

HISTORIC LANDSCAPE
and
Interpretive Plan

Nuyaka Mission
Okmulgee County, Oklahoma

Leider Associates
Planning Consultants

June 1994

Introduction

The purpose of the study was to develop a Historic Landscape and Interpretive Plan for the 12 acre Nuyaka Mission Site through research into the Mission's historic landscape during its period of its operation from 1885 to 1933. Since only two buildings remain on a once large building complex, the landscape represents a key value of this site and one that is critical in developing an effective interpretation of the site. This study focused on creating a setting similar to what would have been present during the site's period of significance. The site of the Mission is owned and operated by the Oklahoma Historical Society (OHS). The Historic Sites Division of the Oklahoma State Historical Society retained Dr. Charles L. Leider of Leider Associates, Stillwater, OK to conduct the Historic Landscape and Interpretive Plan for the Nuyaka Mission in Okmulgee County, Oklahoma. Dr. Leider retained Susan Hall as a sub-consultant to work with him on the project. The client was represented by Dr. William B. Lees, Director, Historic Sites Division, Ralph W. Jones, Special Projects Coordinator, and Craig McMahan, Historic Property Site Attendant. Work was formally initiated on the project at a meeting of the client and consultant at the Historic Sites Division office on April 5, 1994.

Period of Significance

The Nuyaka Mission was a Presbyterian school for Creek children that opened for classes in 1885. Average enrollment was in the area of 90 students, about equally divided between boys and girls. In 1909, operation of the school passed to the Creek Nation, who operated it until 1921 or 1922. At that time the Southern Baptist Convention took control of Nuyaka and operated it as the Nuyaka Orphan's Home. In 1933, the Baptists closed Nuyaka and demolished most of the buildings. The Mission site was acquired and used as part of a farm. The administration building was converted into a farm house. A free standing two car garage with a connecting breezeway was added to the house. The laundry building was converted into a storage building.

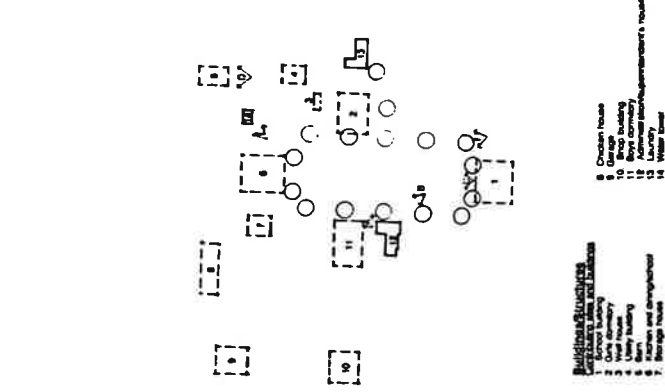
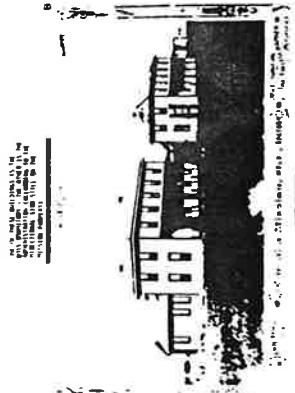
Today Nuyaka Mission is currently characterized by two standing, historic buildings, the administration building (used as the attendants's residence) and the laundry (used for storage). A number of features associated with former historic buildings and other features post-dating the period of significance of the site (1885-1933) are also present on the site. A portion of the site that contains the two remaining historic buildings is owned by OHS, however, part of the historic building site remains in private ownership.

One of the objectives of the study was to determine its period of significance within the Mission's time of operation. This investigation consisted of compiling available information from historical photographs and literature. From this information it was possible to reconstruct the overall activity of the Mission. After reviewing the literature and photographs with Dr. Lees and Ralph W. Jones and their associates, it was determined the Mission reached its peak development between 1900-10. This period was then selected as the Period of Significance

Cultural Landscape Survey

To document the existing landscape conditions at Nuyaka the Historic Sites Division furnished the consultant with a packet of literature, historic photographs and two base maps at the scale of 1" = 30' and 100'. In addition, the consultant conducted a literature and photograph search of the site was conducted at the State Historical Society library in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma State University Library at Stillwater and the Creek Tribal Headquarters Office in Okmulgee.

