

NATIONAL ORGANIZATION SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR CIVIL WAR MEMORIAL ASSESSMENT FORM

Type of Memorial (check all applicable)

Monument *with* Sculpture without Sculpture with *Cannon* standalone Cannon
 Historical Marker Plaque Other (flag pole, G.A.R. buildings, stained glass windows, etc.)

Note: try to record items separately. Cannons near monuments should be recorded & photographed separately, etc. Thank you.

Affiliation

GAR MOLLUS SUVCW WRC ASUVCW
 LGAR DUVCW Other

If known, record name and number of post, camp, corps, auxiliary, tent, circle or appropriate information of other groups:

OKLAHOMA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Original Dedication Date 1966

Please consult any/all newspaper archives for a local paper's article that would have information on the *first* dedication ceremony and/or other facts on the memorial. Please submit a copy of your findings with full identification of the paper & date of publication. Thank you.

Location

ON OK 199, THIRTEEN MILES EAST OF MADILL IN FORT WASHITA

The Memorial is *currently* located at: HISTORIC SITE JUST SOUTH OF HIS CABIN ON THE GROUNDS

Street/Road address or site location _____
 _____ GPS Coordinates 34 6.192 N 96 32.792 W

City/Village &/or Township DURANT

County BRYAN State OKLAHOMA Zip Code 74701

The front of the Memorial faces: North South East West

Government Body, Agency, or Individual Owner

Name _____

Dept./Div. _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Contact Person _____ Telephone () _____ ext _____

Is Memorial on the National Register of Historic Places Yes No ID # if known _____

For Monuments with/without sculpture:

Physical Details

Material of Monument or base under a Sculpture or Cannon = Stone Concrete Metal Other

If known, name specific material (color of granite, marble, etc.) PINK ROSE GRANITE

Material of the Sculpture Stone Concrete Metal Other Is it hollow or solid? _____

If known, name specific material (color of granite, marble, etc.) _____

For Historic Marker or Plaque:

Material of Plaque or Historical Marker / Tablet = _____

For Cannons with/without monument:

Material of Cannon = _____ Bronze _____ Iron Type of Cannon (if known) _____

Rifled _____ Yes _____ No

Markings: Muzzle _____ Base Ring/Breech _____

Left Trunion _____ Right Trunion _____

Is inert ammunition a part of the Memorial? _____ Yes _____ No

[For camp/department monuments officer's use: Cannon on list of known ordnance] _____ Yes _____ No

For Other Memorials: (flag pole, G.A.R. buildings, stained glass windows, etc.)

What best describes the memorial

Materials of the Memorial

Complete for All Memorials

Approximate Dimensions (indicate unit of measure) - taken from tallest / widest points

87 INCHES Height 36.5 INCHES Width 10.5 INCHES Depth or _____ Diameter

For Memorials with multiple Sculptures, please record this information on a separate sheet of paper for each statue (service, pose, etc) and attach to this form. Please describe the "pose" of each statue and any weapons/implements involved (in case your photos become separated from this form). Thank you!

Markings/Inscriptions (on stone-work / metal-work of monument, base, sculpture)

Maker or Fabricator mark / name? If so, give name & location found

Please attach legible photographs of all text &/or Record the text in the space below. Please use the addendum – narrative sheet if necessary.

