

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Bacone College Historic District

Other names/site number: _____

Name of related multiple property listing: _____

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. Location

Street & number: Old Bacone Road

City or town: Muskogee State: Oklahoma County: Muskogee

Not For Publication: Vicinity:

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this X nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property X meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria.

I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

___ national ___ statewide X local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

X A ___ B X C ___ D

Signature of certifying official/Title:	Date
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.	
Signature of commenting official:	Date
Title :	State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private:
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

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Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>11</u>	<u>8</u>	buildings
<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	objects
<u>16</u>	<u>9</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Education: College

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Education: College

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Late 19th and 20th Century

Revivals: Collegiate Gothic

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: Stone

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

The Bacone College Historic District is a college campus located in Muskogee, Muskogee County, Oklahoma. Encompassing approximately 30 acres in the northeast portion of the City, the District contains the historic component of campus that retains its integrity of feeling and association. Founded at this location in 1885, few resources on campus date to the earliest period today; however, most that remain today were built in the early twentieth century, largely to expand the quickly growing campus. The greater part of building construction within this district took place in the 1930s.

A total of twenty-five (25) resources are included within the district. Most of the buildings within the district are educational in function. Stylistically, a predominance of the buildings in the district belong to the Collegiate Gothic style. Other properties within the district, however, have no distinctive style. The buildings are generally stone with pitched roofs. The degree of ornamentation ranges significantly and generally reflects the time and economic conditions present during construction.

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Narrative Description

Below is a list of the properties within the district. Contributing status is indicated by the address being in **bold**. Non-contributing properties are in normal type. An asterisk (*) after the address denotes a property previously listed on the National Register of Historic Places

1) **Entry Gate**, Old Bacone Road, Contributing Object, 1939

Located on the south side of campus, at the south entrance is a stone entry gate located on either side of the road. Each side has a tall column near the road, a short wall and ends with a mid-size column. The entire gate is constructed with stone. The columns have a flat stone cap. The wall portion of the gate has an arch at the base with a keystone to allow for drainage. The inscription on the west side of the gate reads: *“Murrow Indian Orphan Home, established 1909 at Unchuka Indian Territory by Rev. J.S. Murrow, D.D. The pioneer missionary to the Indians of Oklahoma. Removed to its present site 1910. Whoever loves a little child loves not himself by God, and whoever saves a little child from evil sits among those who are the builders of cities and the procurers of peace.”* The east side of the gate bears the inscription for the college. *“Bacone College established 1880 at Tahlequah, Indian Territory, removed to its present site 1885. The only Indian college in America. In grateful appreciation for what these two institutions have done for the Indian race this entrance is erected by Frank Harjochee a Seminole Indian 1939.”*

2) **Walter Starr Hall**, Old Bacone Road, Contributing Building, 1923

This three-story brick building is constructed in the Colligate Gothic style and sits at an angle to the main road through campus. Common features found on the building are stone quoins, stone window surrounds and narrow, one-over-one double hung windows (unless otherwise noted). The building has a main block with wings on each end. The main block of the façade, northeast elevation, has an off-center door on the first floor sheltered by a flat stone awning suspended by chains. Southwest of the door are two, tri-partite windows. Between the windows is a large exterior chimney with chimney pots. Northeast of the main entrance is a secondary pane and panel door. The second floor has an oriel window at the southwest corner with five windows. Above the main entrance, on the second floor is a tri-partite window. Northeast of the second floor portion of the chimney are two windows. Located at the northeast corner, between the first through third floor is a pair of one-over-one windows with two pane transom windows and a bull's eye window. These follow an interior staircase. The third floor has a ribbon of six windows and then a pair of windows in the gable peak. Each wing on this elevation has a window on the first and second floor. The southwest and northeast elevations each have eight windows on both the first and second floors. These windows have brick sills and no other ornamentation.

3) **Poloke-Bosen Hall**, Old Bacone Road, Contributing Building, 1922

This three-story brick building is constructed in the Colligate Gothic style and sits at an angle to the main road through campus. The main building facade is designed exactly like Walter Starr Hall except in the reverse order. Common features found on the building are stone quoins, stone window surrounds and narrow, one-over-one double hung windows (unless otherwise noted). The building has a main block with wings on each end. The main block of the façade, southeast

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elevation, has an off-center door on the first floor sheltered by a flat stone awning suspended by chains. Northeast of the door are two, tri-partite windows. Between the windows is a large exterior chimney with chimney pots. Northeast of the main entrance is a secondary pane and panel door. The second floor has an oriel window at the northeast corner with five windows. Above the main entrance, on the second floor is a tri-partite window. Southwest of the second floor portion of the chimney are two windows. Located at the southwest corner, between the first through third floor is a pair of one-over-one windows with two pane transom windows and a bull's eye window. These follow an interior staircase. The third floor has a ribbon of six windows and then a pair of windows in the gable peak. Each wing on this elevation has a window on the first and second floor. The southwest and northeast elevations each have eight windows on both the first and second floors. These windows have brick sills and no other ornamentation.

