Historic/Architectural Reconnaissance Survey Tahlequah, Oklahoma

1997

City of Tahlequah
Historic Preservation Commission

Prepared by Meacham & Associates

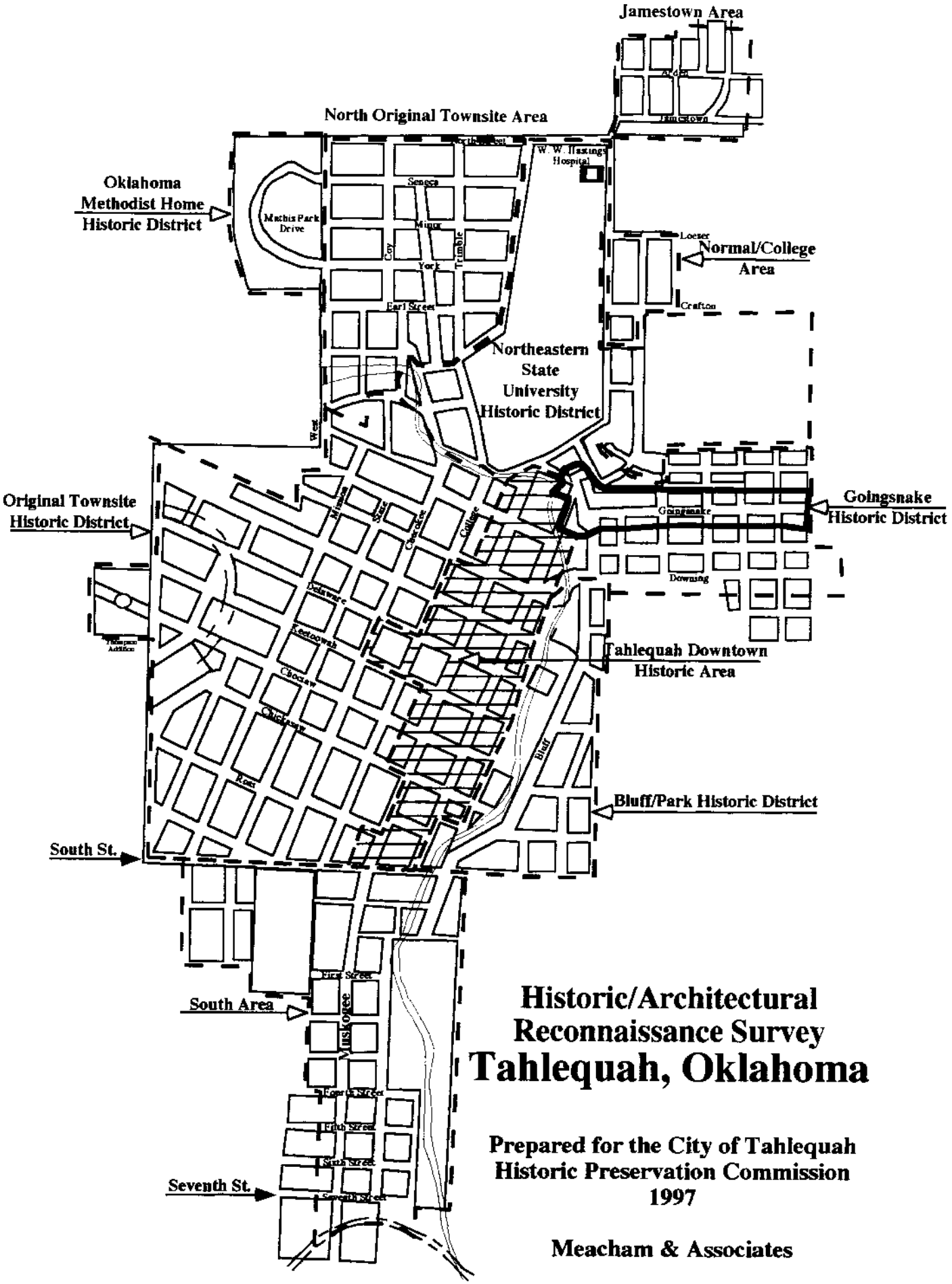

Jamestown Area
North Original Townsite Area
Oklahoma
Methodist Home
Historic District
Normal/College
Area
Northeastern
State
University
Historic District
Original Townsite
Historic District
Goingsnake
Historic District
Tahlequah Downtown
Historic Area
Bluff/Park Historic District
South St.
South Area
Seventh St.
Historic/Architectural
Reconnaissance Survey
Tahlequah, Oklahoma
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Abstract

An Architectural/Historic Reconnaissance-Level Survey of Tahlequah was conducted by Meacham & Associates in the spring of 1997. The study area included all additions located within the 1947 city limits of Tahlequah. The project identified ten distinct areas within those city limits. These areas included five potentially eligible historic districts, one area which may be eligible within the next ten years, and four areas which do not warrant further study. The areas potentially eligible include the the Original Townsite Historic District, the Bluff/Park Historic District, the Goingsnake Historic District, the Northeastern State University Historic District, and the Oklahoma Methodist Home Historic District.

Three areas were identified as not warranting further study. These include the Normal/College Area, the North Original Townsite Area, and the South Area. The Tahlequah Downtown Area does not appear eligible as a district, however, there may be some individually eligible buildings in the area and an intensive survey should be conducted. The Jamestown Area was identified as potentially eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places within the next ten years. A total of 302 surveys were conducted and 108 streetscape photographs were taken.

The survey team conducted a visual survey of the city and divided the area into the ten districts. Individual surveys were conducted in each of the ten districts and properties were selected to illustrate typical buildings in these areas. Surveys were conducted of buildings that would be potentially contributing to a historic district and buildings which would be noncontributing to a historic district. Surveys were conducted of buildings which may be individually eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. Forty percent of the surveys represent properties built before 1915; thirty percent represent properties built between 1915 and 1930; twenty percent of the surveys represent properties built between 1940 and 1950; and ten percent of the surveys represent properties built after 1980. After the individual surveys were completed, streetscape photographs of each area were taken to further illustrate the overall character of the area.

Maps of the overall area and of each individual district were prepared. Each of the maps indicate the locations of each survey conducted. An additional map of each area was also prepared which indicates where each of the streetscape photographs were taken.

The survey team also conducted research to prepare a historic context of Tahlequah. A number of different sources were used including libraries in Tahlequah, at the University of Oklahoma and at the Oklahoma State Historical Society.

Based on the surveys and the historic context, each of the districts were evaluated using both state and national guidelines for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. Although some buildings were identified as potentially eligible for individual listing in the National Register, all of these buildings were included within the boundaries of potentially eligible districts. The majority of these buildings are included in the Original Townsite and Goingsnake Historic Districts.

Introduction

In accordance with the Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office Comprehensive Historic Preservation Planning Process and Historic Context Development, an Architectural/Historic Reconnaissance-Level Survey of Tahlequah was conducted by Meacham & Associates in 1997. The primary goal of the project was to survey representative houses and buildings located within the 1947 city limits of Tahlequah. The approximate boundaries of the survey area are North Street on the north, Cedar Avenue on the east, Eighth Street on the south, and West Avenue on the west.

The survey area includes the Jamestown Addition, which is not contiguous to the primary survey area, but was included because the addition was platted in 1947. This neighborhood is located northeast of the intersection of North Street and Grand Avenue, approximately one mile from downtown. The survey contains approximately 175 blocks. There are approximately eighteen additions included in the area.

The period of significance of the area spans the years from 1839, when the original Tahlequah Townsite was platted, through 1952, a period of forty-five years ago. The history of Tahlequah's city development began in September of 1839 when four acres were designated the original townsite. During the 1800's the city continued to grow until the population reached 2,000 at the turn of the century. It was during those years that a downtown area, the Cherokee Female Seminary (NR 1973), the Cherokee National Capitol (NHL 1966), the Cherokee National Jail (NR 1974), the Cherokee Supreme Court Building (NR 1974) and some residential properties were constructed. A fire in 1895 completed destroyed downtown Tahlequah. The majority of the existing downtown buildings were built during the first quarter of the twentieth century. The population of Tahlequah increased to a little over 3,000 by 1940. The properties associated with this early period of Tahlequah's growth are included in the survey area.

The survey was conducted in accordance with the Secretary of Interiors Standards and Guidelines for Identification and Evaluation, and the guidelines established by the State Historic Preservation Office.

Research was conducted to establish the dates the additions were platted, the dates of construction of properties in the area, and the history of Tahlequah. Records from the Cherokee County Court

House, the University of Oklahoma Western History Collection, Northeastern State University, the Tahlequah Public Library, and local museums were used during the research.

The entire survey area was divided into ten areas:

(1) Original Townsite Historic District,
(2) Bluff/Park Historic District,
(3) Goingsnake Historic District,
(4) Oklahoma Methodist Home Historic District,
(5) Northeastern State University Historic District,
(6) Jamestown Area,
(7) Normal/College Area,
(8) North Original Townsite Area,
(9) South Area,
(10) Tahlequah Downtown Historic Area.

The Original Townsite Historic District, the Bluff/Park Historic District, the Goingsnake Historic District, the Oklahoma Methodist Home Historic District, and the Northeastern State University Historic Districts were determined potentially eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. The Jamestown Area, one of the five areas determined ineligible was determined so due to age, but potentially eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places by 2003. This area was platted in 1947 and the majority of the houses were constructed during the 1950s. The Normal/College Area, the North Original Townsite Area, and the South Area were determined ineligible for listing and warranting no further study. The Tahlequah Downtown Historic Area does not appear to be eligible as a district, however, the area warrants further study to identify buildings individually eligible for listing in the National Register.

Research Design and Methodology

A reconnaissance-level survey of Tahlequah was conducted in accordance to the guidelines set forth by the federal government and by the State Historic Preservation Office. All forms used in the survey are approved by the SHPO. The information on these forms has been submitted as requested by Tahlequah.

Each of the individual properties which were surveyed are identified by address and are described on a survey form approved by the SHPO. Two photographs of each property were taken. These photographs are 5" x 7", 35 mm, glossy, black and white and are included within each file. The original forms, photographs, files and research materials have been deposited with the Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office at the Oklahoma Historical Society in Oklahoma City. Copies of the survey forms, photographs, and the report have been deposited with Tahlequah.

During the project, the research team of Meacham & Associates took the following steps:

1. Archival research was conducted to establish the dates the additions were platted, the dates of construction of properties in the area and the history of Tahlequah. Research was conducted in Tahlequah at local libraries, museums, and the courthouse. Additional research was conducted at the Oklahoma Historical Society and the Western History Collections at the University of Oklahoma.

The methodology used for obtaining information concerning the survey included a combination of archival research and field surveys. The following procedures were followed:

1. Plat maps and land use maps were obtained.
2. Existing materials at the local and state level were reviewed, including:
    a. Vertical files at the Oklahoma Historical Society
    b. Vertical files at the Tahlequah Public Library
    c. Vertical files of the Tahlequah Planning Department
    d. Records from the Cherokee County Courthouse
    e. Vertical files from the library at Northeastern State University
    f. Sanborn maps from the Western History Collections at the University of Oklahoma

3. A reconnaissance-level survey of the area was conducted.
4. Minimum-level documentation was completed on two-hundred-and-ninety-six (296) properties within the survey boundaries.
6. Streetscape photographs were taken illustrating each identified district.
7. Maps of the surveyed areas were also completed.

The following types of properties were looked for during the historical/architectural survey of Tahlequah:

1. Residences
2. Schools
3. Neighborhood stores
4. Churches
5. Commercial Buildings
6. Government Buildings

These types of properties were evaluated for their architectural significance and their historical significance. Architectural significance was determined by a visual survey of Tahlequah. The potential historical significance of the buildings was evaluated from archival information.