PINK ROSE GRANITE TABLET THAT IS 87 INCHES BY 36.5 INCHES AND 10.5 INCHES IN DEPTH. THE TOP 1/3 OF THE TABLET HAS HIS PICTURE ETCHED WITH THE BOTTOM 2/3 WITH INSCRIPTION: GENERAL DOUGLAS HANCOCK COOPER
"KIND AND SYMPATHETIC BY NATURE, GENEROUS TO A FAULT, HE WAS AN HONEST MAN OF NOBLE IMPULSES, AND BORN AND BRED A GENTLEMAN" THESE WERE THE WORDS OF A CONTEMPORARY OF BRIGADIER GENERAL DOUGLAS COOPER, C.S.A.
COOPER WAS APPOINTED U.S. AGENT TO CHOCTAWS, 1853, AND TO THE CHICKASAWS, 1856, UNDER HIS SUPERVISION THE TWO AGENCIES WERE CONSOLIDATED AND OFFICE AS LOCATED AT FORT WASHITA. WITH OUTBREAK OF WAR BETWEEN THE STATES, COOPER WAS DESIGNATED BY HIS FRIEND JEFFERSON DAVIS, PRESIDENT OF THE CONFEDERACY, TO BE CHOCTAW - CHICKASAW AGENT. C.S.A.
IN JUNE 1861, HE WAS APPOINTED COMMANDER OF CHOCTAW - CHICKASAW MOUNTED RIFLEMEN, C.S.A. AND SAW ACTION IN MANY HARD BATTLES. RECOGNITION OF HIS MILITARY ABILITY LED TO HIS BEING PROMOTED TO COMMANDER OF INDIAN TERRITORY MILITARY DISTRICT. C.S.A.
IN 1865, HE WAS APPOINTED SUPERINTENDENT OF INDIAN AFFAIRS FOR DISTRICT OF INDIAN TERRITORY TRANS-MISSISSIPPI, C.S.A.
GENERAL COOPER WAS BORN IN MISSISSIPPI, NOVEMBER 1, 1815 AND DIET AT FORT WASHITA, CHICKSAW NATION, 1PRIL 29, 1879. \HE LIES BURIED ON THESE GROUNDS IN AN UNMARKED AND UNKNOWN GRAVE.
---OKLAHOMA HISOTICAL SOCIETY 1966 -

Environmental Setting

(The general vicinity and immediate locale surrounding a memorial can play a major role in its overall condition.)

Type of Location

Cemetery Park Plaza/Courtyard "Town Square" Post Office
 School Municipal Building State Capitol Courthouse College Campus
 Traffic Circle Library Other: FORT WASHITA HISTORIC SITE

General Vicinity

Rural (low population, open land) Suburban (residential, near city) Town Urban / Metropolitan

Immediate Locale (check as many as may apply)

Industrial Commercial Street/Roadside within 20 feet Tree Covered (overhanging branches)
 Protected from the elements (canopy or enclosure, indoors) Protected from the public (fence or other barrier)

Any other significant environmental factor _____

[To detail the condition of a monument used the addendum form for *Monument's Condition*]

Inspector Identification _____ Date of On-site Survey 1/3/2026

Your Name SANDRA COLE FLORES

Address _____

City OKLAHOMA CITY State OKLA Zip Code 73150

Telephone () _____ E-Mail FLORESBRDLDY@AOL.COM

Are you a member of the Allied Orders of the G.A.R.? If so, which one?

DUVCW SALLIE PEACHEATER TENT #18 OKC -- WRC NIM OKLA --- LGAR MAL OKLA

SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR
CIVIL WAR MEMORIAL ASSESSMENT FORM
ADDENDUM – MONUMENT’S CONDITION

Completion of this form is required when requesting grant money using form CWM-62 SUVCW Memorial Grant Application Form and Instructions.

Condition Information

Structural Condition (check as many as may apply)

The following section applies to Monuments with Sculpture, and Monuments without Sculpture including the base for Monuments with Cannon. Instability in the sculpture and its base can be detected by a number of factors. Indicators may be obvious or subtle. Visually examine the sculpture and its base.

Table with 3 columns: Question, Sculpture, Base. Rows include: If hollow, is the internal support unstable/exposed?; Any evidence of structural instability?; Any broken or missing parts?; Any cracks, splits, breaks or holes?.

Surface Appearance (check as many as may apply)

Table with 3 columns: Question, Sculpture, Base. Rows include: Black crusting; White crusting; Etched, pitted, or otherwise corroded (on metal); Metallic staining (run-off from copper, iron, etc.); Organic growth (moss, algae, lichen or vines); Chalky or powdery stone; Granular eroding of stone; Spalling of stone (surface splitting off); Droppings (bird, animal, insect remains); Other (e.g., spray paint graffiti) - Please describe...