4) Lucy Peters Hall, Old Bacone Road, Contributing Building, 1922

Connected to Poloke-Bosen Hall by a hyphen at the southwest corner, Lucy Peters Hall is a one-and-one-half-story gable roof brick building. The hyphen has three multi-pane windows. The gable wing that attaches to the hyphen has two large window openings that have nine smaller multi-pane windows surrounded by stone on the east elevation. The north and south elevations of the side gable has three windows and a panel door on the first floor. There are four shed roof through dormers in the roof with multi-pane windows. The east elevation of the side gable section has a panel door on the first floor. The south elevation of the side gable has a one-story flat roof wing. This wing has multi-panes windows and a large chimney.

5) Alexander Posey Hall, Old Bacone Road, Non-Contributing Building, 1968

This is a three-story brick building with a standing seam metal roof. Each floor of the façade, east elevation, has ten windows with an air unit beneath each one. Located in the center of the first floor are two sets of two glass doors sheltered under a gable front roof which creates an entry porch. The roof has four gable front dormers.

6) Warrior Gym, southwest corner of Old Bacone Road and Daniel Rogers Road, Non-Contributing Building, 1948

This is a two-story gable front building with a standing seam metal roof. The façade, east elevation has a projecting shed roof entrance with two one-over-one hung windows and glass entry doors. The window openings on this elevation on the main block of the building have been enclosed with brick. All of the windows on the north and south elevations have been enclosed with brick. The west elevation has a two-story, large hipped roof addition that doubles the floor space of the building.

7) The Kiva, 2100 Faculty Row, Non-Contributing Building, 1956

This side gable Ranch House has an asphalt roof, brick, vinyl and wood siding and a recessed front porch. The one-car garage at the southwest corner has been enclosed with vinyl siding and sliding glass doors. The window in the recessed porch area are tri-partite one-over-one double hung windows. The remainder of the house has replacement six-over-six hung windows.

8) New Apartments, Faculty Row, Non-Contributing Building, 2001

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This new facility has a side gable roof, brick and vinyl siding, eight-over-eight double hung windows and metal panel doors with shed roof overhangs.

9) C.C. Harmon Nursing Center, west side Daniel Rogers Boulevard, Non-Contributing Building, 1975

This one-story, flat roof building has tall narrow windows in the center of the façade, east elevation, and two metal and glass doors with glass transoms on either side of the windows. A large brick wing extends to the north. It has tall narrow windows at the northeast corner and randomly placed windows on the north elevation. The south end also has a smaller brick wing at the southeast corner with randomly placed windows on the south elevation. The east, south and north elevations all have decorative panels at the roofline. The building is very Modern in design.

10) Ataloa Lodge, southeast corner of Old Bacone Road and Daniel Rodgers Boulevard, Contributing Building, 1932

This is a two-story Craftsman style building. The side gable roof is clad with asphalt shingles and has decorative brackets on the gable ends. And exterior stone chimney is located on the west elevation. The wall cladding is random course stone, unless otherwise noted.

The façade, west elevation, has a full width porch. The porch has stone walls and stone columns supporting the shed roof porch. The balustrade is wood with an "X" pattern with decorative wood columns. The central entry is wood with a small window. Located on either side of the entry are four nine-over-nine double hung windows with stone sills. The south elevation has five nine-over-nine double hung windows with stone sills. The gable end has wood shingles and a square vent.

The rear elevation, east elevation, serves as a secondary façade. Located in the center of this elevation is a projecting two-story gable front wing. Located in the center of the wing is a wood entry door with a small window. On either side of the entry is a four-pane fixed window with stone sills. The second floor has a balcony. This balcony area has a wood pane and panel door with a six-over-six double hung window on either side of the door. The windows have stone sills. This projecting wing has a shed roof dormer on both the north and south elevations of the roof. Each dormer has wood shingle siding and a six-over-six double hung window. Located on either side of the project wing are three nine-over-nine double hung windows with stone sills. The north elevation has three nine-over-nine double hung windows with stone sills to the east of the exterior chimney. Located west of the chimney is a small, one-over-one hung window with a stone sill. The gable end has wood shingles and a square vent.