Project Objectives

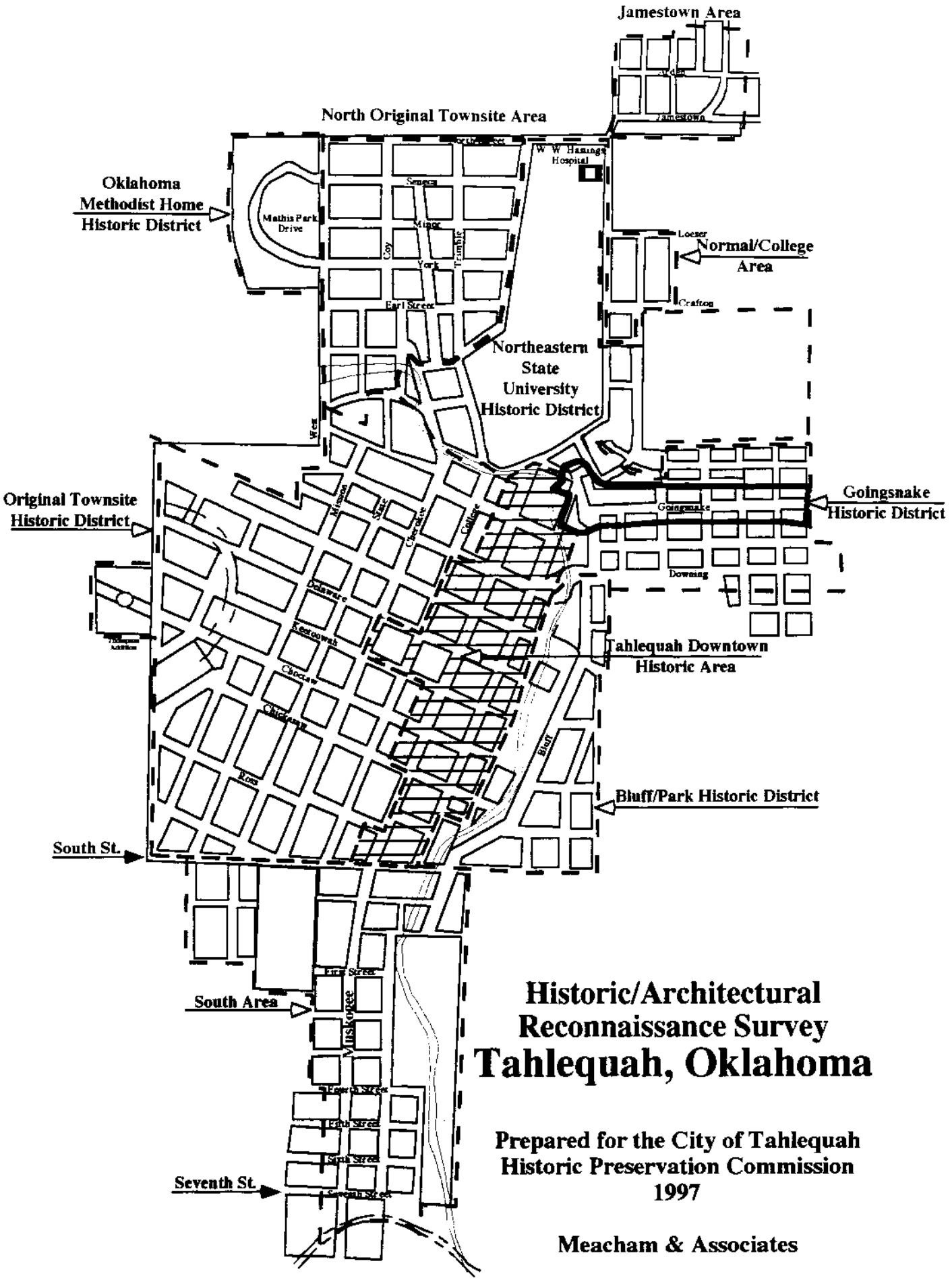
The survey focused on the following objectives:

- To identify in the study area those individual properties and potential district(s) which, on the basis of age (over 40 years old) and integrity, warrant further study to determine eligibility for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

- To minimally document those individual properties and representative properties in potential districts which, on the basis of age and integrity, warrant further study to determine eligibility for listing in the National Register of Historic Places and to substantiate such assessments

- To identify and characterize those areas which, on the basis of insufficient age or integrity, warrant no further study to exclude them from consideration for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places and to substantiate such assessments.

- To identify and annotate all reference material necessary for completing National Register nominations of properties and districts, located in the study area that have been determined to warrant further study.



Historic/Architectural Reconnaissance Survey
Tahlequah, Oklahoma

Prepared for the City of Tahlequah
Historic Preservation Commission
1997

Meacham & Associates

Description of the Survey Area

The approximate boundaries of the survey area are North Street on the north, Cedar Avenue on the east, Eighth Street on the south, and West Avenue on the west. The survey area does not include the southeast additions east of Basin Avenue and south of South Street and Ross Street, the additions directly east and south of Maple Avenue and Downing Street, or the additions east of Grand Avenue, between the College and Normal additions and Jamestown Addition. The survey area represents the boundaries of Tahlequah, Oklahoma in 1947.

Tahlequah is a city of slightly rolling hills that surrounds Tahlequah Creek, a clear creek and its natural spring. The spring is located in the center of the city. The southern boundary of Northeastern State University is situated directly on the spring. Tahlequah Creek, which runs from the spring, winds toward the east and then towards the south around the east side of the downtown area. East of the downtown, Tahlequah Creek is surrounded on both sides by the city-owned Sequoyah Park. Above the park is a bluff which rises dramatically upward and looks over the city towards the west. Bluff Avenue, a winding road, has been carved along the side of the bluff and residences are located on the east side of the street. These residences are included in a potential historic district which includes the bluff, the Tahlequah Creek bed below, and Sequoyah Park.

The downtown area is situated in the middle of the city and runs north-south along Muskogee Avenue for approximately seven blocks. One- and two-story brick commercial buildings line the avenue with smaller commercial buildings on most of the side streets. Water Avenue, which is located one block east of Muskogee and also runs north-south, has a mixture of commercial and light industrial buildings. In the center of the downtown area is the Cherokee National Capitol (NHL 1966), which is situated in the middle of a city block. Built in 1867-1896, it is the focal point of the downtown area.

Located two blocks east of the downtown and surrounded on two sides by residential properties, is the Cherokee County Courthouse. This block also contains Tahlequah City Hall and the Tahlequah Public Library. This block and these buildings are included in the Tahlequah Downtown Historic Area.

The residential area which is west of the downtown contains the largest number of older homes

which remain intact. All of these properties are included in the proposed North Original Townsite Historic District and are situated on slightly rolling hills.

Located northwest of the North Original Townsite District is the Oklahoma Methodist Home District. The Home was established in 1946 and the entire group of buildings is located in the Methodist Home Addition. The area surrounding the south, west, and north sides of the addition are open space.

North of downtown and south of Northeastern State University is a creek bed formed by the spring and a drainage area and hill which physically separate the southern part of the Original Townsite from the northern half. Summit Avenue is located on the highest point of the Original Townsite and serves as the northern boundary of the Original Townsite Historic District. The remainder of the Original Townsite, which is located north of Circle Street, south of North Street, east of Jones Avenue and west of Seminary Avenue is somewhat less hilly.

The southern portion of the survey includes both sides of Muskogee Avenue as it runs south toward the southern edge of the city. A portion of this area includes Nursery Park Addition, Wolf Addition, Cherokee Addition, and Guinn Addition which were platted as early as 1909. These areas include some older residential properties. The majority of this area is flat and dominated by commercial properties constructed after 1950. These include strip shopping centers, fast food restaurants, automobile-related properties, and other commercial businesses.

Across Tahlequah Creek and northeast of the downtown district is the Goingsnake Historic District. This area is also hilly and populated with older homes from as early as the late 1800s. The backbone of this district is Goingsnake Street. This area is bounded on the west and north by university-related properties. Downing Street, a major thoroughfare which also serves as State Highways 51 and 62, forms the southern boundary of Goingsnake Historic District. The 1947 city limits, set at Cedar Avenue, form the east boundary.

Normal Addition, a small area platted in 1909, and College Addition, platted in 1940, were also included in the 1947 city limits. This small residential area is located on the east side of Grand Avenue across from Northeastern State University. It includes some housing built prior to 1952, however, a number of properties were built in the years that followed. The topography is somewhat flat in this district.

The final area surveyed which was included in the 1947 limits of the city is the Jamestown Addition. This addition was platted in 1947 with the majority of houses being completed by the late 1950s. This neighborhood is also is representative of the hilly topography of Tahlequah.

Overall the survey area can be defined as a core area formed by the Original Townsite. This core area is set on a diagonal which was formed using Tahlequah Creek as the east boundary. The area includes approximately fifty blocks within the Original Townsite Historic District, approximately eighteen blocks within the Downtown Historic District, and ten blocks within the Bluff/Park Historic District. Within the core area is the natural spring which forms Tahlequah Creek, Tahlequah Creek, the bluff, the downtown, the largest number of historic residential properties, and government offices including city, county, and national. Platted prior to the arrival of the railroad, it appears that the diagonal placement of the Original Townsite was determined by the spring. The Cherokee National Capitol was constructed to face southeast - directly perpendicular to Tahlequah Creek.

Jutting north from the spring, with streets running north-south and east-west, is the North Original Townsite area. It includes approximately twenty blocks. Reaching towards the east is the Goingsnake Historic District, which also forms the eastern portion of the survey area. It includes approximately twenty-four blocks. The southern portion is bounded on the south by Eighth Street and includes approximately thirty-five blocks. The Oklahoma Methodist Church Home Historic District is located at the northeast corner of the North Original Townsite Area. The entire area includes approximately 175 city blocks.

Results

Two hundred and ninety-six properties located within the boundaries of the designated survey area have been documented and photographed. The physical characteristics, style, and date of construction were taken into consideration in order to have a true representation of the city. Fourteen (14) properties were documented in the Bluff/Park Historic District, forty-two (42) properties were documented in the Goingsnake District, ten (10) properties were documented in the Jamestown Area, one (1) property was documented in the Northeastern State University Historic District, two (2) properties were documented in the Oklahoma Methodist Home District, one hundred and twenty-two (122) properties were documented in the Original Townsite Historic District, forty-seven (47) properties were documented in the Tahlequah Downtown Historic Area, eleven (11) were documented in the Normal/College Area, twenty-four (24) were documented in the North Original Townsite Area, and twenty-three (23) were documented in the South Area.

Types of Properties Identified

Property types sought in the survey area included:

1. Residences
2. Schools
3. Neighborhood stores
4. Churches
5. Commercial Buildings

The following types of properties were identified in the Architectural/Historic Reconnaissance-Level Survey of Tahlequah:

Domestic Dwellings

Two hundred and twenty single and multiple residences were documented in the survey. These included a wide range of architectural styles popular from the later half of the nineteenth century through the present. Approximately 40 percent of the properties documented were built before 1915 and represent styles typical of both the latter part of the nineteenth century and the early part of the twentieth century. Some of these styles include Italianate, Gothic, Folk Victorian, National Folk, and Queen Anne.

Commercial Buildings

Approximately fifty surveys properties documented were used for commercial or professional purposes. Most of these buildings are two stories with brick exteriors and wood or aluminum and glass storefronts. The majority of these buildings were located in the Tahlequah Downtown Historic Area and were built during the first quarter of the twentieth century.

Educational Facilities

Two educational buildings were documented during the project. These include the Health Center and the Ceramics Building on the Northeastern State University campus. The Northeastern State University campus was identified as potentially eligible for listing as a historic district in the National Register of Historic Places. The Cherokee Female Seminary (NR 1973), located on the south side of the Northeastern State University campus, is currently listed in the Register and there are a number of other buildings which may also be eligible. There were two public schools located in the study area. These include the Sequoyah Elementary School and the Tahlequah Middle School.

Churches

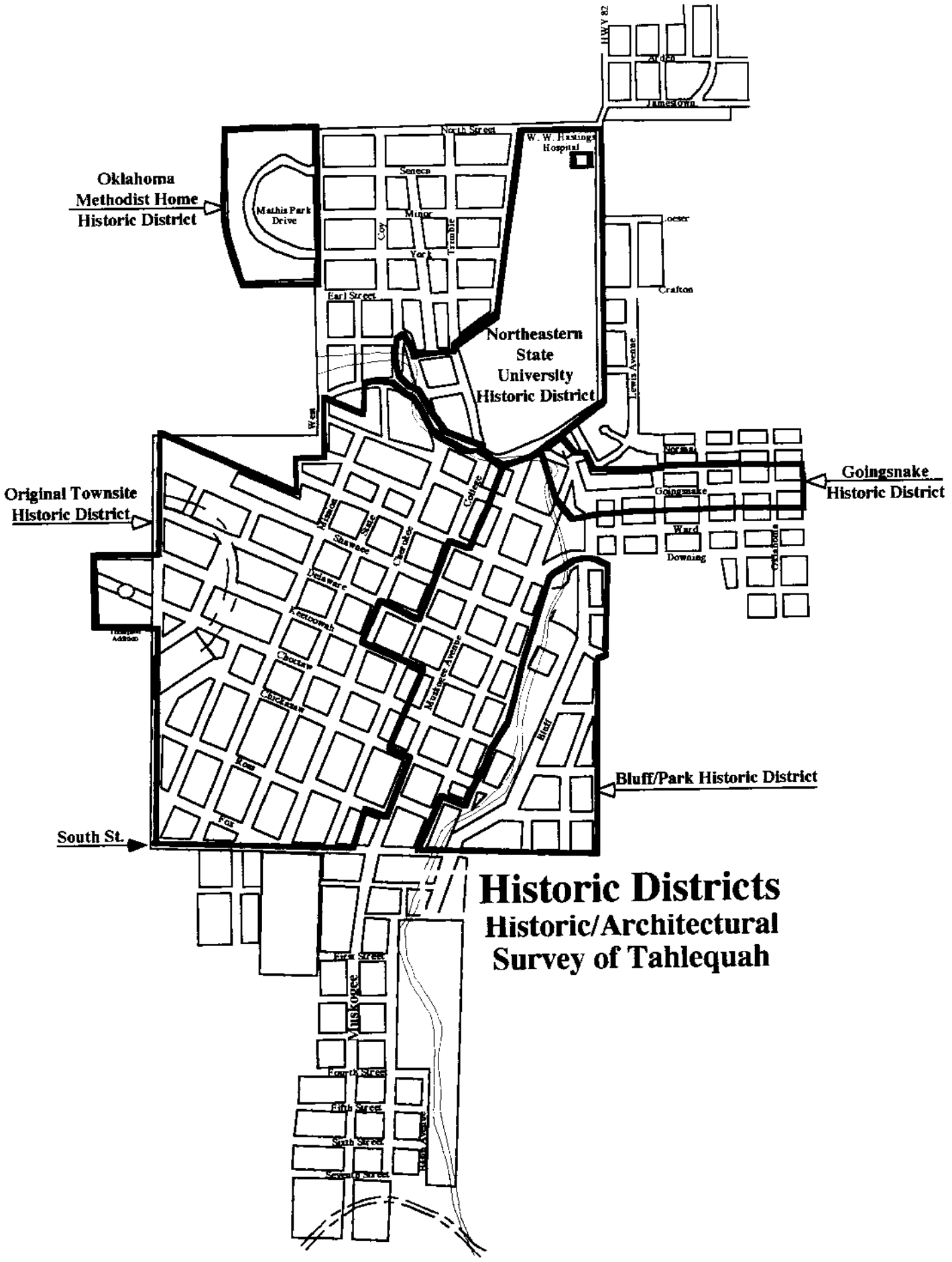
Fifteen buildings used for religious purposes were documented. These included buildings constructed as churches and other properties which have been altered and are currently used for religious purposes. Two of the religious properties documented are located on the grounds of the Methodist Home. This area is included in the Methodist Home Historic District.

