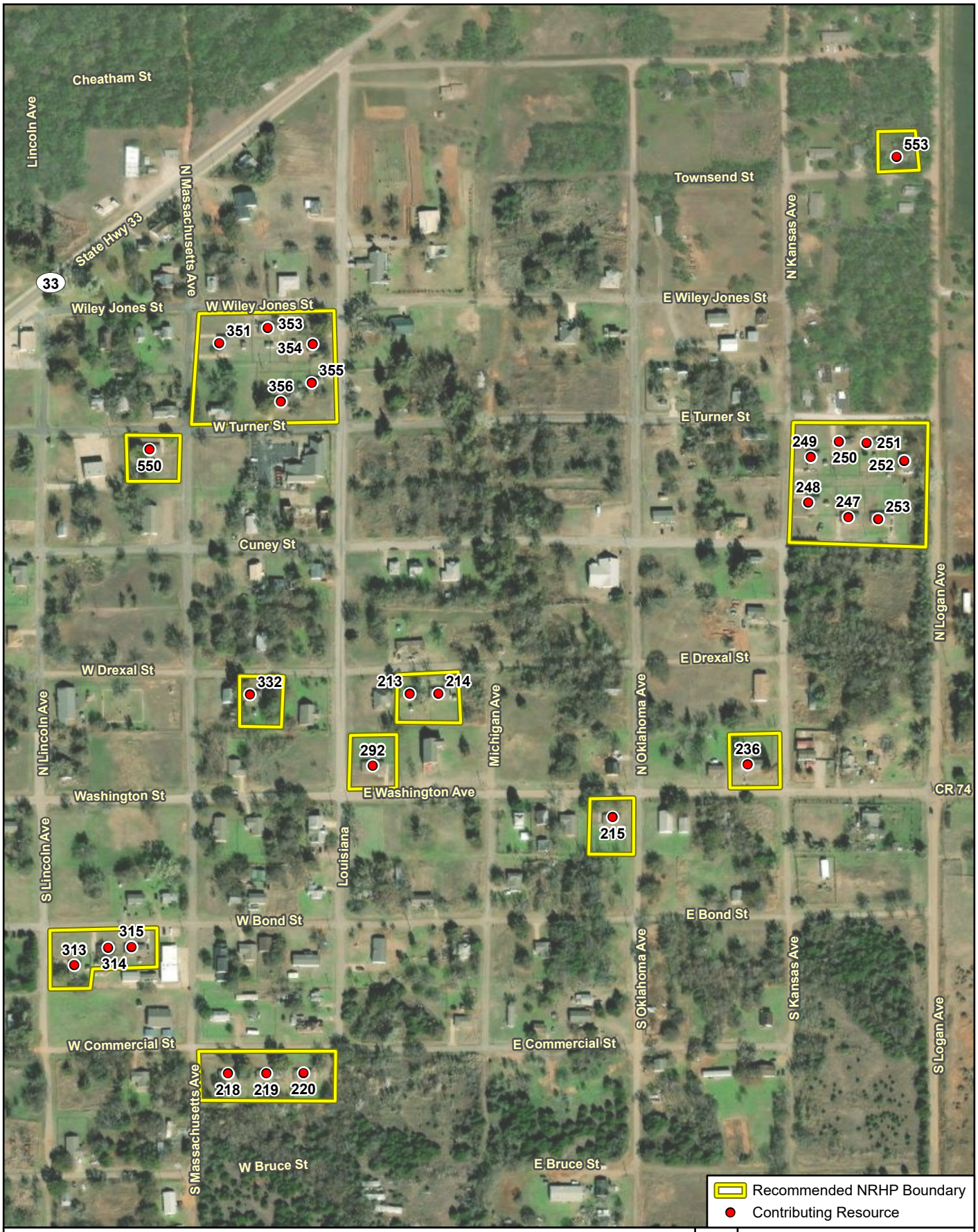


Figure 3. Recommended NRHP Boundary for Langston Housing Authority Historic District, Langston, Oklahoma

Architectural and Historical Survey of Oklahoma's All-Black Towns, Phase II

Data Source: Stantec (2023, 2024)
Aerial Source: Maxar (2022, 2023)

Stantec

0 400 Feet
0 99 Meters

1 inch = 400 feet
Scale: 1:4,800
Date: 11/20/2024

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Figure 4. Recommended NRHP Boundary for Moton School Campus, Taft, Oklahoma

Architectural and Historical Survey of Oklahoma's All-Black Towns, Phase II

Data Source: Stantec (2023, 2024)
Aerial Source: Maxar (2024)

Stantec

0 200 Feet
0 50 Meters

1 inch = 200 feet
Scale: 1:2,400
Date: 11/20/2024

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Figure 5. Recommended NRHP Boundary for Boley Housing Authority Historic District, Boley, Oklahoma

Architectural and Historical Survey of Oklahoma's All-Black Towns, Phase II

Data Source: Stantec (2023, 2024)
Aerial Source: Maxar (2024)

Stantec

0 200 Feet
0 50 Meters

1 inch = 200 feet
Scale: 1:2,400
Date: 11/20/2024

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Figure 6. Recommended NRHP Boundary for T. R. McCormick Commercial Historic District, Boley, Oklahoma

Architectural and Historical Survey of Oklahoma's All-Black Towns, Phase II

Data Source: Stantec (2023, 2024)
Aerial Source: Maxar (2024)

Stantec

0 200 Feet
0 50 Meters

1 inch = 200 feet
Scale: 1:2,400
Date: 11/20/2024

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