The dominant feature of this building is the interior fireplace. 500 Stones representing the vast geology and history of the United States were sent from locations that have historical Native American ties including Abraham Lincoln's home and Sequoyah's home (father of the Cherokee Syllabary). The fireplace is among 10 Oklahoma artifacts to be recognized in 2014 as part of the Oklahoma Cultural Heritage Trust. The Trust refers to it as "a beautiful and artistic contribution to Oklahoma and stands as an everlasting message that Indian cultures are as embedded in the

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states history as the stones in this historic fireplace.” (Susan Feller, Oklahoma Department of Libraries)

11) Cabin, Old Bacone Road, Contributing Building, 1936

This is a one-and-one-half-story log cabin. The façade, south elevation, has a full-width shed roof, porch supported by log columns and has a wood deck. The wood deck supports are stone piers. The porch is accessed via four stone steps with stone knee walls. In the center of the façade are two wood doors. On either side of the doors is a one-over-one double hung window. The east elevation has two, one-over-one double hung windows. The north elevation, rear, has a one-story shed roof addition clad in wood shingles. The west elevation has an exterior stone chimney. Located on either side of the chimney is a one-over-one double hung window. At the northwest corner is a one-story, side gable wing clad with vertical wood siding. The south elevation has two hinged barn doors.

12) President’s Home, 2350 Old Bacone Road, Non-Contributing Building, ca. 1960

This is a side-gable Ranch style house. The wall cladding is vertical board and batten and irregular patterned brick. The southwest corner has a two-car garage with overhead garage doors. The remainder of the façade has casement windows located in pairs. The entry is located slightly off-center to the west and has a pane and panel door.

13) Sally Journeycake Memorial Hall, Old Bacone Road, Contributing Building, 1936

This is a two-and-one-half story side gable, stone clad, building. It has three evenly space interior chimneys. Unless otherwise noted, all windows have stone sills. The façade, south elevation, has a two-story, gable front project in the center. The projection has three, six-over-six double hung windows with stone sills on both the first and second floors. Located in the gable peak is a lunette vent. The gable front projection has gable returns. West of the projection are five stone steps that lead to a glass door with a classical door surround on the first floor. The door surround has fluted pilasters, an unornamented frieze and brackets. The remainder of this portion of the first floor has two, six-over-six double hung windows. The second floor has three, six-over-six double hung windows. East of the projection is a glass door at grade with a classical door surround on the first floor. The door surround has fluted pilasters, an unornamented frieze, brackets and a transom window. The remainder of this portion of the first floor has two, long, sixteen-over-eight double hung windows. The second floor has three, six-over-six double hung windows.

The east and west elevations are identical. Each floor has two, six-over-six double hung windows and a lunette vent in the gable end. The gable ends have gable returns. There is a one-story gable front projection on the first floor of the north elevation. It has two sixteen-over-eight double hung windows on each elevation. The second floor has six-over-six double hung windows.

14) Sundial Monument, In front of Sally Journeycake Memorial Hall, Contributing Object, ca. 1936

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This is a small monument designed with the same stones from the Ataloa Lodge fireplace. It has a triangular shaped base with a flat area at the top for the sundial.

15) Cemetery, behind Sally Journeycake Memorial Hall, Contributing Site, 1886

This is a small rectangular plot that contains the following graves.

1. small granite stone marked "WLT"
2. small granite stone marked with flower
3. unmarked heavily weathered stone
4. Mary Prosser Jayne 1867-1937. Served as missionary to the Indians for 36 years
5. Almon C. Bacon. April 25, 1830-April 22, 1896. Founder of Bacone College and first president of the college.
6. Shoemaker-April 26th 1854-November 10, 1887. Professor of physical science.
7. M.P. Sleeper June 15, 1846-August 20 1891
8. One unmarked
9. Mrs. S.A. Carey 1836-1913
10. Solomon Folsom May 1915. Erected by students and teachers. (16 year old student)
11. Louina Wallace- February 25, 1918 (9 years old) headstone erected by students and teachers.
12. Roy Lee Spinks-December 15 ,1902- December 26, 1990. Granite
13. Alice Bent Spinks-June 6, 1908-March 10 1996. Granite
14. Bessie Lee Dauter of C.L & J.L. Cowan. February 2, 1906-April 22, 1907
15. Benjamin D. Weeks D.D.- Founding board of Trustees Bacone College. September 27, 1881-October 4, 1950
16. Grace Berger Weeks-January 23, 1886-December 28, 1962
17. Maribelle McCrea West-November 10, 1911-March 20, 1969
18. Abel Archibald- March 3, 1921 (21 years old)

16) Samuel Richards Memorial Hall, Old Bacone Road, Contributing Building, 1922

This five-story L-shaped building is designed in the Collegiate Gothic style. The façade faces west onto the quad. Common elements throughout the building, unless otherwise noted, is the brick cladding, banks of three- and four-pane windows, and stone window surrounds.