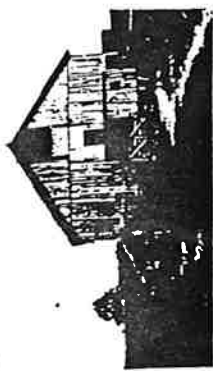
On April 12, 1994, the consultant conducted a field survey of the site. During that field visit the types of existing vegetation and cultural features were noted on field base maps. Trees, shrubs and flowers were identified as to genus and species by scientific and common names. In addition, a current 1992 ASCS aerial photograph was obtained to determine the location of vegetation cover and cultural feature. A subsequent site visit was conducted to secure additional information and verify previously collected data. A 1930s aerial photograph was secured from the OSU library. It was digitized, enlarged and reproduced at the scale of 1" = 100', however, it did not produce the desired results of identifying the foundations of buildings which had been removed. The 1930 aerial photograph did show the extent of tree cover on the site. In comparing the 1930 and 1990 photographs, it is apparent the tree cover on the site has expanded considerably during this 60 year



- Buildings and Structures**
- 1. School building
 - 2. Store building
 - 3. Milk house
 - 4. Utility building
 - 5. Barn
 - 6. Truck and equipment
 - 7. Storage house

- 8. Chicken house
- 9. Large building
- 10. Barn
- 11. Barn
- 12. Barn
- 13. Laundry
- 14. Water tower

PLANT: UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA
 1937 - 1938
 1939 - 1940
 1941 - 1942