Does water collect in recessed areas of the Memorial? ___ Yes ___ No ___ Unable to tell

Surface Coating

Does there appear to be a coating? ___ Yes ___ No ___ Unable to determine

If known, identify type of coating.

___ Gilded ___ Painted ___ Varnished ___ Waxed ___ Unable to determine

Is the coating in good condition? ___ Yes ___ No ___ Unable to determine

Basic Surface Condition Assessment (check one)

In your opinion, what is the general appearance or condition of the Memorial?

___ Well maintained ___ Would benefit from treatment ___ In urgent need of treatment ___ Unable to determine

Briefly describe the Memorial (affiliation / overall condition & any concern not already touched on) .

VERY GOOD CONDITION AND WELL MAINTAINED

Inspector’s Name SANDRA COLE FLORES

Date 1/3/2026

MEMPHIS (UPI) Weekly News, Fri., Mar. 26, 1965-3

Fort Washita, Fort Towson Programs Will Revive Memories Of Civil War

Memories of the Civil War will live again in Bryan and Choctaw counties this summer when Fort Washita and Fort Towson come to life again for a few brief hours.

The Oklahoma Civil War Commission and the Oklahoma Historical Society, joined by other groups, will commemorate the end of the War Between the States with programs at each site.

Fort Washita, in northwest Bryan county, is now the property of the Historical Society and has been partially restored under grants from the Merrick Foundation of Ardmore.

Fort Towson, in eastern Choctaw county, is still in private hands. The parade ground is now a hay meadow, and the stone barracks have been reduced to rubble.

Dr. John Morrison, dean of Southeastern State College, said some parts of the June 22 Fort Washita program are starting to fall in place. The observance at Fort Towson will come the following day.

"We received word this week that an Army band from Fort Sill will be here," he said. Principal speaker at Washita will be Leroy Fischer, a history professor at OSU who recently won a \$5,000 prize for a Civil War monograph, "Lincoln's Gaffly."

The Historical Society, which each summer sponsors a bus tour to some section of the state, has scheduled the 1965 trip as the history buffs will be in this area on June 22-23.

Stay at Lodge

Plans are for the group to spend a night at Texoma Lodge. Fort Washita restoration continues, although there's a long way to go yet if and when it's ever rebuilt completely.

Recently, paths to points of interest have been gravelled, and with a little more work they'll be connected to a picnic - recreation area built last year by Army Engineers on the bank of the famous Cumberland river.

The "real" Fort Towson is across a creek from the small town of 500 persons which now bears its name.

Fort Towson residents, as well as many others in Choctaw county, are becoming interested in the June observance, and are starting some cleanup work. They've received permission from the present owner to let the public in for the one day.

Served Together

Dorothy Getzen, Fort Towson postmaster and a former WAC

captain, is ransacking the observance. George Shirk of Oklahoma City, president of the Oklahoma Historical Society, paid a visit to Fort Towson a few weeks ago and during the conversation was remembered that C. Olson served under him in England during WW 2.

Clearing the site of the fort, now overgrown with weeds and scrub oak through the past 100 years, is a big problem, but one that can be solved.

Towson was a prominent place in Civil War history - it was there that Brig. Gen. Stand Watie surrendered. He was the last general officer of the South to lay down his arms - 2 1/2 months after Robert E. Lee gave up at Appomattox. That was June 23, 1865, and this is why a middle-of-the-week Wednesday day has been chosen for the 1965 centennial observance.

Fire Cannon

It's hoped that the surrender can be re-enacted in pagan form, using Boy Scouts as a National Guardmen. And if it can be worked out, a Civil War cannon will boom across the parade ground - now a hay meadow.

Nearly forgotten along with

the old fort is the community of Deakville, which once stood outside.

The fort's history goes back to May of 1824, when "Castlemont Towson" was started on the banks of Red River near where the Kiamichi flows in. It didn't amount to much - tents and a few wooden buildings. It was abandoned five years later, and nothing remains there now.

Its main purpose was to keep down quarrels among different tribes of Indians - and to control white renegades.