The façade has three sets of six, four-pane windows, on the first, second and third floors. Located at the southwest corner on each floor is a single four-pane window that follow an interior staircase. Located at the northwest corner of the façade is a four-story tower. The first floor has a Gothic arched stone entry with three pane and panel doors and a transom window. The transom window has five Gothic arches with tracery. At the southwest corner of the tower are four, three-pane windows that follow the interior staircase. Floors two through four have a stone quoin detail in the middle of the elevation extending vertically. The second floor has three, three-pane windows. The third and four floors have three, four-pane windows. Between the third and fourth floor is a decorative stone panel. The top of the tower is crenellated with stone details. Located on just the first floor at the northwest corner is a stone quoin detail.

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The north elevation continues with the tower at the northwest corner. The second floor (this elevation is built into the side of a hill so the first floor on the west elevation becomes the second floor on the north elevation) has a small two-pane window, a Gothic arched window with three, four-pane windows and a singular four-pane window. The third floor has a central bank of three, three-pane windows with a singular three-pane window on either side. The fourth floor has a central bank of three, four-pane windows with a singular four-pane window on either side. The fifth floor has a bank of three, four-pane windows. The top of the tower is crenellated with stone details. The remainder of the north elevation has: two, one-over-one double hung windows and an entry door on the first floor; the second floor has three sets of two, four-pane windows; the third and fourth floors have two sets of two, four-pane windows with singular four-pane window between each pair.

The east elevation projects at the northeast corner. This section has two one-over-one double hung windows on the first floor. The second floor has two four-pane windows. The third and fourth floors each have three, four-pane windows. The remainder of the building has: two pairs of one-over-one double hung window and a glass entry door on the first floor; and the second through fourth floors each have one set of seven, four-pane windows and two sets of six, four-pane windows. At the southeast corner are three, three-pane windows that follow an interior staircase.

17) Palmer Center, Facing west onto the Quad, Non-contributing Building, 1994

This is a two-story, flat roof building. Distinctive design elements include the concrete frieze, concrete columns with applied arrow ornamentation and brown brick. The first and second floors of the façade, west elevation, have six large banks of windows. The first floor has a central entry. The north and south sides of the façade taper back from the center at an angle.

18) Jennetta Barnett Hall, Facing west onto the Quad, Contributing Building, 1923

This is a two-story brick clad side gable Collegiate Gothic style building. The façade, west elevation, has a central two-story entry. All of the windows have brick sills and lintels. The first floor entry is surrounded with stone detailing and has a glass door with an arched transom. The second floor has an oriel window that is also stone clad with five multi-pane windows. South of the door, on both the first and second floor, is a narrow, one-over-one hung window, a multi-pane window, a pair of multi-pane windows in the through gable dormer and a single multi-pane window. The through dormer extends from ground level to the roof and has a chimney constructed as part of the feature. North of the door, on both the first and second floor, is a narrow, one-over-one hung window, a multi-pane window, a pair of multi-pane windows in the through gable dormer, a single multi-pane window and a narrow one-over-one hung window. The through dormer extends from ground level to the roof and has a chimney constructed as part of the feature.

The south elevation has two multi-pane windows on both the first and second floor. Located in the gable peak is a narrow, one-over-one hung window, surrounded by stone details. The east

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elevation has a central glass entry with a gothic arched transom. The whole entry is surrounded with stone. Above the door, following an interior staircase are two multi-pane windows. South of the door, on each floor, are two multi-pane windows and a narrow one-over-one hung window. North of the door, on both the first and second floors, are three multi-pane windows and a narrow one-over-one hung window.

19) Benjamin Wacoche Hall, Facing northwest onto the Quad, Contributing Building, 1924

This is a two-story, side gable, brick clad Collegiate Gothic style building. The façade is symmetrical. The central entry has a glass door with sidelights and a gothic arched transom. The entry is surrounded by stone details. Above the door is a multi-pane window. The entire entry is located in a projecting front gable. Located at each corner of the façade is a two-story bay window located in a projecting front gable. The bay window has multi-pane windows. Between the entry and the bay windows are three multi-pane windows surrounded with stone details.

The northeast and southwest elevations are identical. The first floor has a glass door with sidelights and a gothic arched transom. The entire entry is surrounded with stone. The second floor has a gothic arched window with complex tracery surrounded by stone details.

The rear elevation has a projecting gable front wing. Northeast and southwest of the wing are three multi-pane windows with stone details on the main body of the building. The wing has an entry door on the southeast elevation, multi-pane windows on the rear elevation and a multi-pane window on the southwest elevation.

20) William McCombs Hall, Facing northeast onto the Quad, Contributing Building, 1937

This is a two-story stone clad side gable Classical Revival style building with a full basement. The façade, northeast elevation, has a central glass door with sidelights entry. The entry has a curved transom that has a curved stone lintel. On either side of the entry are four, eight-over-eight double hung windows with stone sills and lintels. The second floor has nine, eight-over-eight double hung windows with stone sills and lintels.