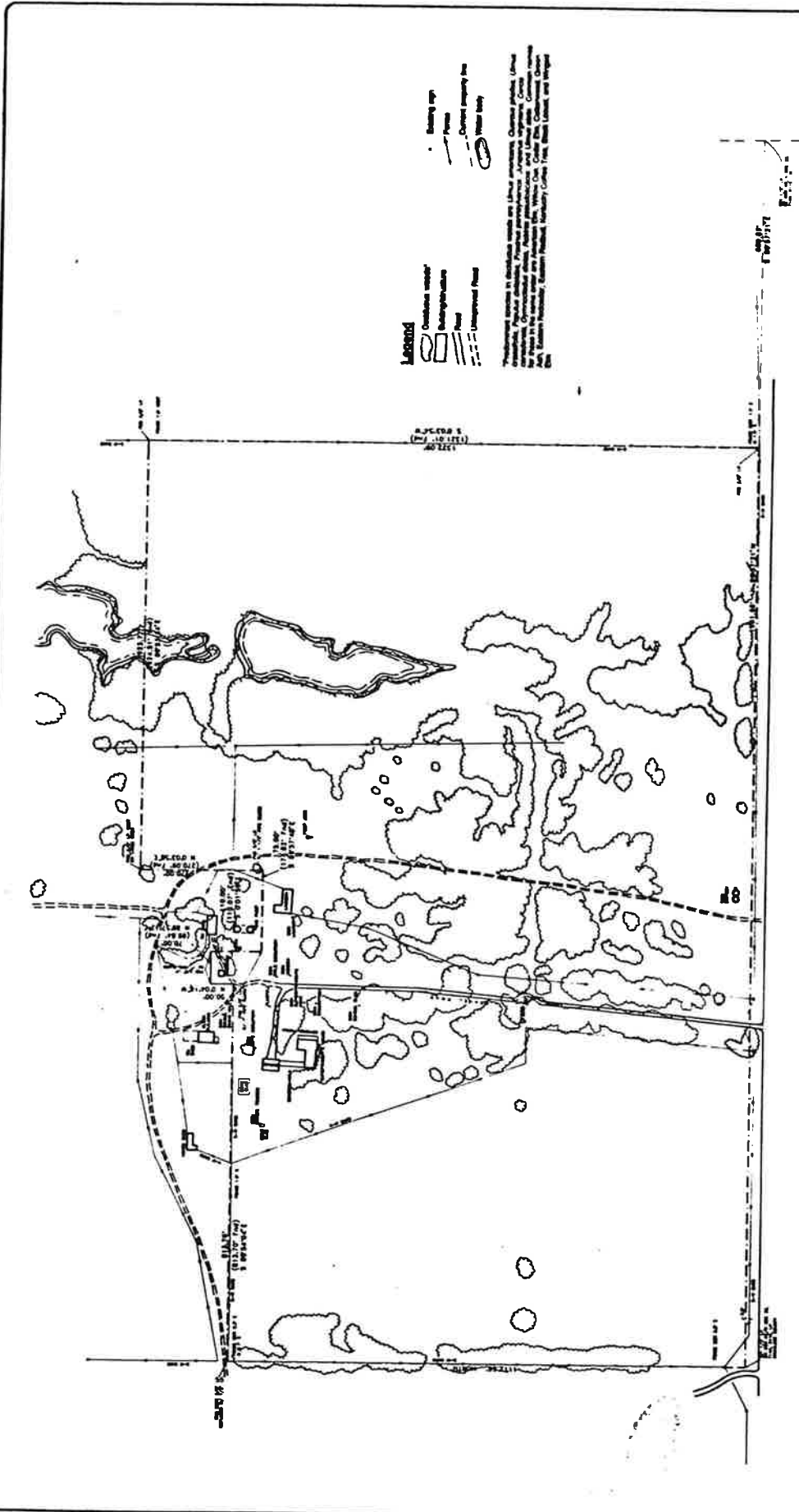


- LEGEND**
- Approximate location of parcel line
 - Building structure building
 - ▭ Approximation of contributing building use
 - ↘ Approximate location and direction of streets for photograph

HISTORIC PHOTOGRAPH LOCATOR MAP
 Historic Landscapes and Interpretive Plan
 Nuyaka Mission - Cimarron County, Oklahoma
 Landmark Association
 Oklahoma State University
 Stillwater, Oklahoma



Source: Maps of historic site from on-site logs and Oklahoma Historical Society photo survey (unpublished)



Legend

- Building Footprint
- Fence
- Cultural Property
- Unimproved Road

Topographic contours are shown in black. Contour intervals are 10 feet. The map shows the location of the site relative to the surrounding landscape. The map is based on a survey conducted in 1988. The map is a reproduction of the original survey map. The map is a reproduction of the original survey map.

CULTURAL LANDSCAPE SURVEY
 Historic Landscape and Interpretive Plan
 Noyes Mission - Cherokee County, Georgia
 Lenoir Associates
 Planning Consultants
 1100 Peachtree Street, N.E.
 Atlanta, Georgia 30309
 Scale: 1"=100' ± North