Others

Other property types in the survey include one theater, one meeting hall, one post office, one hospital (now used for education), the Cherokee National Capitol, and one electric station.

Districts Potentially Eligible for Listing in the National Register of Historic Places

The survey area was divided into ten sections. These areas were determined by combining a visual survey of the topography, the landscape, and the buildings. The visual survey was combined with the historical background of Tahlequah. Five of the ten areas were identified as potentially eligible historic districts. This determination was based on the survey results, historic contexts, and visual observations by the survey team. These districts were selected as potentially eligible based on the


Oklahoma Methodist Home Historic District
Northeastern State University Historic District
Goingsnake Historic District
Original Townsite Historic District
Bluff/Park Historic District
South St.
Historic Districts
Historic/Architectural Survey of Tahlequah
HWY 82
Ardeen
Jamestown
North Street
W. W. Hastings Hospital
Seneca
Minor
Cox
Trimble
York
Earl Street
Crafton
Lewis Avenue
Normal
Goingsnake
Ward
Downing
Oklahoma
Muskogee
Shawnee
Cherokee
College
Delaware
Keetoowah
Choctaw
Chickasaw
Bluff
Madgred Avenue
Elm
Fox
Main Street
Muskogee
Fourth Street
Fifth Street
Sixth Street
Seventh Street
Park Avenue

architectural similarities, the historic context, and the geographic boundaries of the areas.

The largest district is the Original Townsite Historic District which is located directly west of the downtown and surrounds the Cherokee County Courthouse Complex on two sides. The remaining four areas determined potentially eligible for listing on the National Register range from less than twenty properties to a twenty-block neighborhood. These include two residential neighborhoods: the Bluff/Park Historic District and the Goingsnake Historic District. It also includes the Methodist Home Historic District and the Northeastern State University Historic District.

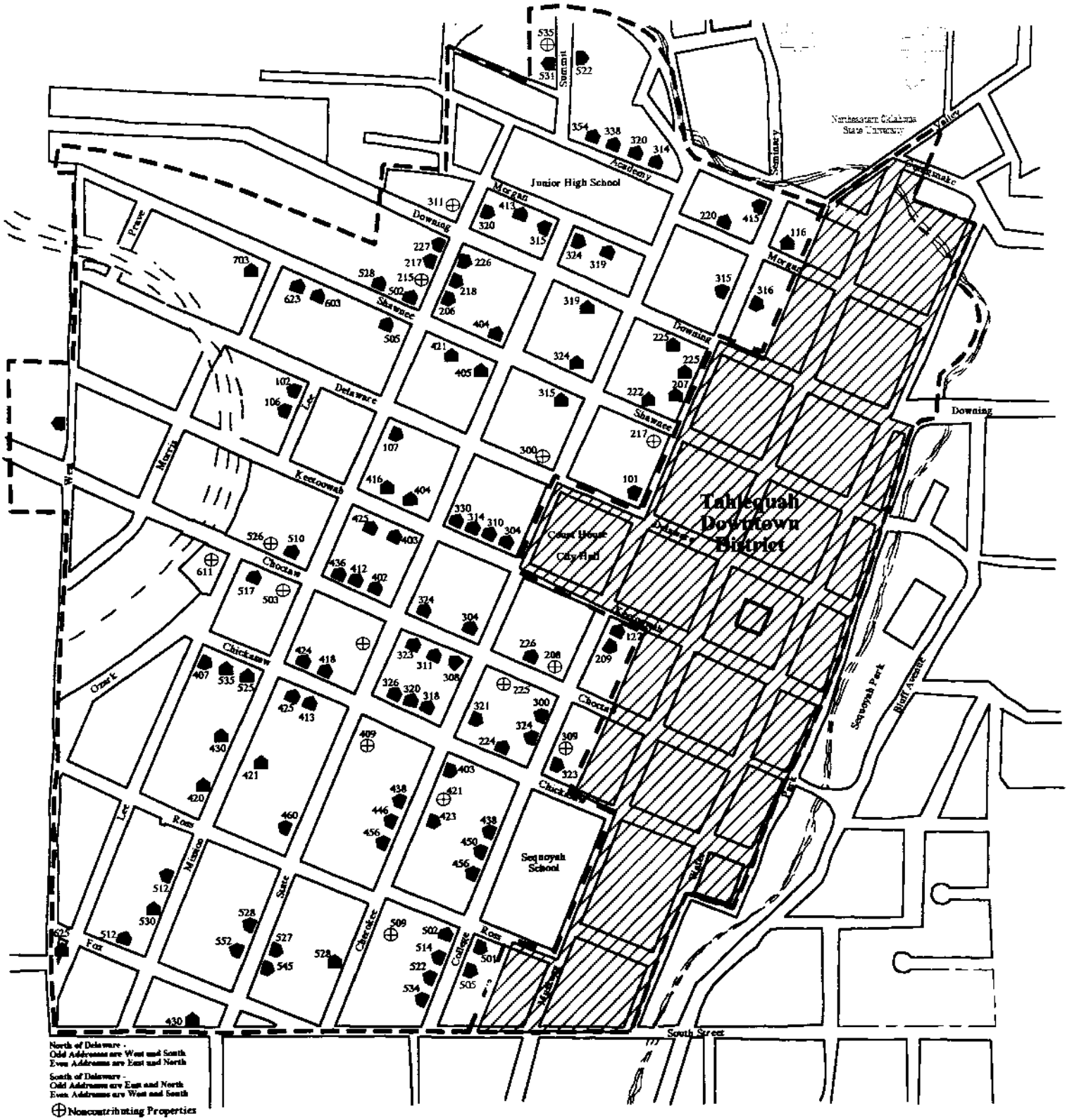
Original Townsite Historic District

The Original Townsite Historic District is the largest area identified in the survey area and it is also identified as potentially eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. The Original Townsite Historic District is directly west of the Tahlequah Downtown Historic Area and includes approximately fifty blocks. This neighborhood was built on the rolling hills that are indicative of Tahlequah's terrain.

The range of properties includes houses built during the later part of the nineteenth century through the post-World War II years. The majority of the residences were constructed prior to 1940 and the styles include Folk Victorian, Queen Anne, Bungalow/Craftsman, Tudor Revival and a few other revival styles. These houses include excellent examples of each style, particularly the earlier styles. The architecture of the district and the history of its' occupants combine to potentially qualify this area as a National Register historic district.

Many of the original homes were built on combined lots with room for large gardens and out buildings. As the city grew, many of these lots were sold and houses from later periods now separate many of the older residences. During the 1940s and 1950s some of these lots were infilled with Ranch style residences. These properties are not dominant.

The northern boundary of this district are the lot lines behind the residences which are located on the north side of Academy Avenue. Academy Avenue is located along the ridge of one of the higher hills, with Tahlequah Creek located at the bottom of the hill on the north side. The southern boundary is South Avenue, the southern boundary of the original diagonally designed street grid. The west boundary is West Avenue, the western boundary of the diagonal street grid pattern. There is little development west of this north-south avenue. The east boundary is the Tahlequah



Original Townsite Historic District

Historic/Architectural Survey of Tahlequah

Downtown Historic District (mainly College Avenue). This residential area is quite significant for the role it played in the development of Tahlequah. Many of the older houses remain standing and were built by the early leaders of the area. The residences range in size from small to large, however, there are none that could be described as "mansion-sized." Significant houses in this neighborhood include the French-Parks House, 209 West Keetoowah, the Indian University of Tahlequah, 320 Academy, and the Joseph M. Thompson House, 300 S. College.

On the west side of the district is a curved portion of the old railroad grade. The railroad easement is still very visible and there are a number of remaining industrial buildings extant along the old line. State Highway 51 runs through the district along Choctaw Street, dividing the district into almost two equal sections.

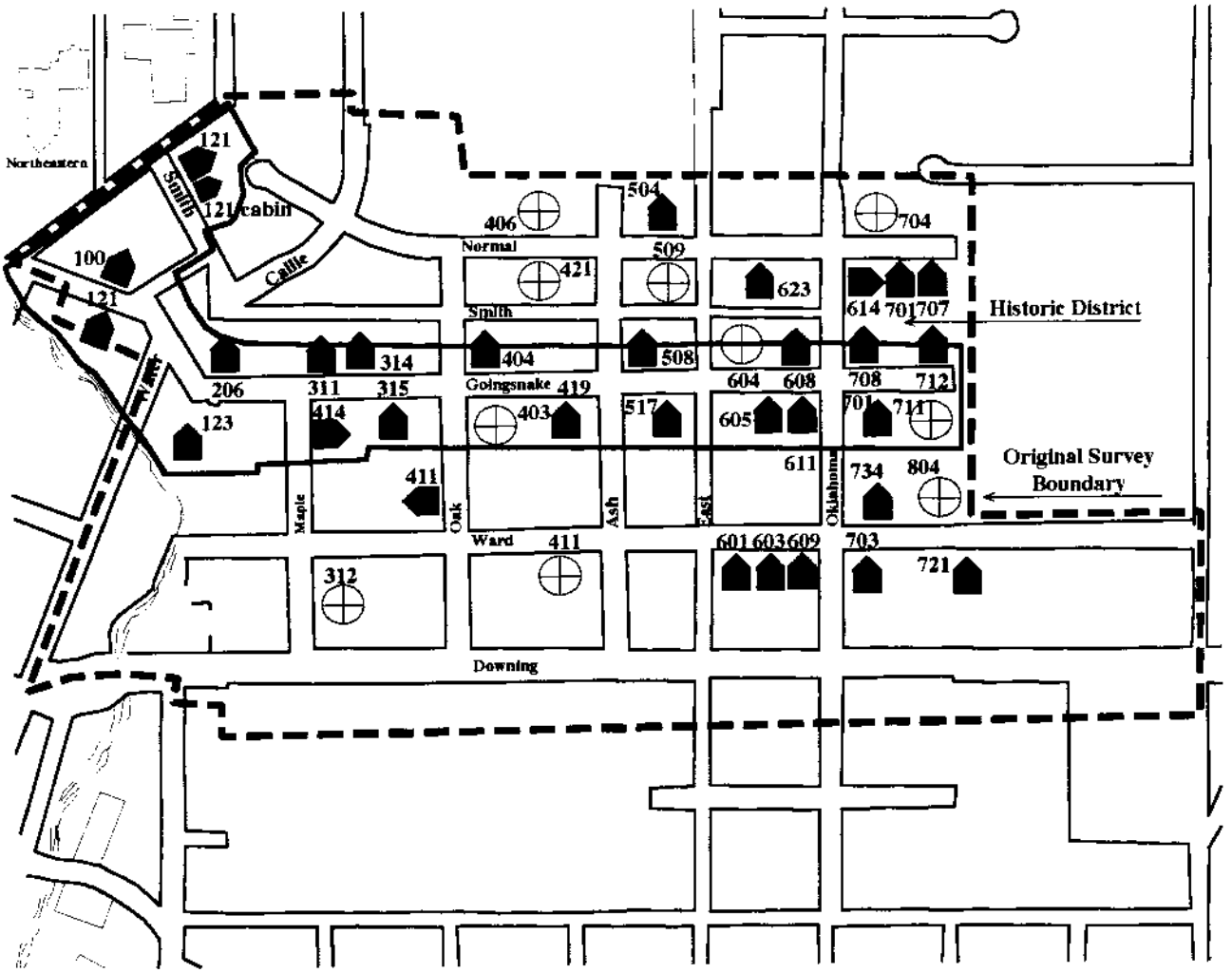
This neighborhood has played an important role in the development of Tahlequah and is both architecturally and historically significant.

Goingsnake Historic District

The Goingsnake Historic District is located slightly northeast of downtown Tahlequah. The centerpiece of the district is Goingsnake Avenue which is located in the Original Townsite and the Oak Park Addition, which was platted in 1909. This neighborhood rises from the bed of Tahlequah Creek at the north end of the downtown and the south boundary of the university and winds upward toward the east.

The area surveyed included several streets north and south of Goingsnake Street. This area was sparsely settled during the late 1800s and early 1900s and many lots remained vacant until the 1920s. Goingsnake, the main thoroughfare of the district, has the largest collection of Folk Victorian and Queen Houses in the neighborhood and retains the highest degree of overall integrity.

The streets both north and south of Goingsnake Street also contain numerous examples of Queen Anne and other styles popular at the end of the 19th century. Interspersed among these houses are bungalows and Craftsman style houses. Houses of later eras, including Ranch style residences and others from the 1950s, 60s, and 70s are also located adjacent to the identified district. One of the focal points of this district is the Loeser house and Loeser Cabin (NR, HABS 1978) located at the far northwest corner of the district. The cabin is one of the oldest residential properties in the city.



⊕ Noncontributing

Goingsnake Historic District

Historic/Architectural Survey of Tahlequah

The Goingsnake Historic District includes only those properties which face Goingsnake Avenue and are located between Valley Avenue on the west and the east edge of Blocks 4 and 5 of the Oak Park Addition. This boundary is also the west boundary of Cherokee School.