The northwest and southeast elevations are identical. The basement level has two, six-over-six double hung windows. The first and second floors each have two, eight-over-eight double hung windows. The gable ends have gable returns.

The southwest elevation has a two-story gable front wing. The façade southwest elevation has a glass door with side light and a multi-pane transom. The basement level has four, six-over-six double hung windows. The gable front has gable returns. Directly under the gable returns, across the full width of the façade, are four, six-over-six double hung windows. The northwest and southeast elevations of the wing are identical. The basement level has three, six-over-six double hung windows. Under the gable eaves are three, six-over-six double hung windows.

21) Isaac McCoy Hall, Facing east onto the Quad, Contributing Building, 1937

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This is a two-story side gable Classical Revival building with a full basement. Common features of the building, unless otherwise noted, are the stone cladding, eight-over-eight double hung windows, stone sills and lintels, and gable returns. The façade, east elevation is symmetrical. Located in the center is a pedimented portico which is accessed via steps. Four round, Doric columns support the portico while there are four, square engaged columns against the building under the portico. Located in the center, under the portico, is a glass door with side lights and a curved transom window. On either side of the door is a window. The second floor, under the portico has three windows. The pediment is wood clapboard and has a lunette vent. From the portico, on either side, there are two windows, a glass door with sidelights and a curved transom and three windows at the basement level. The first and second floor each have five windows. Located above the door is a window that follows an interior staircase. The north and south elevations are identical. There are three windows on the first and second floors and a lunette window in the gable peak. The west elevation, rear, has a central exterior chimney with quoins. Located on either side of the chimney are two windows on each floor. Located in the gable peak, on either side of the chimney, is a lunette window. On either side of the gable front portion, on each floor, are seven windows.

22) Memorial Chapel, Facing east onto the Quad, Non-Contributing Building, Ca. 1990

The original 1939 building was destroyed by fire in 1990. The reconstructed chapel was built on the existing footprint of the old building. The Classical Revival building has a portico with tall, Doric columns and a pediment with a lunette window. The central main entry has two wood doors with an additional wood door on either side of the main entrance. Each door has a stone surround with a keystone. Located at the corner are stone quoins. The tower is designed in the three traditional portions: base clad in stone with quoins; shaft clad with clapboards and arched multi-pane windows; and the multi-sided drum with wood clapboards. The tower is capped with an asphalt shingled spire. The side elevations have an exposed basement with one-over-one windows. The main floor has long, arched, multi-pane windows with curved stone lintels. The eaves of each side elevation have eyebrow windows.

23) Original Baptistry, Facing east onto the Quad, Contributing Structure, 1885

Partially set below grade, this is a brick structure with steps leading down into the structure from the south end. Ell-shape in design, the sunken structure is covered by a modern gable roof canopy supported by stone columns.

24) Statue in Quad, Non-Contributing Object, Ca. 2000

The Chickasaw Warrior was designed by Native American Artist Enoch Kelly Hanney. Mr. Haney was the Chief of the Seminole Nation in Oklahoma from 2005 to 2009 as well as an Oklahoma State senator from 1986 to 2002.

25) Landscaping, throughout the Quad Area, ca. 1922 to 1940

Located throughout the quad area of campus are original stone sidewalks and stone retaining walls.

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B. Removed from its original location
- C. A birthplace or grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Education

Architecture

Art

Period of Significance

1885-1957

Significant Dates

1885, 1886, 1922

1923, 1924, 1932

1936, 1937, 1939

1957

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Niemann, H. H.

Dawson, Charles W.

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

Bacone College Historic District is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places at the local level under Criteria A for its role in Education and Art. It is also eligible under Criteria C for large collection of architecturally significant college buildings. The applicable criteria considerations include Criteria Consideration A as the campus has a religious building within its boundaries and Criteria Consideration D as there is a cemetery also within the boundaries. The period of significance extends from 1885 with the first extant historic resource to 1957 when the preparatory school closed and there was an influx of other races enrolled.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

Education

Educator Almon Clematus Bacone graduated with a master's degree from the University of Rochester in 1858. He taught in New York, New Jersey, Ohio, and Michigan and in 1878, arrived in Tahlequah, Indian Territory (I.T.), to direct the Cherokee Male Seminary. Soon he consulted with missionaries about founding an American Indian college with the objective of training individuals for religious work. On February 8, 1880, the Baptist Academy, later called Indian University, began in a small room of the Baptist mission house with three students and Bacone as sole faculty member and first president in Tahlequah, Indian Territory.