Later, when the Treaty of Dancing Rabbit Creek was signed, removing the Choctaws up the Trail of Tears, a permanent government fort was ordered built in what is now Choctaw county.

Site Moved

The site was shifted six miles north, on a bluff overlooking Gates creek, and was dubbed Camp Phoenix. In 1831, the name was changed in honor of Col. Nathan Towson, the Army paymaster general.

There was no stockade, according to plans found in government archives. The 100-foot high bluff protected one side, and stone buildings finished the quadrangle.



RUINS OF BRYAN county's Fort Washita look better all the time, thanks to restoration efforts financed by the Merrick Foundation of Ardmore through the Oklahoma Historical Society. Observances at Fort Washita and Fort Towson in June will mark the closing of the Civil War Centennial observance. (Democrat Photo)

Some of the walls - but not much remains. There's enough here and there to tell where most buildings were.

Again, in 1854, the military again abandoned its Choctaw county installation. Records show that two days before the last troops left, a violent storm possibly a tornado, swept the site and caused heavy damage.

For several years, Indian agent Douglas Cooper used the fort buildings. Fire struck and destroyed everything except the hospital and one of the barracks.

These were what the Confederates used during the Civil War. It became headquarters for Gen. Sam Bell Maxey in 1865. Maxey lived at Fort Towson World War 2's Camp Maxey later bore his name.

Maxey also left, and Watie, Cherokee, held out at Towson until his surrender.

INCOME TAX
704 E. Main
Mrs. Kenneth
OFFICE
SATURDAY: 9-5

WE WIN THE CUP YOU

Marker Presentation Part Of Ceremony

The National Park Service today named Fort Washita as a Registered National Historic Landmark.

Presentation of a marker plaque came in the middle of an afternoon-long dedication of the site of the Civil War era military installation in the northwest corner of Bryan county.

The ceremony, carried by loudspeakers over the rolling prairie and in the humid afternoon, drew hundreds of visitors, including three busloads of Oklahoma Historical Society members making a swing through the southeastern part of the state.

Pageant Due

The Washita ceremony was one of two this week — another begins at 10:30 a.m. tomorrow at Fort Towson, east of Hugo. That one will include a pageant depicting surrender of the last Confederate general, Stand Watie, 100 years to the day that he placed his revolver on a table and surrendered his troops to a Union lieutenant colonel.

The NPS has been working for the past eight years on surveys of historic sites and buildings over the country, compiling the information on each in books. So far, two volumes have been published; one on western exploration, the other on colonial historical sites.

Announcement of the designation was made by Donald Spalding, superintendent of Platt National Park at Sulphur. Also on hand was William E. Brown of Santa Fe, N. M., regional historian of the NPS.

Today's program at Washita opened with a concert by the 77th Army band from Fort Sill, playing Civil War era music including an arrangement of the Star Spangled Banner as it was heard in the middle 1800s—before it was designated as the national anthem.

Plays At Lodge

The band plays again at Fort Towson tomorrow and will give a concert at Texoma Lodge tonight during a dinner meeting of the Historical Society. The latter begins at 7 p.m., and the public is welcome to join in. Speaker will be E. B. Long of Oak Park, Ill., chairman of the Illinois Civil War Centennial Commission, an author, and regarded as one of the best-informed men on the Civil War.

Troops from the Durant Army Reserve battalion, named over the weekend as best in the 95th Division, ran up a

Mail stage line. The Union, he said, abandoned the place in early days of the Civil War, and Confederate troops remained there until near the war's end.

Dr. Morrison, who has ramrodded clean-up and restoration work over the past four years, formally tendered the site to the Historical Society through its president, George H. Shirk.

Other principals on the program were Miss Muriel H. Wright, editor of the Chronicles of Oklahoma magazine, for dedication of the Colbert Family Monument near the Fort's cemetery; a memorial tribute by Rep. Pauline Tabor to Gen. Douglas H. Cooper, long-time agent for the Chickasaws who returned to Washita to live until his death; and another tribute, by Ruth Hattchett, to C. B. Kingsberry, father of Mrs. Green Thompson of Durant. Kingsberry was a Union soldier stationed at Washita before the war, later moving to the Confederate side. He was buried near the fort and his grave recently was moved to the Confederate cemetery inside the grounds by the Fort Washita Commission.