This neighborhood has played an important role in the development of Tahlequah and is both architecturally and historically significant.

Bluff/Park Historic District

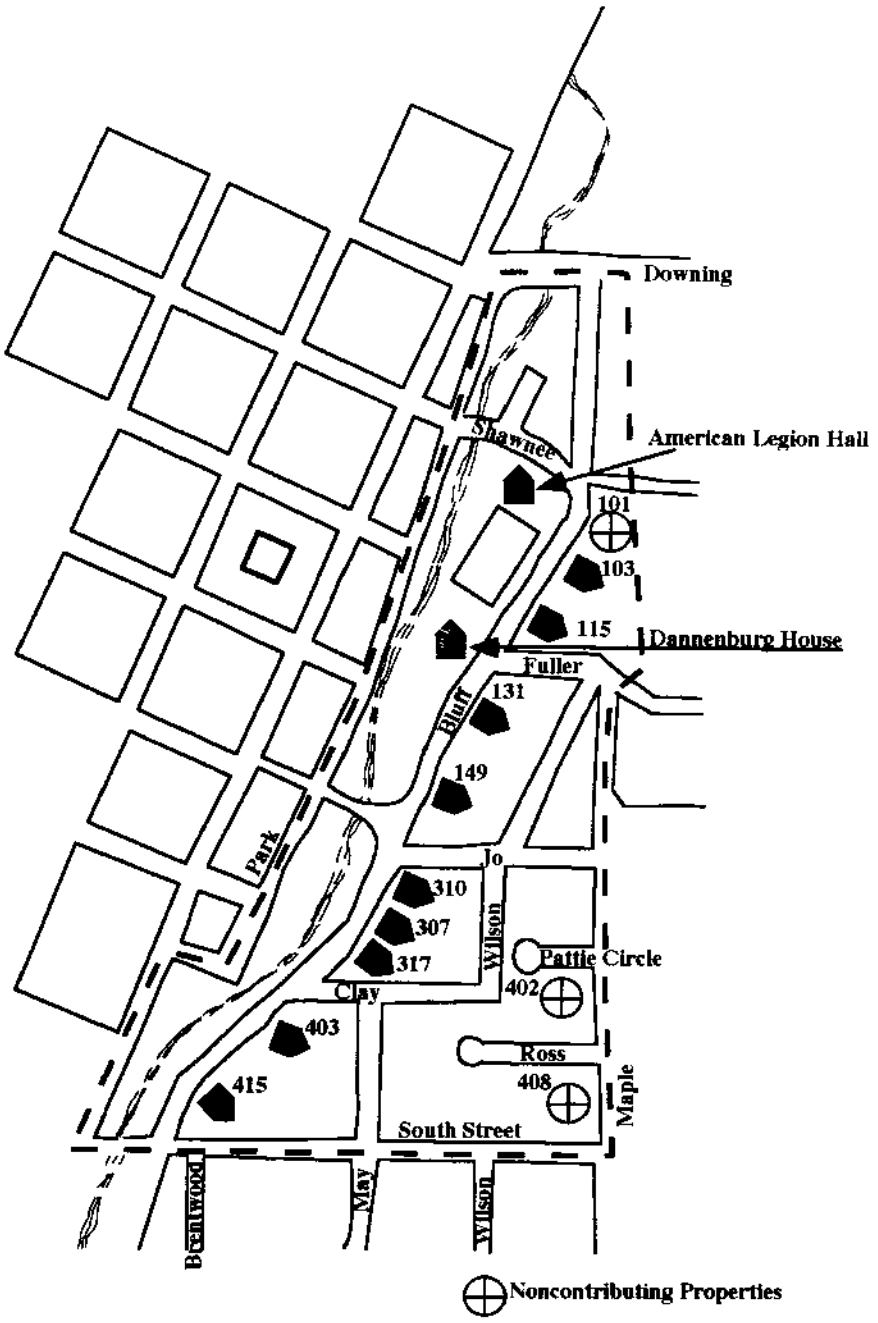
The Bluff/Park Historic District is located on the east side of downtown Tahlequah. This district includes the high bluff which looks over the west side of town and Tahlequah Creek at the bottom of the bluff which separates the bluffs from downtown Tahlequah. It also includes Sequoyah Park, a city-owned park which is located on both sides of Tahlequah Creek. The spring, located several blocks northwest from the bottom of the bluff, is cited as the primary reason for the settlement of Tahlequah. Tahlequah Creek, which comes from the spring, should be considered as an individual site and potentially eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

The western boundary of the district is Park Avenue on the west side of Sequoyah Park and Tahlequah Creek. The eastern boundary is the lot lines behind the residences located on the east side of Bluff Avenue. The northern boundary of the district is Downing Street and the southern boundary is South Street.

This district contains approximately ten blocks and thirty properties. The Okla Spradling/John C. Dannenburg House, built before 1890, is one of the most important properties in the district. Owned by the City of Tahlequah, it was built on the east side of Tahlequah Creek at the bottom of the bluff. This site is located in city-owned Sequoyah Park which runs along both sides of the spring at the bottom of the bluff. It is individually eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

The residences which sit along the east side of Bluff Avenue were built between the turn of the century and the 1950s. However, the overall integrity of the area remains and the natural site itself should be considered when an intensive survey of the district is conducted.

This area has played an important role in the development of Tahlequah and is both architecturally and historically significant.



Bluff/Park Historic District

Historic/Architectural Survey of Tahlequah

Northeastern State University Historic District

Northeastern State University Historic District is located directly north of downtown Tahlequah. The main campus is approximately two to three blocks in width and eight blocks in length. The school has also purchased additional property on the east side of Grand Avenue which is approximately equal to one-eighth of a section. The campus is slightly hilly.

Northeastern State Normal was established in 1909 when the funds were allocated to purchase the Female Seminary Building. Over the past 90 years the school has played an important role in the development of the city. Three buildings, the W. W. Hastings Hospital, the Health Center, and the Ceramic Building, located in the university district were surveyed. The Cherokee Female Seminary (NR 1973) is located on the main campus and is the focal point at the main south entrance.

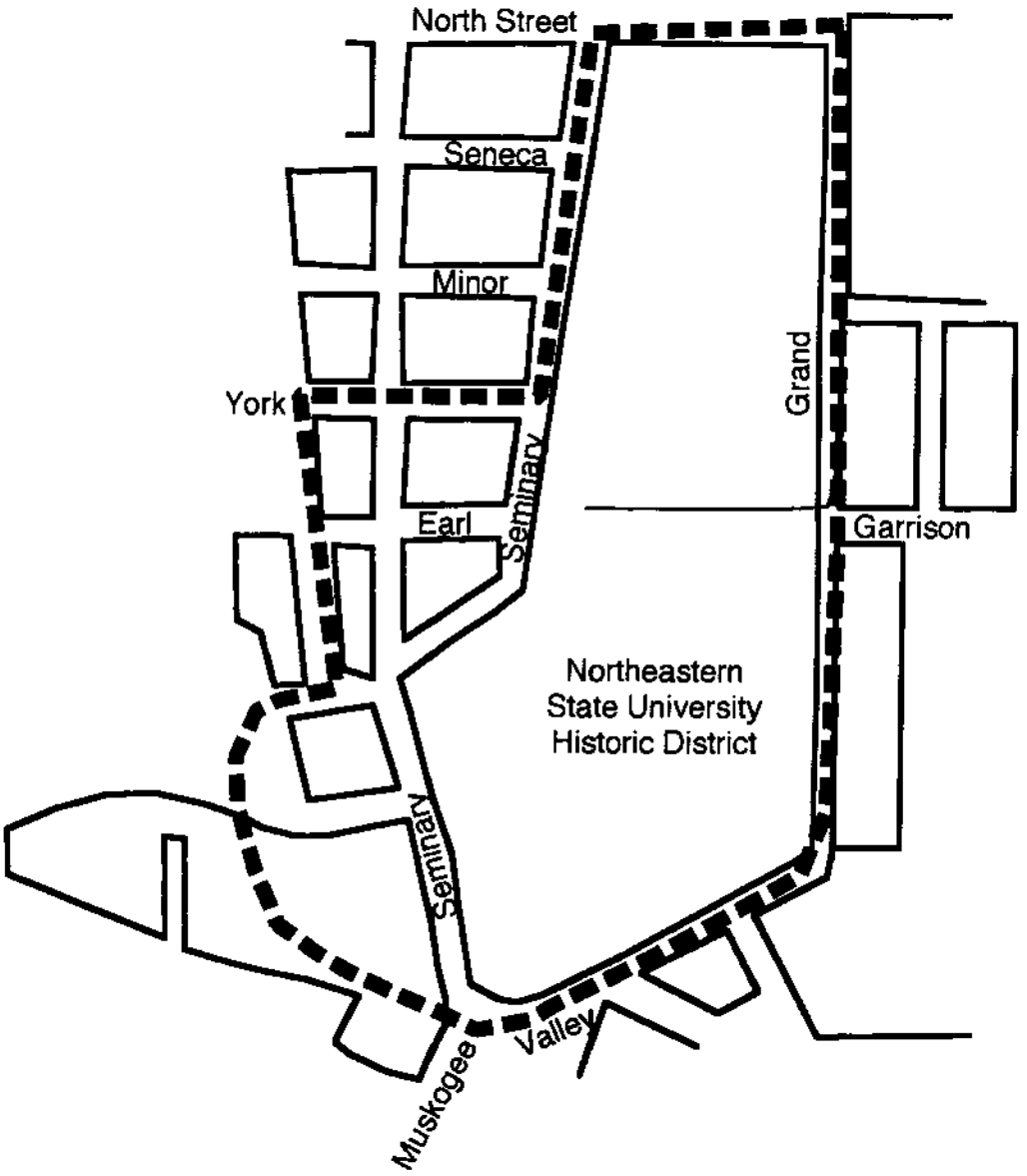
The campus has grown over the years, although there is a core of buildings which were built during the 1920s and other early decades. The focal point of the district is the Cherokee Female Seminary (NR 1973). This area includes both old and new buildings and over the years many alterations have occurred to the grounds and to the buildings. It appears that the campus has retained its overall integrity; however, a intensive survey of the area should be conducted.

This institution has played an important role in the development of Tahlequah and is both architecturally and historically significant.

Oklahoma Methodist Home Historic District

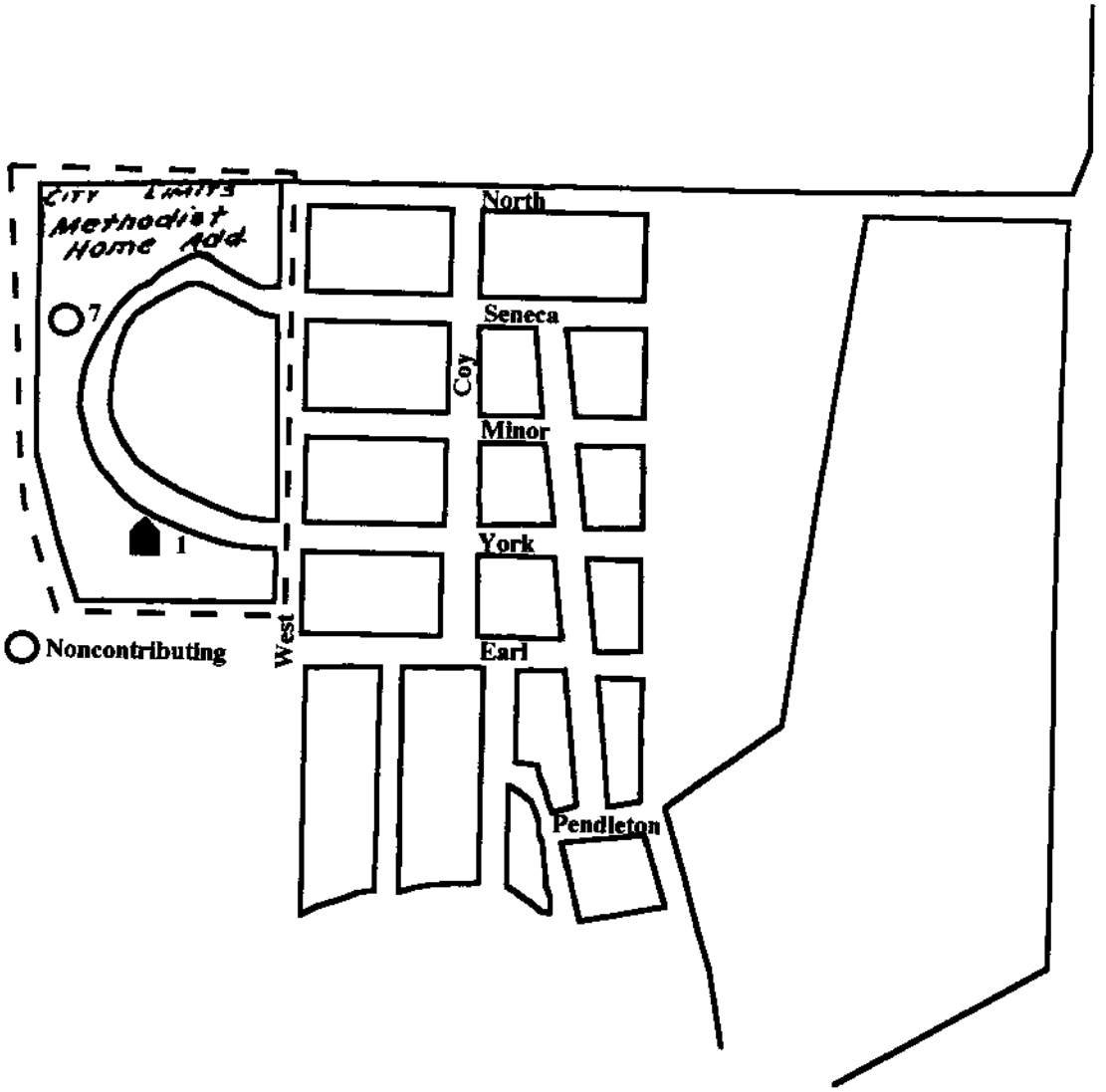
The Oklahoma Methodist Home Historic District is located at the northwest edge of Tahlequah. Established in 1946, this district includes approximately fifteen (15) buildings which were constructed for religious, educational, and residential purposes. Built as an orphanage, the buildings continue to be used for social services by the Methodist Church. The original buildings, constructed in the late 1940s and 1950s remain and a few newer buildings are included. The majority of the site, however, is an open space which was designed for play. This area includes a pool, tennis courts, and other areas for children and recreation.