Chartered by the Muskogee-Creek Nation in 1881, with the American Baptist Home Mission Society partially supporting the institution, the purpose of the school was to provide Christian education for American Indians. Encouraged with the school's initial success, Bacone believed that it was important to extend the educational possibilities to all members of the Five Civilized Tribes and to have a more central location, preferably Muskogee in the Creek Nation. In 1881 the Creek Tribal Council gave 160 acres near Muskogee as the permanent site for the school. The actions of the board of trustees were subject to the approval of the executive board of the American Baptist Home Mission Society, which governed the school until the late 1950s.

On a fund-raising trip in 1884 Almon Bacone visited Cleveland, Ohio. The Euclid Avenue Baptist Church, which he had attended years earlier, made a generous donation to the school. Soon afterward, Laura Spelman Rockefeller, who had been Bacone's colleague in Cleveland, persuaded her husband, John D. Rockefeller, to make a ten-thousand-dollar contribution. The first building, known as Rockefeller Hall (non-extant), was completed on the new campus in Muskogee in 1885. Students and faculty boarded wagons and drove from Tahlequah to the new school, calling their move the "Great Removal."

As public education expanded, Bacone's enrollment declined. B. D. Weeks, president from 1918 to 1941, resurrected the dying school. By 1920, it was estimated that between 25-37% of all

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members of the Five Civilized Tribes were illiterate in their own language, as well as in English.¹ These were the people whom Weeks dedicated the institution to serving. To attract students he advertised it as the only college exclusively for American Indians; while it was education in the European mode, it had a strong emphasis on individual tribal backgrounds. He recruited Indian faculty and staff and supported their suggestions of creating classes in Indian culture. This was a practice that had lapsed during the early years of the 20th century; by 1928 there were ten Native Americans on the faculty.²

The year 1927 saw a significant change for Bacone College. With the passage of the Wheeler-Howard Act, which halted the alienation and allotment of tribal lands, the Wheeler-Howard Act also authorized appropriations for the tribes to purchase additional lands, it established a system of Federal loans for this purpose and it provided for the establishment of tribal business organizations which were to be chartered as Federal Corporations.³ The change in Federal attitude was felt on the campus by the students. Music programs were emphasized more and focused on tribal heritage. Tribal clothing was provided to “club/social” organizations. Overall it was a time of resurgence in Native American pride.

This is also the time when the arts took on a major influence on campus. Ataloo McLendon, who taught in the Language Arts Department, was a concert singer. She sponsored the *Bacone Indian* when its publication began. The Art Editor of the paper was A.C. McIntosh⁴, a Creek whose clever cartoons revealed his fine drawing abilities. Through her many activities on campus, Ataloo’s dream of a Native American art and music center became a reality with the building of Ataloo Lodge. She helped to create the environment where artistic and musical talents could flourish, thereby preserving that which was worthy and beautiful from the past for future generations.

During the period of the Great Depression, Bacone made one of its most important contributions to American culture by creating a full Art Department. This Department focused on a type of art that would come to be known as “the Bacone School of Traditional Indian Art.” Thanks to the influence of Ataloo, this department supported an appreciation of traditional Indian art forms, including a study of historic tribal motifs, styles and techniques. The internationally famous Bacone School of Art was a school of students, teachers, and artists whose style and quality work have influenced all Native American thought in the 20th century.

President Weeks reestablished the reputation of the school for Indian youth. After his resignation in 1941, Acting President William Dolan restated the mission of the college: 1) to offer education at all grade levels to a large number of Indian youth at as low a cost as possible, 2) foster the ideal of Christianity, 3) provide an atmosphere of sympathy and understanding of Indian problems and 4) avoid specializations in fields such as trade and agriculture and focus on education leading to professional service, preparing the students to become leaders for the Indian

¹ John Williams and Howard Meredith, *Bacone Indian University* (Oklahoma City: Oklahoma Heritage Association, 1980), 54.

² *Ibid*, 61.

³ *Ibid*, 69.

⁴ *Ibid*, 70.

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race.⁵ Through this period, the emphasis was on educating Native Americans in an environment that was specifically conducive to their culture and needs. While the College saw a drop in enrollment due to war efforts, it still remained a vibrant educational facility.

The 1950's were an awakening at Bacone College that changed the college forever. The biggest issue facing the college was finances. At the end of World War II Bacone was an influx of veteran enrollment but that time had come to an end and enrollment was dwindling. As such, the preparatory school was reduced in size and then eliminated by 1957. The Church could no longer fund its operations at the same level and the number of non-Indian student enrollment increased dramatically.

One specific program to Bacone College involved the 1936 cabin. Students admitted to Bacone came from different Native American tribes, located across the United States. Some came from well-established places with all of the modern conveniences while others came from more impoverished areas. For those who were coming to the end of their time at Bacone, and who came from areas where basic amenities were lacking, they would be placed in the cabin to re-acclimate. The cabin had no utilities and therefore helped the student to adjust to living with no electricity or plumbing. While not directly tied to the curriculum at the College, this was a significant part of the student's education process.