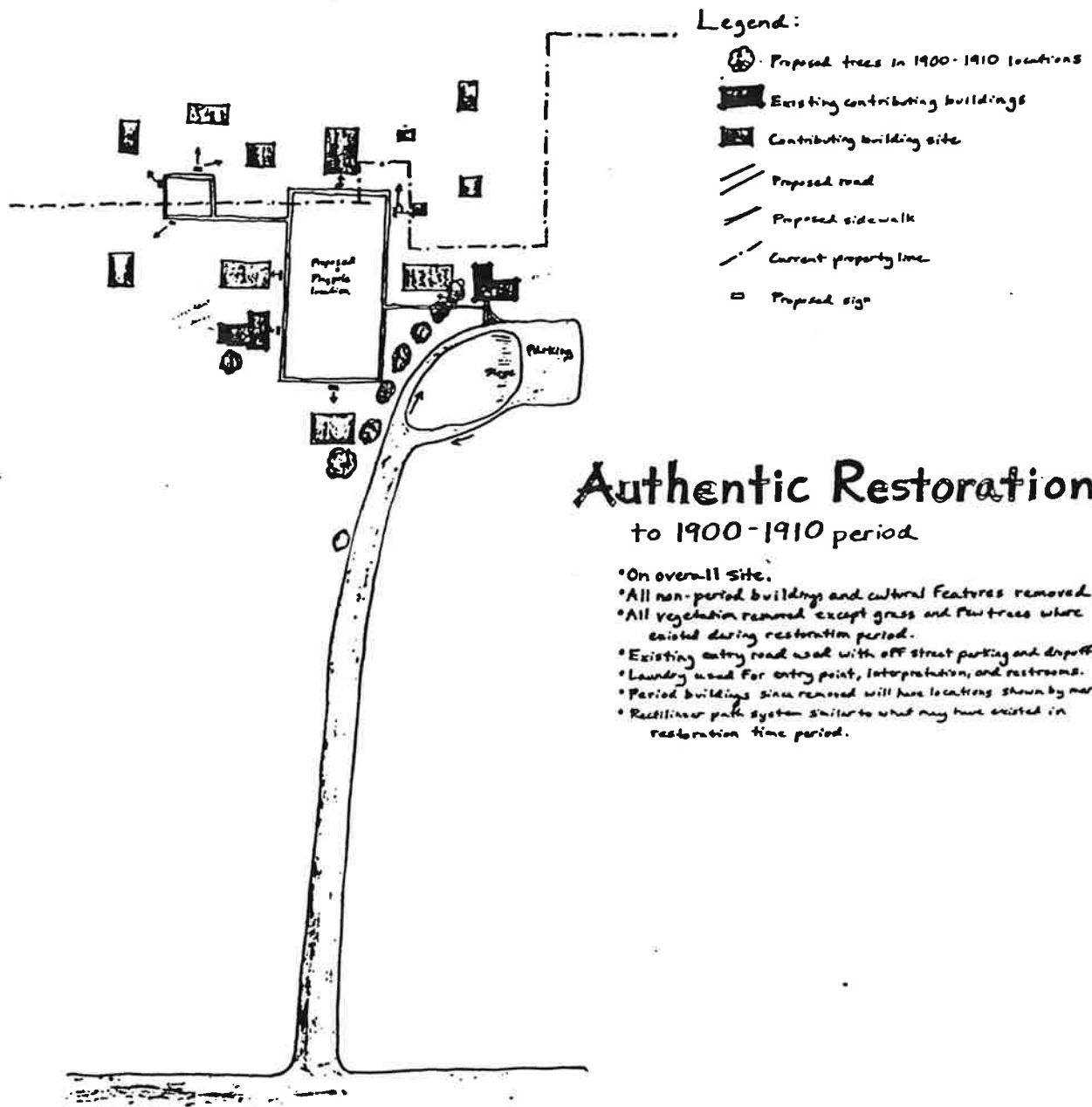
period. From this material two cultural landscape survey maps at the scale of 1' = 30' and 100' feet were developed including a map identify vantage points of known historic photographs.

Concept Plans

Four concept plans were prepared on study tracing paper based, in part, on the Cultural Landscape Survey. These plans showed landscape modification required to establish a sense of the historic landscape that was present during the Period of Significance. These plans contained recommendations showing the natural and cultural features to be removed, and the natural features to be introduced. Proposed plant materials appropriate to the Period of Significance were also identified. The concept plans did not propose the reconstruction of any missing buildings. The concept plans consisted of alternate preservation treatments approaches, different vegetation patterns, various pedestrian and vehicular circulation systems. The plans identify vehicular ingress and egress form the site as well as parking. The plans also showed alternatives for a walking trail with signage that would allow visitors to understand the site's history and setting without the use of brochures or interior interpretive exhibits. One of the concept plans restricted trail development to state owned land and the other concepts propose trail development regardless of ownership. The design of the trail also took into consideration the Americans with Disabilities Act. The concepts plans ranged from an authentic restoration of the site as it existed after the turn of the century to a minimum change approach to the present site. The four concept plans included herein were entitled:

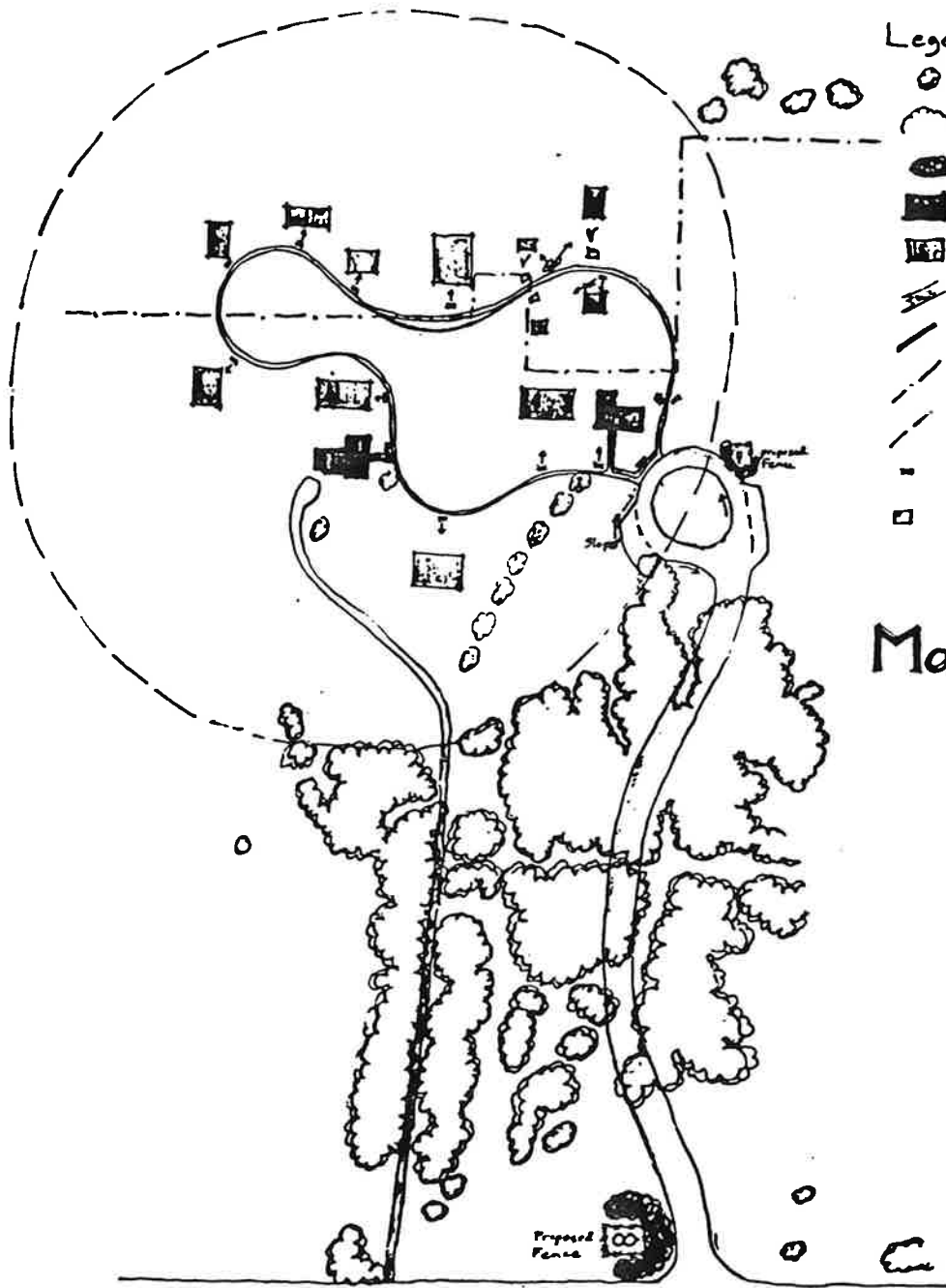
1. Authentic Restoration: 1900-10 Period
2. Modified Restoration
3. Least Modified
4. Vehicule Oriented

These plans were presented to Dr. Lees on May 2. The Authentic and the Modified concepts were selected by Dr. Lees to be revised into two final plans. The revisions included a new entrance road to the Visitor's Center, retention of the original road as a historic feature of the site, a screened service area with a yard, maintainance building, and an attendant's house.