This institution has played an important role in the development of Tahlequah and is both architecturally and historically significant.



Northeastern State University

Historic/Architectural Survey of Tahlequah



Methodist Home Historic District

Historical/Architectural Survey of Tahlequah

Ineligible Areas

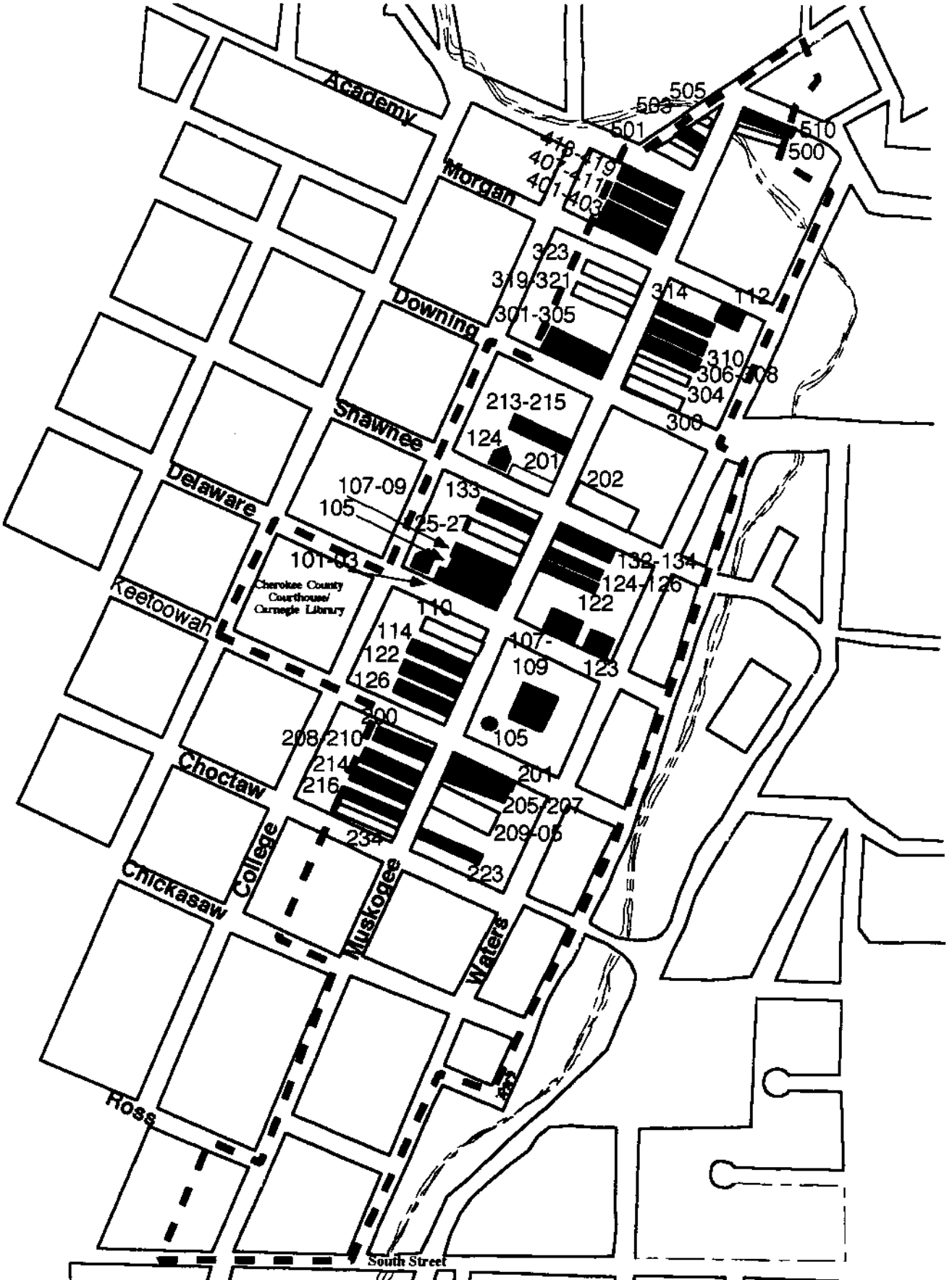
Five of the identified areas were cohesive geographically, architecturally and in some ways historically linked. However, because of the diverse dates of construction, recent construction within the past 50 years, and alterations to individual properties and to the overall area, these areas were determined to be ineligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places and intensive surveys are not recommended. Within these five areas no individual properties potentially eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places were located, with the exception of the downtown area.

Tahlequah Downtown Historic Area

The Tahlequah Downtown Historic Area is located in the heart of the city and the focal point of the district is the Cherokee National Capitol (NHL 1966). This building was constructed in 1867-1869 and remains virtually unaltered. It is centered in Block 75 of the Original Townsite and is surrounded on all four sides by commercial buildings. The main commercial street is Muskogee Avenue, which runs at a slight southwest-northeast diagonal similar to the direction of Tahlequah Creek. Commercial downtown properties are located on either side of Muskogee Avenue between Valley Avenue (the south entrance to Northeastern University) and South Street. The length of the district along Muskogee Avenue is eight blocks. Several blocks or half blocks are included on either side of Muskogee Avenue.

The Cherokee County Courthouse, located two blocks west of the downtown, is also included in the district. This complex of government buildings includes the Cherokee County Courthouse, the Carnegie Library, which remains extant, and the Tahlequah Hospital, which has been altered and now contains the Tahlequah City Hall. An addition to the Carnegie Library has also been constructed. The Original Townsite Historic District is located on the west side of the downtown district; the Bluff/Park District is located on the east side of the district; Northeastern State University is located on the north boundary of the district; and the South Area is located at the southern edge of the district.

The Tahlequah Downtown Historic Area contains primarily commercial one-and-two-story brick and stucco buildings constructed during the first quarter of the twentieth century. The oldest building is the Cherokee National Jail, built in 1844. The Cherokee National Capitol, listed as a National Heritage Landmark, is also located in the downtown area. Some of the one- and two-



Downtown Tahlequah Historic District

Historic/Architectural Survey of Tahlequah

story commercial buildings have been changed over the years and alterations include covering the facades with metal siding, wood shingle, siding, and other materials. However, many of the buildings remain similar in appearance to the original design. The upper stories of many of the buildings remain unchanged. On the side streets are a number of commercial buildings which are similar to the ones which line Muskogee Avenue.

The downtown has played an important role in the development of Tahlequah and there are a number of buildings which may be architecturally and/or historically significant. However, the overall integrity of the area has been affected by the extensive modifications to many of the buildings. This area was determined ineligible for consideration for listing in the National Register of Historic Places due to the lack of architectural and historical integrity and significance. With extensive research, however, there may be individual buildings that may be eligible for listing.

Jamestown Area

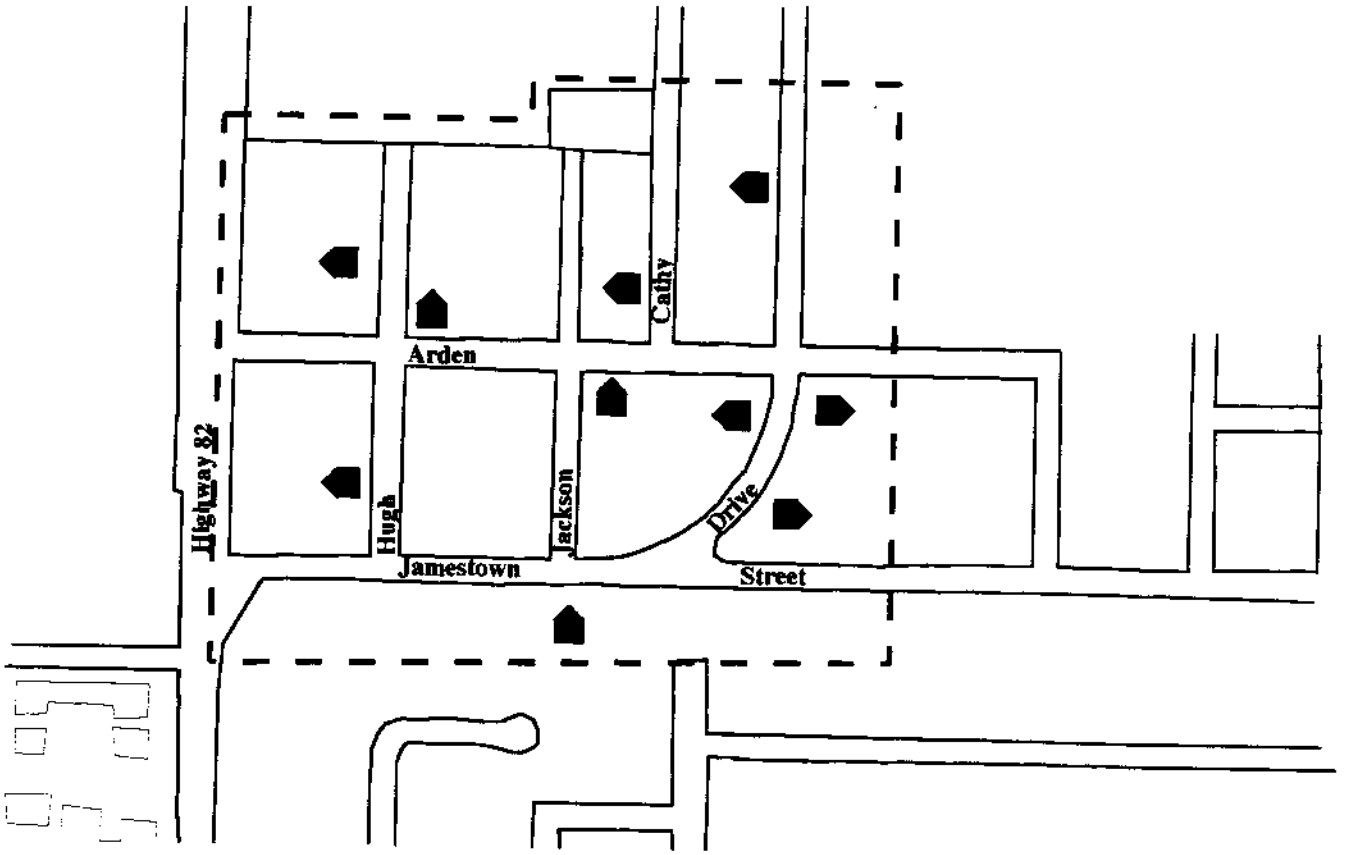
The Jamestown Addition Area was platted in 1947 and was included in the study because the majority of the houses are now almost fifty years of age. This addition includes excellent examples of World War II and post-World War II housing. These Ranch style residences range from small to slightly above medium size. They are typical of the style and include early versions with detached garages and later versions of the Ranch style with incorporated garages. The low, hip and gable roof lines, simple designs, and rectangular boxiness of these houses defines this area.

Although not associated with the early years of Tahlequah, this area has potential for listing in the National Register of Historic Places at a later date when the majority of properties are over fifty years of age.