Bacone College has had a varied intellectual and education climate through time but has never lost the cross-cultural component of its mission. The innovations in education at this institution have affected the lives of Native Americans and Oklahomans through education, their drive for self-determination and the development of leaders. Bacone College is significant in the area of Education specific to Native American.

Art

Bacone College is also significant in the area of Art. The Board of Trustees of Bacone College established the Ataloa Lodge Museum in 1932 as the showplace housing the collection of Mary Stone McClendon, building what would become the cornerstone for the historically significant and substantial Native American collection it houses today. Built and completed in 1932 as an art lodge, Ataloa Lodge Museum became a focal point for many school activities. The building was constructed through the joint efforts of President Benjamin Weeks and Mary Stone McLendon, "Ataloa".

Ms. McClendon "Ataloa" was a prominent member of the Chickasaw Nation and a nationally renowned concert vocalist, educator, and advocate for Native American education and fine arts. She abandoned her career as a performer in the late 1920's to take a position as a teacher at Bacone College and follow her passion for the preservation and promotion of Native American culture and artistic endeavors. Bacone became a natural fit for her initiatives as Bacone was the only college that had 100% Native American enrollment at that time. Ms. McClendon served as the field secretary for the college in hopes that the college would embrace her vision and dream of someday establishing a Native American museum on campus. In her role as field secretary she

⁵ Ibid, 87.

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collected hundreds of artifacts and paintings for the college. Through her dedication to the arts and preservation of Native American traditions, artists like Acee Blue Eagle became attracted to and connected with the college and soon inspired a new generation of Native American artists. Acee Blue Eagle provided the real focus for the Art Department, serving as the chair in the early years. Acee studied under the direction of Oscar B. Jacobson, who one told Acee "... You can be the go-between of your people and other people of the older generation with the present and the future."⁶ Acee nurtured his training, and others, while at Bacone and the institution gained prominence as a place of highly trained and talented artists.

Santa Fe, prior to World War II had been the epicenter for Native American Art. In 1946, things changed. The Philbrook Art Institute in Tulsa inaugurated its first annual Indian painting competition. Similar competitions has been held prior in Gallup and Santa Fe but those had carried little prestige and prize money. Prizes at the Philbrook were substantial and therefore stimulated Oklahoma Indian painting. The proximity to Bacone made it easy for artists from Bacone to compete at the Philbrook. Bacone students and staff dominated many categories during the competition and their recognition at the competition turned Bacone into one of the most prestigious art teaching institutions in the world of Indian painting. The combination of postwar activity in Oklahoma shifted the center of Indian painting out of the Southwest.⁷

The credit for the significance of art at Bacone College is not Acee's alone. Other important Native American artists followed in his footsteps to lead the art program at Bacone. These include both Woody Crumbo, a Pottawatomie who painted in the Kiowa manner;⁸ and Dick West, the first Native American to receive an art degree from the University of Oklahoma. Through the Art Department, Bacone College preserved the inheritance of the Native American people by allowing the artists to celebrate their history through creative expression enhanced by experienced and respected professors/artists. This was, and remains, an important part of the Native American culture and movement.

Architecture

Bacone College is architecturally significant as an excellent collection of buildings, structures and objects constructed from 1885 to 1940. Compatible in style and building material, the resources form an easily identifiable unit. This unit, termed the campus, is distinct from the surrounding highway commercial area and residential areas. The campus is easily distinguished by its architecture and the layout of the buildings. Despite the proliferation of college and university campuses within the state of Oklahoma, Bacone College is noteworthy for its collection of buildings and lack of incompatible intrusions.

⁶ Ibid, 78.

⁷ J.J. Brody, *Indian Painters & White Patrons* (Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 1971), 160-161.

⁸ The Kiowa Five, sometimes referred to as the Kiowa Six, are a group of Kiowa artist from Oklahoma in the 20th century: Spencer Asah, James Auchiah, Jack Hokeah, Stephen Mopope and Monroe Tsatoke (Lois Smoky left the group). They studied at the University of Oklahoma under Oscar Jacobsen. Their works focused initially on ceremonial and social scenes of the Kiowa life and were characterized by solid colors, minimal backgrounds and flat perspectives.

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The buildings on campus reflect the aspirations of the governing authorities at the time of their construction. The use of Collegiate Gothic illustrates the classical traditions of campus architecture. Architects H.H. Niemann and Charles Dawson designed the majority of the buildings on campus. It is assumed that the various entities charged with overseeing the school during the period of significance had a development plan in mind but the particulars are unknown. Unlike other campuses in Oklahoma, many of the building were funded through donations; Bacone College did not have to rely on State appropriations.