Authentic Restoration to 1900-1910 period

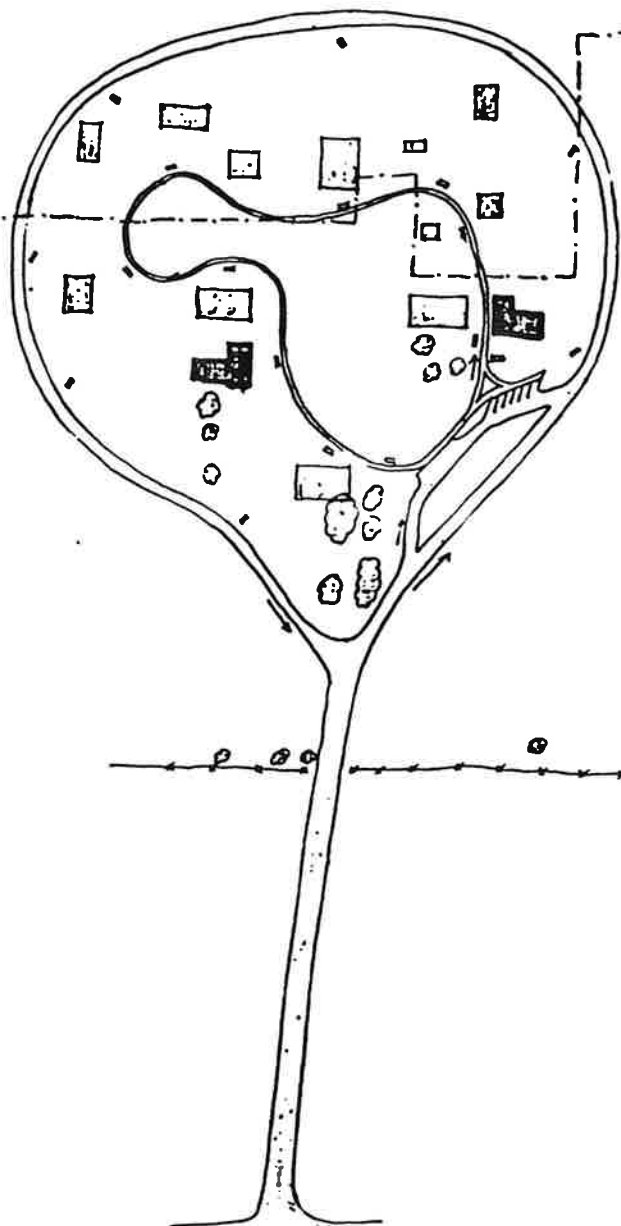
- On overall site.
- All non-period buildings and cultural features removed.
- All vegetation removed except grass and few trees where existed during restoration period.
- Existing entry road used with off street parking and dropoff.
- Laundry used for entry point, interpretation, and restrooms.
- Period buildings since removed will have locations shown by markers.
- Rectilinear path system similar to what may have existed in restoration time period.










Legend:

-  Proposed pine trees (to clearing area)
-  Existing woods
-  Proposed evergreen screening
-  Existing contributing building
-  Noncontributing building site
-  Proposed road
-  Proposed sidewalk
-  Current property line
-  Clearing area border
-  Proposed sign
-  Noncontributing structure