Normal/College Area

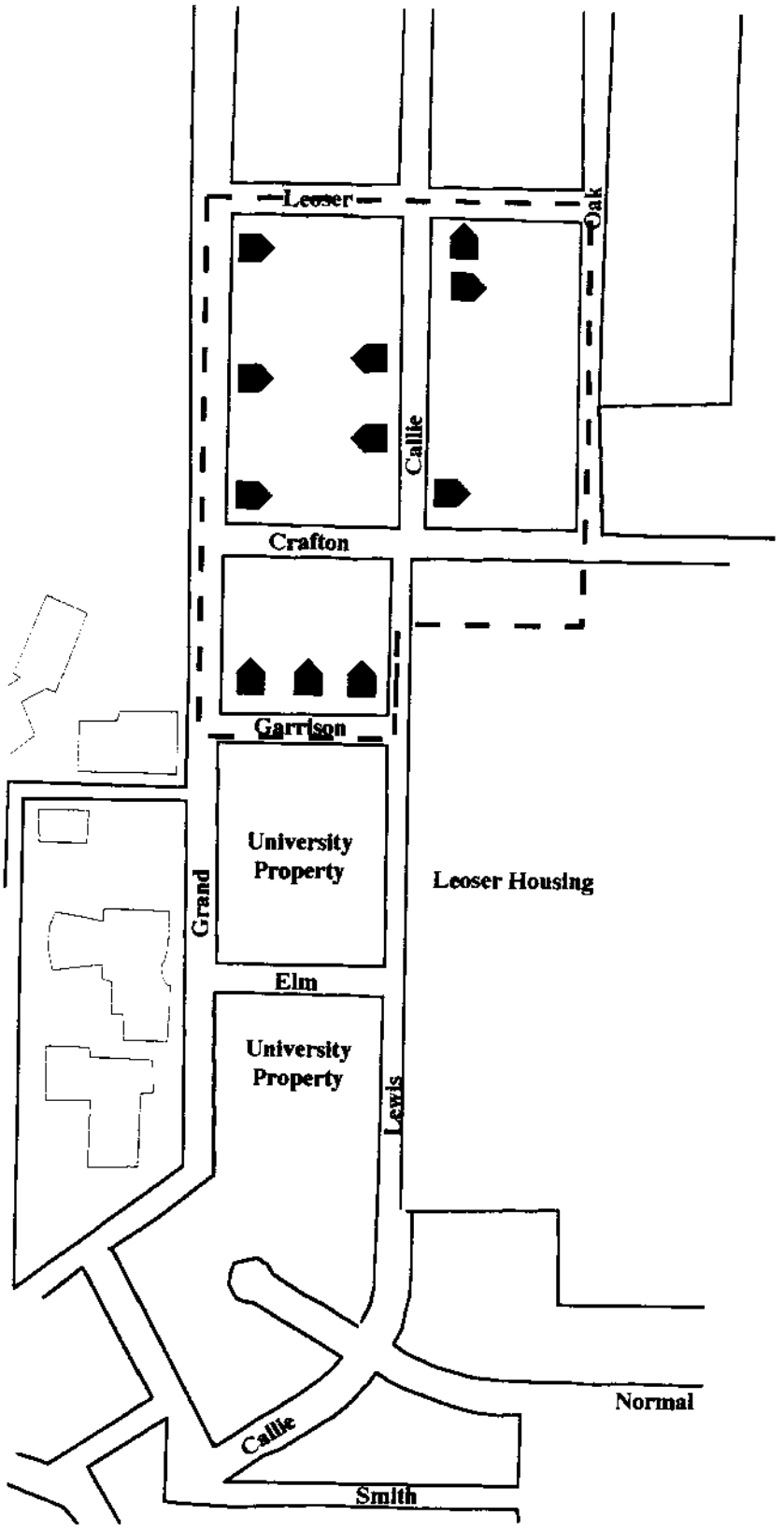
The Normal/College area was evaluated because the Normal Addition was platted in 1909 and the College Addition was platted in 1940. This area is located on the east side of Grand Avenue, directly east of Northeastern State University. It is slightly hilly. Almost completely surrounded by university-related properties, there is a lack of architectural and historical integrity in the area.

The majority of the older houses appear to be associated with the university and were probably constructed as houses for faculty and staff members of the school. Over the years a number of



Jamestown Area

Historic/Architectural Survey of Tahlequah



Normal/College Area

Historic/Architectural Survey of Tahlequah

different style houses were constructed representing many decades. Architectural styles represented in the Normal/College Area include Bungalow/Craftsman, Tudor Revival, and Ranch style residences. However, houses from the War II and the Post-War era dominate.

This area was determined ineligible for consideration for listing in the National Register of Historic Places due to the lack of architectural and historical integrity and significance. It does not warrant further study.

North Original Townsite Area

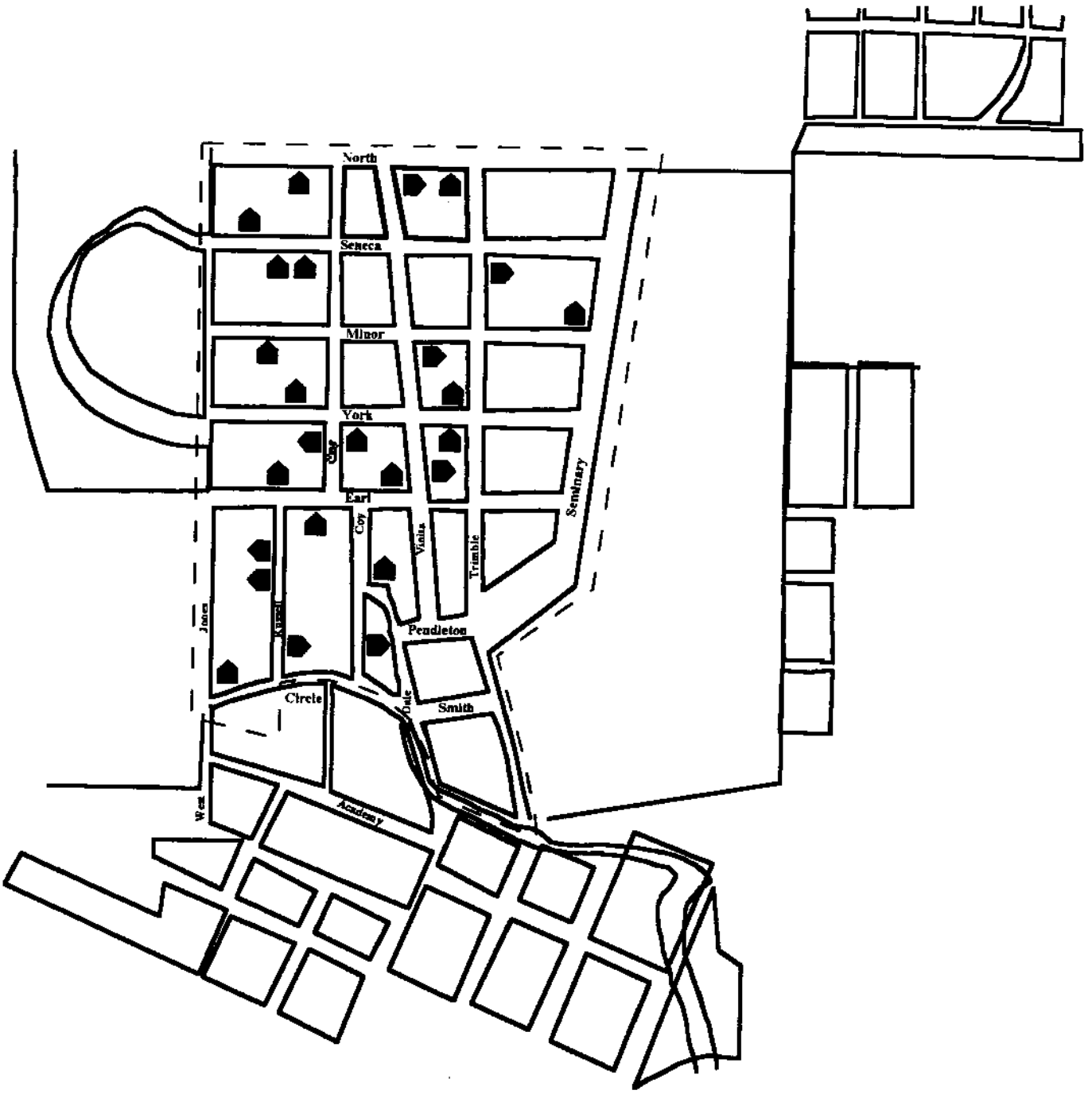
The North Original Townsite area is located north of downtown and north of the Tahlequah Creek bed which runs along Circle Street, Spring Street, and across Block 39 to Sequoyah Park. This area represents housing built from Tahlequah's early days through the last three decades. It is possible that the early houses were built on large lots or acreages and infill construction continued through the 1950s. This accounts for the lack of cohesiveness in the area.

Architectural styles in this area include folk style residences, small Queen Anne residences, Folk Victorian, Bungalow/Craftsman, Tudor Revival, and Mission/Spanish Colonial Revival style. Many of the residences in this area are small, with few defining architectural features or decorative details. This area is close to the university and many of the houses are rented to students.

The topography of the North Original Townsite area is slightly hilly on the south boundary, flattening out towards the north boundary. The hills and the creek are responsible for the design of the streets, particularly Circle Street, which wraps around the bottom of a large hill and follows Tahlequah Creek toward the downtown area.

Bounded on the north by North Avenue, the south by the geography of the south bank of Tahlequah Creek, the west by Jones Avenue and the east by the Seminary Avenue (Northeastern State University), this district was found ineligible for potential listing in the National Register of Historic Places due to its lack of cohesion.

This area was determined ineligible for consideration for listing in the National Register of Historic Places due to the lack of architectural and historical integrity and significance. It does not warrant further study.



North Original Townsite Area

Historic/Architectural Survey of Tahlequah

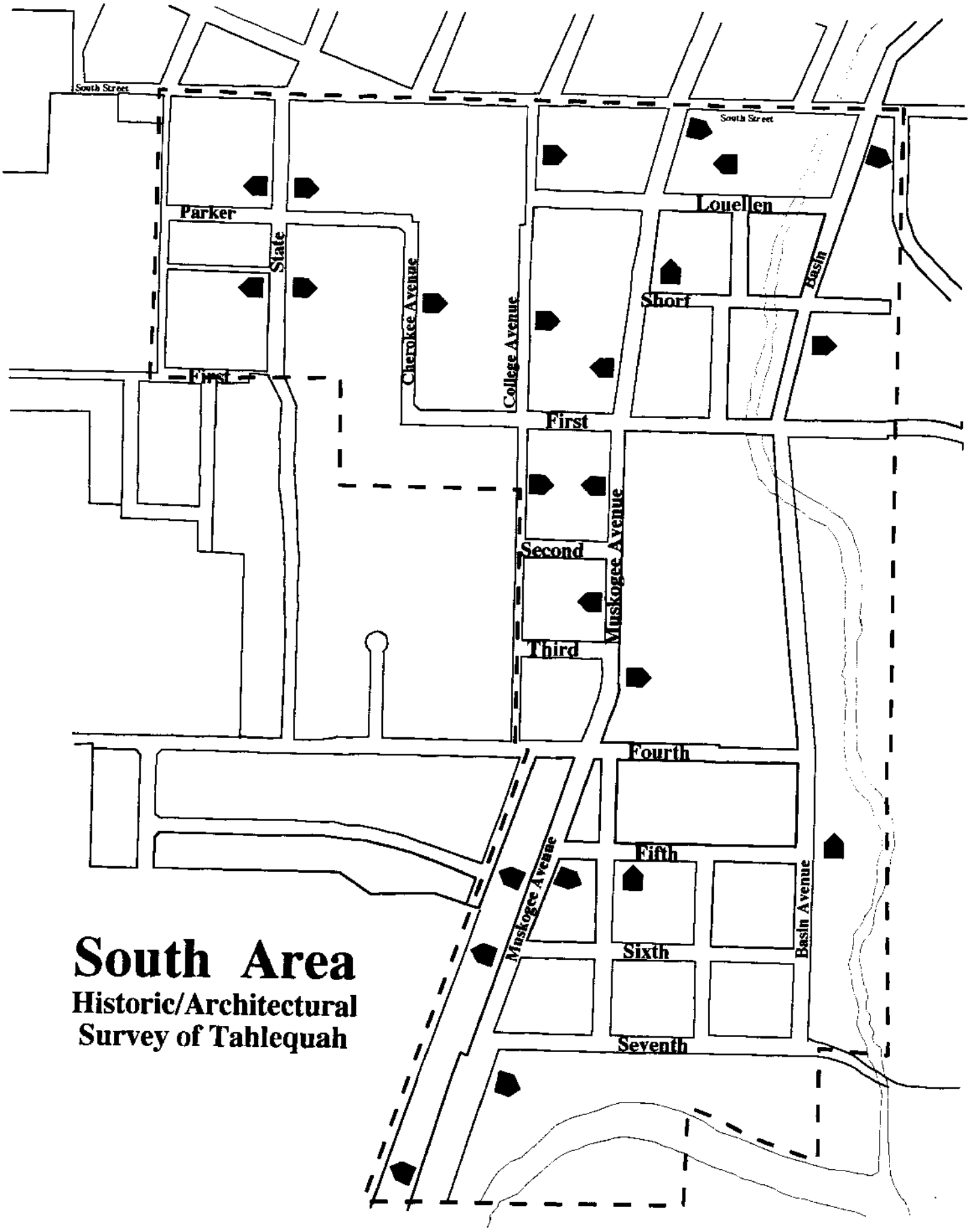
South Area

The South Area is located south of South Avenue and ends at Tahlequah Creek near Eighth Street. The western boundary includes the development along Muskogee Avenue and approximately one to two blocks west of Muskogee Avenue. The eastern boundary is primarily open space and includes several blocks east of Muskogee Avenue. The topography of the area slopes south toward a branch of Tahlequah Creek which runs east-west.

The majority of the properties located within this area are commercial and include shopping centers and fast food restaurants constructed during the past twenty years. Interspersed within this area are older commercial properties such as automobile repair shops, greenhouses, and other commercial properties. There are a few older residences constructed prior to 1925.

Muskogee Avenue (HWY 82) is the main north-south thoroughfare of Tahlequah and runs through the middle of the South area. Lining both sides of the avenue are strip shopping malls, fast food restaurants, and automobile-related businesses. This area serves as the main entry into the city. The area is limited to several blocks in width and on either side of these blocks are open meadows.

This area was determined ineligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places due to the age of the properties, the alterations of the properties, and the lack of architectural and historical significance. It does not warrant further study.



South Area

Historic/Architectural Survey of Tahlequah

Summary and Recommendations

The Reconnaissance-Level survey of Tahlequah revealed that a significant portion of the city located within the 1947 city limits warrants further study and five of the ten areas surveyed within the 1947 city limits are potentially eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. Architecturally and historically many of the city's buildings are significant to the history of Tahlequah and also to the state and to the nation. It is recommended that further study be conducted to determine if the recommended areas and districts qualify for listing in the National Register of Historic Places and that a historic preservation plan for Tahlequah be established to assist in any planning and development efforts which may impact these historic properties.