Others Eligible

Listing of the Fort as a National Historic Landmark puts it in a class with George Washington's home at Mount Vernon, Va., and the Old North Church at Boston, he said.

"Closer to home some splendid Oklahoma landmarks have been selected as eligible for the National Registry, including the Cherokee and Creek national capitols, Fort Gibson, Washita battlefield, and Fort Sill.

"Altogether there are some 500 valuable sites across the country representing every major event and theme in American history and prehistory that are eligible as Landmarks," he added.

Although the designation as a Historic Landmark will carry no financial backing, it is expected to bring further recognition to the installation and possibly make fund-raising from private sources for further restoration easier.

"Now it is my privilege to represent the National Park Service in bringing this recognition to Fort Washita, an outstanding site illustrating important phases of American Indian history, Westward Expansion and Civil War," Spalding said.

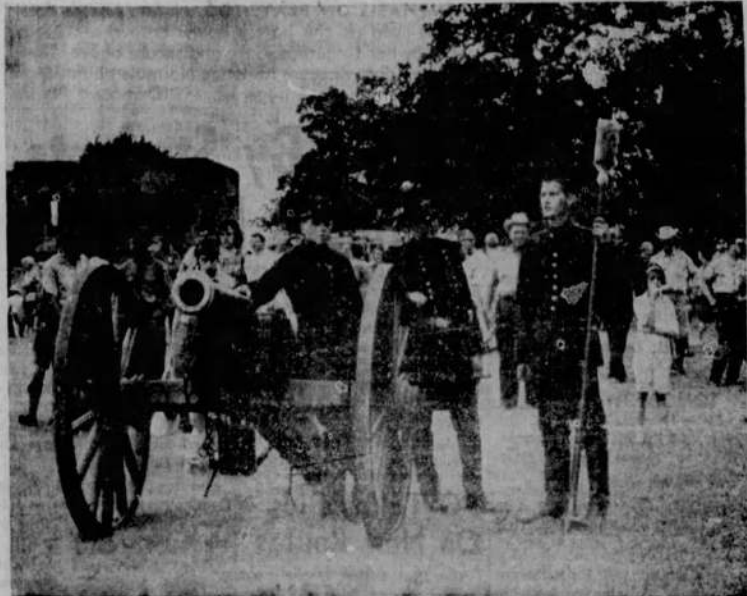
"Let me say that the striking ruins before us recall the tragedy of the Civilized Tribes



MAKES IT OFFICIAL—This framed certificate, signed by Secretary of Interior Stewart Udall, made Fort Washita a Registered National Historic Landmark during dedication ceremonies yesterday afternoon—the first such designation in Oklahoma. Admiring it are (from left) Dr. James

Morrison, chairman of the Fort Washita Commission; Don Spalding, superintendent of Platt National Park, Sulphur; and Bill Brown, Santa Fe, N. M., regional historian for the National Park Service.

(Democrat Photo)



except for the 1965-model people in the background, Fort Sill officers wearing Civil War era dress uniforms pose with a cannon of the type manufactured after 1863 at the Revere Foundry in Boston and brought to

Fort Washita for firing Tuesday afternoon. The bronze barrel alone weighs over 1,200 pounds. The relic made just as much noise as the modern 105 mm howitzers, also fired in salute.

(Democrat Photo)



GENERAL DOUGLAS HANCOCK COOPER

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IN 1865, HE WAS APPOINTED SUPERINTENDENT OF INDIAN AFFAIRS FOR DISTRICT OF INDIAN TERRITORY, TRANS - MISSISSIPPI, U. S. A.

GENERAL COOPER WAS BORN IN MISSISSIPPI, NOVEMBER 1, 1815, AND DIED AT FORT WASHINGTON, CHICKASAW - INDIAN, APRIL 29, 1874.

HE LIES BURIED ON THESE GROUNDS IN AN UNMARKED AND UNKNOWN GRAVE.