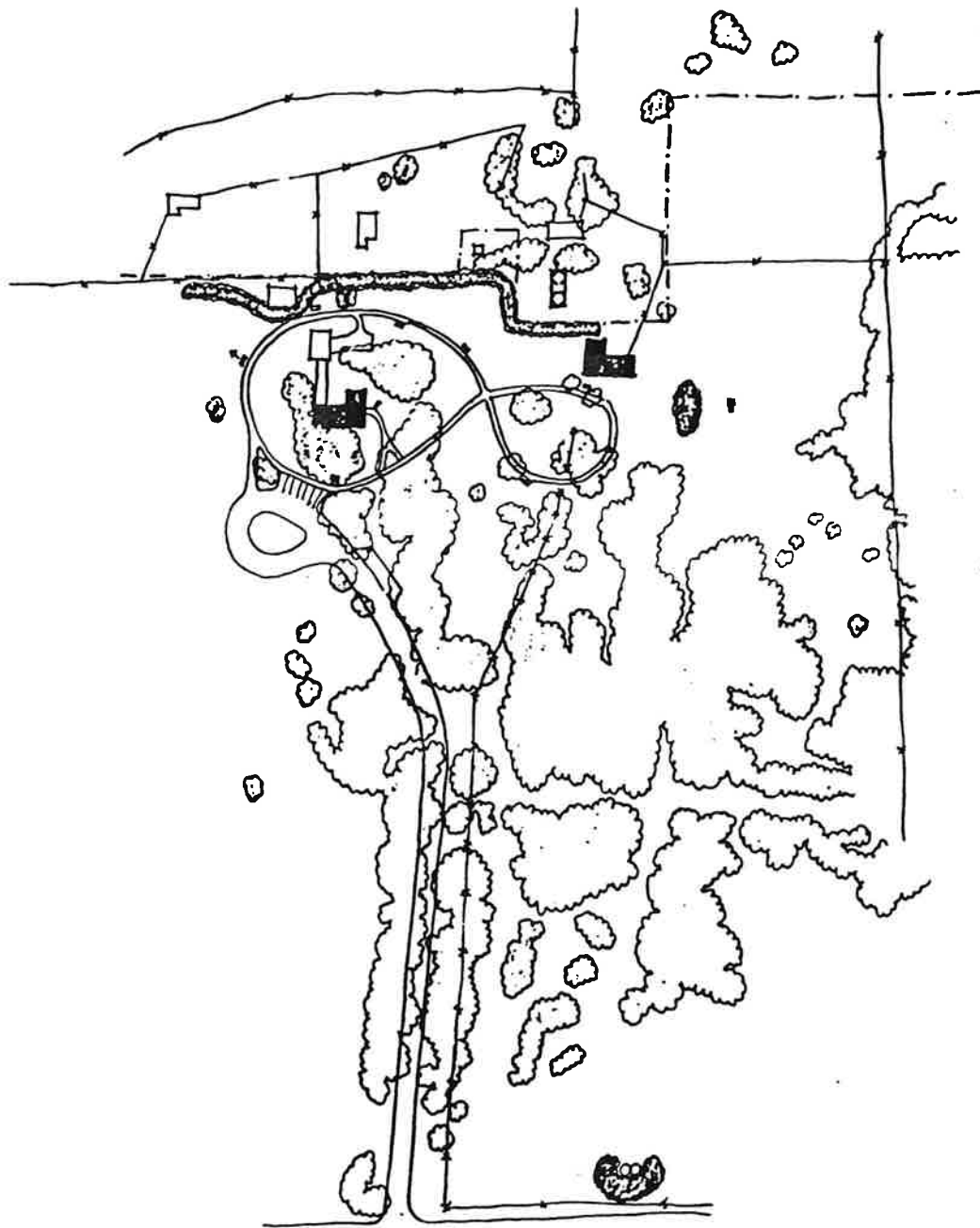
Modified Restoration













Legend:

-  Proposed tree
-  Existing contributing building
-  Contributing building site
-  Proposed sign
-  Proposed road
-  Proposed sidewalk
-  Existing property line

Vehicle Oriented



Legend:

-  Deciduous woods
-  Existing contributing buildings
-  Noncontributing structures
-  Evergreen screening - proposed
-  Improved road
-  Unimproved road
-  Proposed sidewalk
-  Current property line
-  Proposed sign location
-  Fence

Least Modified

Final Plans

Dr. Lees requested two final plan drawings of the selected concepts be presented on two sheets copies of which are shown on the following pages. One sheet would show the two concepts side by side and is referred to as the Greater Historic Area Plan. These plans were laid out on what was the original Mission site regardless on current land ownership. The second sheet, referred to as the Limited Historic Area Plan, showed the two concepts laid out on the land the State currently owns.