Recommendations

1. An intensive-level survey of the Original Townsite Historic District should be completed immediately. This residential district is the most likely to be impacted by continuing development.
2. Intensive-level surveys should be conducted of the Northeastern State University Historic District, the Goingsnake Historic District, the Bluff/Park Historic District and the Oklahoma Methodist Home Historic District.
3. When the overall age of the Jamestown Addition Area becomes more than fifty years, an intensive-level survey of this area should also be conducted.
4. Upon completion of an intensive-level survey of any identified district which is determined eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places, a nomination form should be prepared.
5. It is further recommended that upon completion of an intensive-level survey of the Original Townsite Historic District, a nomination form should be completed and a historic preservation plan for Tahlequah be prepared. The information included in the intensive-level survey reports and the nominations may be used as the foundation for a plan.
6. Although the Tahlequah Downtown Historic Area was determined ineligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places as a district, it is recommended that the area be surveyed to determine if any individual buildings are eligible for listing.

Historic Context

History of Tahlequah

The history of Tahlequah begins with the reuniting of the Cherokee Nation. A council meeting was held on September 6, 1839 on the banks of the Illinois River. It was here that two commissioners designated the site - Tahlequah - to serve as the capitol of the Cherokee nation. This site was almost in the center of the Cherokee's new homeland in Indian Territory. This area had been occupied by Native Americans 10,000 years before the Cherokees arrived. First by the Bluff People, later by the Caddoans. Then, from Louisiana came the French traders. One of the first Frenchmen to trade with Indians in the area was Charles Claude De Tisne, who arrived in 1719.

The Cherokees

In 1800 Spain relinquished the Louisiana Territory to France and three years later, in 1803, the United States purchased the area from Napoleon. Shortly after this time, the Osages took over the area, forcing both the Caddos and the Wichitas from the area. The Osages occupation was short-lived as tribes, such as the Cherokees, were pressured by the United States government to move further west. In 1803 Georgia ceded its claims to western land in exchange for the government extinguishing all Indian land titles within the state. As a result, the Cherokees, one of the members of the Five Civilized Tribes, had their land in Georgia reduced from 40,000 square miles to less than half that amount. Although the Cherokees clearly understood that their land had been taken away, they sought ways to stay in Georgia. First, they invited missionaries to live among them. Schools were built, members of the Cherokee tribe acquired slaves, built homes and tried to establish a permanent position in the white society. Other Cherokee (Tennessee Cherokees) moved farther west into western Arkansas and began to establish new homes, only to come into conflict with the Osage who were occupying the area.

Although it had been recommended that federal troops move into the area to establish peace, by 1817 the Cherokees and Osages were at war. At the same time the Eastern Cherokee made an agreement to move westward and the government promised to establish Fort Smith to help keep the peace. However, by 1824, conflicts between the Indian tribes and the federal troops around Fort Smith had settled down and a second fort was established further west at Fort Gibson. Two years later the area around Fort Smith was under siege - this time by whites wanting to move in to the region. Congress violated early agreements and in 1826 more land was given for white settlement.

The 1826 agreement left the Cherokee without a passageway to the plains and they once again went to Washington to try and secure a new, fair agreement. In 1828 another treaty changed the boundaries of the Cherokee lands. These boundaries included Tahlequah and the land around it for miles. This land was now occupied by the Tennessee Cherokees and the Western Cherokees. The Eastern Cherokees continued to occupy their original lands in Georgia. However, in 1830 the Indian Removal Act was passed and the Cherokees' removal from Georgia was inevitable. A treaty was signed in 1833 and the next year Georgia began opening the land occupied by the Cherokees for white settlement. The federal government began assisting in the removal of the Cherokees and between 1836 and 1838 removed over 2,000 Cherokees from Georgia to Indian Territory. By December of 1838 the last of the Cherokees began their western trip to Indian Territory, which was later called the Trail of Tears.

The struggle to settle in the new lands erupted in a civil war between the pro- and anti-treaty factions of the Cherokee Nation. At one point, the United States government almost passed legislation dividing the Nation into two parts. However, the Treaty of 1846 finally united the divided groups and a united Cherokee Nation was formed.

Tahlequah

The site of the Cherokee capital was selected in September of 1839 and four acres were designated as the original Townsite. Designed with a square in the middle for the capital building, log cabins were erected on the three corners of the site for the Senate, the Council and the Treasurer. These buildings remained until 1847. The original log cabins were followed by two building, twenty by twenty feet, with brick chimneys, one door and four windows.

In 1843, the Cherokee Council designated the 160 acres surrounding their capital as the township of Tahlequah. The town was located on the west side of the spring branch and after the survey was completed those who had established residences had to secure title to their lots. The remaining lots were sold. In 1844 a group of Mormons arrived in Tahlequah. They erected a kiln and supplied brick for many of the early Tahlequah buildings and residences. In 1845 a brick Supreme Court Building was completed near the site of the council buildings. Two years later the post office was established.

Fires plagued early downtown. Rows of one, two, and three-story frame commercial buildings were quickly consumed with flames once a fire began. Downtown Tahlequah was completely

destroyed in 1895 when a fire swept along both sides of Muskogee Avenue from Shawnee to Delaware. Afterwards an ordinance was passed that wooden building could no longer be erected in the business district.

The city incorporated in 1852 and its condition in the early 1850s was reported to be well arranged with a number of stores, a school and a church. During this decade the population varied from 350 - 500. The entire population of the Cherokee tribe in 1859 was approximately 21,000 plus 4,000 blacks. In addition there were approximately 1000 whites living in the Cherokee Nation.

With exception of the Supreme Court Building, most of the public buildings located in Tahlequah were destroyed during the Civil War. At the end of the war, in 1867, the National Council voted to approve construction of the Capitol Building, which was completed in 1869. This building was also used as the courthouse for many years. After the Capitol Building was completed, the Supreme Court moved from the Supreme Court Building and it was used by the Cherokee Advocate, a local paper. The building was also used by the Tahlequah District Court. The Supreme Court Building was destroyed by fire in 1874, but rebuilt with the same walls. Also built during the same time was the Cherokee National Jail (NR 1974). Originally the building had three floors; the third floor was removed in 1925.

During the 1890s white settlement continued to increase and the Cherokees were forced to accept individual land allotments and to dissolve tribal government. Shortly after the turn of the century Tahlequah's population reached 2000. The city acquired electricity in 1902, and in 1906 the Grand River Power company was organized and began to condemn land for Grand Lake. Public water works began in 1905 and also the laying of a public sewer system. The city continued to grow and the nearby cemetery was closed in 1905 and moved to the present site. The Sequoyah School, a two-story brick building was erected in 1906 and was the beginning of the Tahlequah public school system. In 1923 a high school was erected.

With the change from territory to state in 1907, the Cherokee sovereignty was abolished by the United States Government and Tahlequah was no longer the capitol of the Cherokee Nation. The brick Cherokee National Capitol building became the seat of Cherokee County. Shortly after statehood Northeastern State College, later Northeastern State University, was established in Tahlequah.

Commerce

The growth of commerce in Tahlequah was similar to other small cities in Oklahoma. Physically, the city still resembles the original plan platted during the 1840s. The spine of the city is Muskogee Avenue which runs north from the south end of the city, along the length of Northeastern State University, continuing north towards the open countryside. This avenue is lined with commercial enterprises, the oldest located in the center of the city just south of the campus. Along the outer edges of the avenue, commercial enterprises built after 1960 flank either side of the roadway. The other major commercial corridor, Downing Street, runs from the middle of the downtown, east across the creek, toward the Illinois River.

From the beginning, the outsiders who moved into Oklahoma looking for opportunities in Tahlequah built banking institutions, retail establishments, and small manufacturing companies. These businesses were supported by local residents, college students, and during the summer - the tourist trade. During World War I many of Tahlequah's residents joined the service and the city participated in programs to conserve food and donate funds for the war effort. However, the victory of the war was spoiled for many families when immediately following the war, an influenza epidemic killed hundreds in eastern Oklahoma. Tahlequah also suffered from the decline of the cotton industry which began in 1919.

There continued to be some growth in the city as a result of the growing tourism industry. A rustic inn, the Sycamore, was opened in 1923 by James P. Thompson. It was located three miles east of town on the Illinois river. There were also four hotels in town which were popular with tourists. In 1924 Tahlequah was called by statewide papers "Oklahoma's leading resort city." Sequoyah Park, a city park along Tahlequah Creek, was built in 1925. However, good roads were an issue. Tahlequah, like many other Oklahoma cities, lobbied for better roads from all directions. As the roads were improved, the number of tourists from Oklahoma and Arkansas increased.

During the late 1920s and early 1930s Tahlequah continued to be affected by the downfall of cotton and low prices for other crops such as corn. Similar to other areas in the state, foreclosures became commonplace. However, the increasing number of students attending the local state college accounted for some of Tahlequah's slow, but continued growth.

By 1930 the population was almost 2500. The local economy was assisted during the 1930s by the help of Congressman W. W. Hastings. Hastings represented Tahlequah in Washington for nine terms. Hastings was partially responsible for locating a medical facility for Native Americans

in Tahlequah. During the 1930s, the government also assisted in the construction of a new post office, a new sewage disposal plant, road paving, a National Guard Armory, and sidewalks. Two dormitories were also constructed on the Northeastern campus.

Tahlequah continued to slowly grow during the Great Depression. In 1930 the population was 2,495 and in 1940 it was 3,027. During the war agriculture helped sustain Tahlequah's progress. Full employment allowed residents to save during the war and build new homes and businesses after the war ended.

Some residential housing was constructed during World War II and the Jamestown Addition, platted in 1947, is evidence of some post World War II construction. Other post war expansion was provided by companies such as the Tahlequah Lumber Company, the Tahlequah Ready Mix Company, and the C & C Construction Company. By 1950 the population was 4,750 and by 1960 it had almost reached 6,000.

New housing has continued to develop over the last forty years. Noticeable commercial growth did not occur until the 1960s and 1970s when the commercial chain stores and restaurants began to move to south Muskogee Avenue.

Northeastern State University

In 1909 the Oklahoma legislature voted to buy the Female Seminary building, a 40 -acre tract of land and to set aside $70,000 for operations for the next two years for the establishment of Northeastern State Normal. The college opened in September of that same year and 180 students enrolled. In ten years enrollment had risen to 961 and new buildings included a bath house, an auditorium, and a heating plant. It was also renamed Northeastern State Teachers college, which changed it from a two year school to a four year school. During the 1920s a president's home was built, a gymnasium, and an Educational Building. The athletic field and stadium were constructed in 1936 as a Works Progress Administration project. Other buildings included two dormitories and an infirmary. The Arts and Crafts Building was also built with the assistance of the WPA.

Architectural Styles from 1840 - Early 1900's

Folk Style Architecture

The majority of Tahlequah's early residences and commercial buildings were built with local resources and are described in the literature as log houses. This style of architecture was initiated

in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, and Maryland where German immigrants introduced techniques of building with logs. This method was very different than the frame construction used by the English colonist. Most of the log houses had a one-room plan, with some constructing two rooms to be connected with a dog trot. This style of building continued until the railroads extended into new areas. In many instances, the old log cabin was incorporated into the new frame or brick residence and is no longer evident. If the cabin was not incorporated, it was generally taken apart and the materials used elsewhere. The Loeser Cabin, located at 121 E. Smith, is considered to be an excellent example of a log cabin.

A second tradition which is evident in Tahlequah is the construction of folk-styled brick buildings. The Cherokee Female Seminary, constructed in 1851 and almost demolished by fire in 1887, verifies the sophisticated construction methods for building brick structures which was brought from the East and from Georgia. An even earlier example which remains extant is the Cherokee National Jail, originally the Cherokee Supreme Court, built in 1844 of brick. In these cases, local clay was used and kilns were built to manufacturer brick. The early Cherokee government and education buildings used brick and it was also used to construct some of Tahlequah's early homes.

Some of the detailing associated with the Gothic Revival style, which was popular from 1840 until the 1900s, was used to decorate the brick buildings of Tahlequah. These features include steeply pitched roofs, gables with decorated verge boards, pointed-arches, and one-story porches for the entryways or used across the full-width of the facade. Paired and centered cross gables were also used.

For smaller, one-story residences, the plain, pyramidal style residence was popular. The hipped roof required fewer long-spanning rafters and were a popular urban house form throughout the country. Detailing from other styles was sometimes used. These included the round porch columns associated with the Colonial Revival style and the turned porch columns associated with the Queen Anne style of architecture.

Italianate Architecture

The Italianate style of architecture was popular between 1840 and 1885. Since these years coincided with Tahlequah's early years of development it is understandable that this style made an appearance. The availability of brick, which was commonly used for this style, and the need for little milled lumber also aided the popularity of the Italianate building. The Cherokee National Capitol was designed using this style and features which were used in the initial construction

included a square cupola (tower), tall, narrow windows, a low-pitched roof, and widely overhanging eaves with decorative brackets.

Located in Tahlequah's residential neighborhoods are several examples of the Italianate style of architecture which were built prior to 1890.