Many of the architect designed buildings are classified as Collegiate Gothic. They are identified as having smooth wall surfaces with terra cotta or stone trim, pointed windows and stone mullions and hand-crafted hardware. The Walter Starr Hall, Poloke-Bosen Hall, Samuel Richards Memorial Hall, Jennetta Barnett Hall and Benjamin Wacoche Hall all exhibit these details. Other designed buildings include Ataloa Lodge in the Craftsman style and William McComb Hall and Isaac McCoy Hall in the Classical Revival style.

The Bacone College campus is a noteworthy collection of excellent high style buildings formed over the first half of the twentieth century. The cohesion of the buildings creates an outstanding example college architecture. Designed by two noteworthy architects, the buildings are not replications of each other but rather stand on their own merits. However, the adherence to a dominant building material and common architectural styles, patterns and features allows the buildings to work together as a unit.

The Memorial Chapel falls within the boundaries of the Bacone College Historic District and meets Criteria Consideration A. While the chapel is a non-contributing building within the district, it is still a religious facility. The Cemetery within the boundaries of the Bacone College Historic District meets National Register Criteria Consideration D because the cemetery is affiliated with the college as it contains remains of the founder of the college, professors, missionaries and students.

Bacone College occupies a unique position in the history of education in the State of Oklahoma. As the only Native American college in the state, Bacone College is significant in its association with the educational opportunities and practices for Native Americans from the late 1800s to the mid-1950s. Although other public institutions admitted Native Americans, this occurred well after Bacone College was established. Bacone College is significant not only for its role in the education of Native Americans but also in their role in the development of Native American Art and for its noteworthy collection of high style buildings.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

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Thoburn, Joseph B. and Muriel H. Wright, *Oklahoma: A History of the State and Its People, Vol. 2*
(New York: Lewis Historical Publishing Co., 1929).

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Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
 - Other State agency
 - Federal agency
 - Local government
 - University
 - Other
- Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

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10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property approximately 30 acres

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

Point	Longitude	Latitude
A	-95.334772	35.779393
B	-95.334566	35.779354
C	-95.334503	35.778218
D	-95.333812	35.777883
E	-95.333465	35.777284
F	-95.334295	35.771362
G	-95.335115	35.771249
H	-95.335214	35.770432
I	-95.336151	35.770538
J	-95.336108	35.775218
K	-95.337071	35.775326
L	-95.336696	35.778022
M	-95.336130	35.777986
N	-95.336075	35.778408
O	-95.335708	35.778391
P	-95.335450	35.779027
Q	-95.334923	35.778923

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

Starting at Point A (on the latitude/longitude map) traveling 65 feet east to Point B; from Point B south 440 feet to Point C; Point C southeast 210 feet to Point D; Point D southeast 265 feet to Point E; Point E south 2167 feet to Point F; Point F west 254 feet to Point G; Point G south 300 feet to Point H; Point H 260 feet west to Point I; Point I 1780 feet north to Point J; Point J 284 feet west to Point K; Point K 972 feet north to Point L; Point L 180 feet east to Point M; Point M 216 feet north to Point N; Point N 127 feet east to Point O; Point O 248 feet north to Point P; Point P 165 feet north to Point Q; Point Q following the north edge of the cemetery to the originating Point A for a total of 28 acres more or less.

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Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundaries described above enclose the core area of Bacone College. The core area was identified through field surveys by the Oklahoma Historical Society in 2013. The key areas include classrooms, dormitories and administrative buildings. Included in the district are man-made roads, sidewalks and landscaping walls.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Lynda Ozan, National Register Program Coordinator
organization: OK/SHPO
street & number: 800 Nazih Zuhdi Dr
city or town: Oklahoma City state: OK zip code: 73105
e-mail lozan@okhistory.org
telephone: 405/522-4478
date: 11 August 2014

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

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Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: Bacone College Historic District

City or Vicinity: Muskogee

County: Muskogee State: Oklahoma

Photographer: Lynda S. Ozan

Date Photographed: 8 July 2014

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

Photograph Number	Subject	Direction
0001	Walter Starr Hall	West
0002	Ataloa Lodge	West
0003	Ataloa Lodge interior	
0004	Cabin	North
0005	Journeycake Hall	North
0006	Cemetery	North
0007	Samuel Richards Memorial	Southeast
0008	Benjamin Wacoche Hall	East
0009	Jennetta Barnett Hall	East
0010	Sidewalk/William McComb Hall	Southeast
0011	Isaac McCoy Hall	West
0012	Baptistry	West
0013	Church	West
0014	Chickasaw Warrior	east

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Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

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Bacone College
Muskogee, Muskogee County, Oklahoma
Latitude/Longitude Map