Queen Anne Architecture

The Queen Anne style of architecture was popular during the last decade of the nineteenth century and the first decade of the twentieth century. During this twenty year period many of Oklahoma's early residences were constructed. Many excellent examples have survived across the state because this style was used for some of the larger and more important residences constructed in the cities. This style is characterized by its steeply pitched roof with a hipped roof forming the center and cross gables to the front and sides. The gable ends are usually distinguished with patterned wood shingles, decorative verge boards, and spindle work. Wrap-around porches with turned columns and spindle work is also indicative of the style. There are a few examples of the Queen Anne style of architecture in Tahlequah. However, many residences with the detailing typical of the Queen Anne style are the more modest Folk Victorian style.

Folk Victorian

The Folk Victorian style, popular from 1870 through the early decade of the twentieth century, was widely used in the construction of housing in Tahlequah. This style is characterized by the use of detailing typical of the queen Anne style and includes porches with spindle work detailing, flat , jigsaw cut trim, symmetrical facades, and cornice-line brackets. The gable front and wing design of this style was very popular and evident in Tahlequah. This style was used for both one- and two-story residences. Folk Victorian houses can be distinguished from Queen Anne style residences by their lack of exterior features such as towers, elaborate wrap-around porches, and bay windows.

Architectural Styles from 1900-1935

Trends in housing design in America changed from decade to decade after the turn of the century. The Victorian period ended in the early 1900s and the Queen Anne style of architecture disappeared. Revival styles, particularly Colonial Revival, became popular. Housing for America's working man and family became in demand and the response was the Bungalow.

Bungalow/Draftsman Style

The Bungalow spread from California where it was made popular by Greene and Greene soon after the turn of the century. Soon rows of small, one-story Bungalows, and even neighborhoods filled with Bungalows, were found from coast to coast. Characteristically a small house for a middle-income family, the Bungalow was inexpensive to build. The Prairie style (popular between 1900 and 1920), a uniquely American architectural style derived from the designs of Frank Lloyd Wright and other Chicago architects; and the Craftsman style (1905-1930), similar to the Bungalow with an emphasis on nature and craftsmanship; also played an important role in residential housing between 1905 and 1930. An emphasis on horizontality, low-pitched roofs, exposed structural members, the use of native and natural materials, open-floor plans, and simple lines were shared characteristics of all three styles. The identifying exterior feature is a large front porch with massive brick, stone, or stucco piers capped with tapered, wooden columns.

The demands of World War I put a halt to much of America's residential construction. However, the decade which followed the war can be considered one of the building booms of the twentieth century. While newer housing was quickly built and purchased by the growing middle class, the small Bungalows surrounding America's downtown were filled with blue collar workers.

A record amount of houses were constructed during the 1920s and the price of housing was at an all time high. Men and women who had gone overseas during World War I were influenced by English architecture and one style in particular became very popular--Tudor Revival. Other revival styles had been popular since the turn of the century, a trend established with the Chicago Columbian Exposition of 1893. Anglo-American, English, French, and Italian houses, including Colonial Revival, Neoclassical, French Eclectic, and Italian Renaissance were designed by architects and built by the wealthy, later to be interpreted in style books and built by the middle class. California, Florida, and the southwest also borrowed from the architectural styles of their ancestors and the Spanish Revival style and Mission style dominated many of the neighborhoods in these locales.

Tudor Revival Style

The Tudor Revival style, however, most typified the 1920s. A steeply-pitched roof with multiple gables; a massive, front-facing chimney; arched doorways and windows; and narrow, multi-paned windows characterized this style. Noted in popular magazines for it hominess and charm, the Tudor quickly found favor with developers and also as a custom-designed home. Changes in construction methods, particularly the advancement of masonry veneering techniques, allowed for

this style to be easily constructed for any income level.

America's construction boom ended with the stock market crash in 1929 and during the first half of the 1930s construction was suspended. The elaborately detailed design of the Tudor Revival style quickly fell from favor and the simplistic lines of the Colonial Revival style carried through the early 1930s. The demise of the live-in servant and the popularity of the automobile both changed the size and appearance of the home. While some architectural details from almost all of the revival styles were used on the few homes constructed before 1935, the American house was beginning to make obvious changes.

While the population of America was growing, the amount of housing was shrinking. Few houses were constructed during the early 1930s and families often were forced to double up. It was not until 1934, when President Roosevelt established the Federal Housing Administration (FHA) to bring relief to the construction industry, that funds were available for new housing. In fact, the years preceding World War II were boom years for building. This government involvement had a definite impact on the design of the "modern" American house and residential neighborhood.

Prairie School Style

The Prairie School Style of architecture was very popular in Oklahoma. Typically the floor plan identifies the style, with four rooms downstairs and four rooms upstairs. This subtype is generally referred to as a Four Square. This style was popular both in the city and in the country. It can be identified by a low-pitched hip roof and a square body. The front porch is often as wide as the facade and will have heavy piers of brick or stone and will be topped with square, round or tapered wood columns.

Mission/Spanish Colonial Revival Style

The Mission or Spanish Colonial Revival style of architecture was popular in Oklahoma and most neighborhoods have a few examples. There are very few examples of this style in Tahlequah. This style is characterized by a stucco exterior, clay tile roofs, and arched windows and doors. The floor plan may be similar to a Prairie Style or Colonial Revival, however, some are similar to small bungalows.

National Register Buildings in Tahlequah

Tahlequah has several buildings listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The survey

indicates that there are other residential and commercial buildings that may also be individually eligible for listing in the National Register. All of the buildings identified as potentially eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places are located within identified historic districts. The following Tahlequah properties are currently listed on the National Register of Historic Places:

(NR = National Register, year indicates year listed)

Cherokee Female Seminary

Northeastern State College campus, Built 1887-1889 (NR 1973)

The Cherokee Female Seminary was constructed on the north edge of Tahlequah in 1887-1889. This building replaced the original seminary which was constructed in 1851 at Park Hill three miles southeast of Tahlequah, but burned on Easter Sunday in 1887. The Tahlequah merchants donated a 40-acre site on the north edge of the downtown to the Cherokee Nation. This is the location of the Seminary and also the campus of Northeastern State University. The Seminary was purchased by the state in 1909 and opened as Northeastern State Normal School that same year with an enrollment of 511 students.

When it opened in August of 1890 it was the largest building ever erected by an Indian tribe. The building is a three-story brick building with 127 usable rooms and approximately 50,500 gross square feet. Two, turreted towers flank the main entrance. Few changes have occurred over the years.

Cherokee National Capitol (Downtown District)

Built 1867-1869 (NHL 1966)

The Cherokee National Capitol Building was constructed from 1867 to 1869 according to plans and specifications drawn up by C.W. Goodlander. It served as the headquarters for the Cherokee government from the time of its completion until 1907 when Oklahoma became a state. Built in the Italianate style, it is a two-story brick building. The building stands as a "symbol of the Cherokee's ability to adjust their aboriginal culture to the changing circumstances thrust upon them by European arrival in North America."

Cherokee National Jail (Downtown District)

Choctaw and Waters Avenue, Built 1874 (NR 1974)

Built of stone, this building was originally three stories in height. The third floor was removed in 1925.

Cherokee Supreme Court Building (Downtown District)

Keetoowah and Waters Avenue, Built 1844 (NR 1974)

The Cherokee Supreme Court Building was erected in 1844 with bricks made near the site. It is a two-story building with a sandstone foundation. Constructed to be used as the Supreme Court Building for the Cherokee Nation, the building was the first used to house the first publicly supported compulsory elementary school system in the Cherokee Nation.

French-Parks House (Original Townsite Historic District)

209 West Keetoowah, (NR 1985)

The Jane Anna French House is a brick, modified Gothic with two stories. Built in 1880 it was on the edge of town when it was constructed. Jane Anna and her husband Robert M. French were mixed-blood Cherokee. Robert French was elected in 1879 as high sheriff of the Cherokee Nation and in 1891 was appointed constable.

Indian University of Tahlequah (Original Townsite Historic District)

320 Academy, (NR 1976)

The Indian University was built in 1867 as part of the Baptist Mission in Tahlequah. Professor Almon C. Bacon, superintendent of the Cherokee Male Seminary, had an initial class of three Cherokees. Later, the school was moved to Muskogee in 1885.3

Dr. Irwin D. Loeser Log Cabin (Goingsnake Historic District)

121 East Smith, Built 1833, (NR 1978)

The Dr. Irwin D. Leoser Cabin was built between 1833 and 1848. It is one of the earliest examples of frontier log construction remaining in Oklahoma. It is one of the two or three oldest buildings in the state. Dr. Loeser acquired the cabin in 1852.4

Tahlequah Armory (Downtown District)

100 Water Avenue, Built 1935-1937, (NR 1994)

The Tahlequah Armory (Tahlequah National Guard Armory) was listed on the National Register of Historic Places for its association with the Works Progress Administration of the 1930s. The completed Armory cost approximately $32,000. It is an excellent example of a WPA armory in Oklahoma. It is one of thirty-three Oklahoma armories completed by mid-1937 which were built of native stone. The construction began in 1935 and was completed in 1937.5

Joseph M. Thompson House (Original Townsite Historic District)
300 South College Avenue, Built c. 1880s, (NR 1993)
The Dr. Joe Thompson House is a white frame, two-story house in the carpenter Gothic style. Thompson was one of several Tahlequah physicians practicing in the 1880s. He was a graduate of the Cherokee Male Seminary, the Indian University at Tahlequah, and Missouri Medical College. He practiced in Tahlequah from 1885 until shortly before 1935.6

Other Significant Buildings

The following Tahlequah buildings have been identified in previous architectural studies.

Gideon Morgan House
525 Seminary, Built 1888 (Original Townsite Historic District)
The Gideon Morgan House is a white frame, two-story clapboard house built in 1888 by the Gideon Morgan family. Gideon Morgan owned ranch land near Tahlequah and Fort Smith and the Capitol Hotel in Tahlequah. He was active in Cherokee politics, a member of the National Cherokee Senate, and Postmaster in 1894. After statehood he was a member of the Oklahoma legislature. This house served as the Tahlequah hospital in 1919.

W. W. Hastings House
526 W. Shawnee, Built c. 1880'S (Original Townsite Historic District)
The W.W. Hastings House is a two-story white frame home built in the Victorian style. Hastings was a graduate of the Cherokee Male Seminary and Vanderbilt University Law School. He served the Cherokee Nation as Attorney General and Superintendent of Education. Between 1914 and his retirement in 1935, he served nine terms as a congressman from Oklahoma.

Dennis Bushyhead House
125-127 East Shawnee, Built c. 1880's (Original Townsite Historic District)
The Dennis Bushyhead House is a one-story frame residence with a steeply pitched hip roof with multiple gables. Bushyhead was Principal Chief of the Cherokee Nation from 1879-1887.

John Dannenburg House
Built prior to 1890, Sequoyah City Park (Bluff/Park Historic District)
The Dannenburg House is a two-story, clapboard house with an asymmetrical plan. Built before

1890, it was the home of Okla Spradling and John C. Dannenburg. Dannenburg and his wife were mixed-blood Cherokees and graduates of the Cherokee seminaries and Bacone College. He was appointed Auditor of the Cherokee nation in 1895 and a U.S. deputy marshal in 1897.

Johnson Thompson House

127 W. Keetoowah, Built 1880 (Original Townsite Historic District)

The Thompson House is a Italianate two-story brick residence. Thompson was a well-known merchant and a mixed-blood Cherokee.

James W. McSpadden House

317 South Bluff, Built prior to 1888 (Bluff/Park Historic District)

The James W. McSpadden House was built before 1888 and is a two-story frame house built on the cruciform plan. McSpadden was a miller who operated the Tahlequah Flouring Mill on the branch below the bluff.

Appendix

Additions

1839 - Original Four Acres for Capitol
1843 - Original Townsite

1909 - Normal Addition, named after Normal Building on campus
1909 - Oak Park, platted by Fred M. Lewis
1909 - Moore Heights, platted by J. B. Moore, county surveyor
1909 - Academy Addition, platted by W.C. Park and Frank Reed
1909 - Nursery Addition
1909 - Guinn Addition
1909 - City Park Addition, Natt T. Wagoner and E.S. Emmert (Block 18,19, 20 - 1913)

1940 - Capps Addition, platted by S.E. and Ozenia Capps
1940 - College Addition, platted by Kathleen Jordan and Brice Jordan
1942 - Thorne Addition, platted by Cherokee L. Simms ne Thorne

1946 - Thompson Addition, platted by James P. and Maggie Thompson
1946 - Oklahoma Methodist Home Addition
1947 - Jamestown Addition - Platted by Gregg James

1964 - Leoser Addition, platted by Susan Crafton
1970 - Greenwood Estates

Wolfe Addition - unplatted

Properties previously identified in other studies and projects

Aunt Eliza Johnson House
225 North College, Built prior to 1890s
George Benge House
220 West Downing, Built ca. 1880s
Benge was a Senator of the Cherokee Nation.
Judge Wyly House
NCS North Campus, Built prior to 1900
Dr. Thompson House
526 West Choctaw
Dr. Thompson was one of Tahlequah's early physicians.
W.P. Thompson House
208 South Mission, Built 1887
Walter Thompson House
456 South College, Built ca. 1900
L.M. Logan House
531 Summit, Built 1909
James S. Stapler House
224 West Delaware, Built
J. L. Worthington House
519 South Muskogee, Built ca. 1900
D. R. Bedwell House
315 North State Street, Built 1905
Bagget House
530 Summit, Built 1906
J.R. Garrett House
116 West Morgan, Built Ca. 1908
Judge Bruce L. Keenan House
451 South Cherokee, Date of Construction Unknown
Sequoyah Public School
425 South College, Circa 1905

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1 Cherokee National Capitol Building National Register nomination. 1966.

2 Cherokee National Jail National Register nomination. 1974.