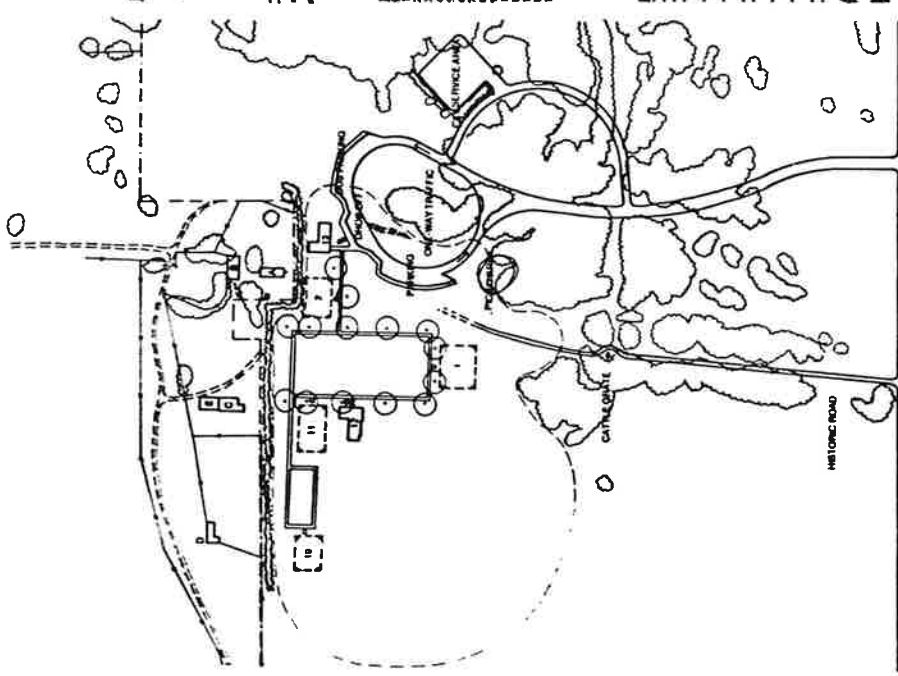
The Greater Historic Area Plan calls for acquiring additional property so all of the historic site and the proposed circulation systems can be accommodated. The plan also envisions returning the built-up portion of the site to the way it appeared during the Period of Significance by removing all non contributing buildings and establishing a zone clear of all woody vegetation thereby recreating the prairie site of the Mission. The historic buildings which were removed would not be reconstructed instead a self guided trail system would be established and markers placed at the site of each missing building. This plan reestablishes the original walkway system connecting the buildings on the site. This plan would convert the laundry building into a Visitors Center. The original entrance road to the site would be retained and could be used as an alternate entrance to the site in case of emergencies.

The Limited Historic Area Plan is designed to fit the pedestrian and vehicular circulation systems on the land currently owned by the State. Non contributing buildings off the site would be screened by evergreen plant material, such as Canaert junipers so as to provide year around screening. This plan utilizes a curvilinear trail system. The laundry building would be converted into a Visitors Center.

Interpretive Signs

Four concept plans were presented to the client. The concepts included:

1. A 12 X 24" granite marker flush to the ground.
2. A granite marker 12x 24" raised six to eight inches above the ground with its engraved face sloped toward the viewer.
3. A three foot metal pole and engraved marker 20x 30" sloped toward the viewer.
4. A vertical integrated 8' metal pole and engraved 30x 30" marker positioned at a 90 degree angle to the ground.



AUTHENTIC RESTORATION

- LEGEND**
- Proposed partial tree
 - Existing tree
 - Proposed structure
 - Existing structure
 - Proposed parking
 - Existing parking
 - Proposed road
 - Existing road
 - Proposed driveway
 - Existing driveway
 - Proposed utility
 - Existing utility
 - Proposed fence
 - Existing fence
 - Proposed site
 - Existing site
 - Proposed lot
 - Existing lot
 - Proposed boundary
 - Existing boundary
 - Proposed easement
 - Existing easement
 - Proposed right-of-way
 - Existing right-of-way

- Map Annotations**
- A. Proposed structure
 - B. Existing structure
 - C. Black building
 - D. House
 - E. Pump yard
 - F. Tank battery
 - G. Garage
 - H. Shop building
 - I. Utility building
 - J. Administration/representative's home
 - K. Laundry
 - L. Water tower

- Notes**
- 1. Proposed partial trees are also shown in the plan.
 - 2. Proposed easement boundaries are shown in the plan.
 - 3. Proposed parking is shown in the plan.

Notes on both Authentic and Modified sites

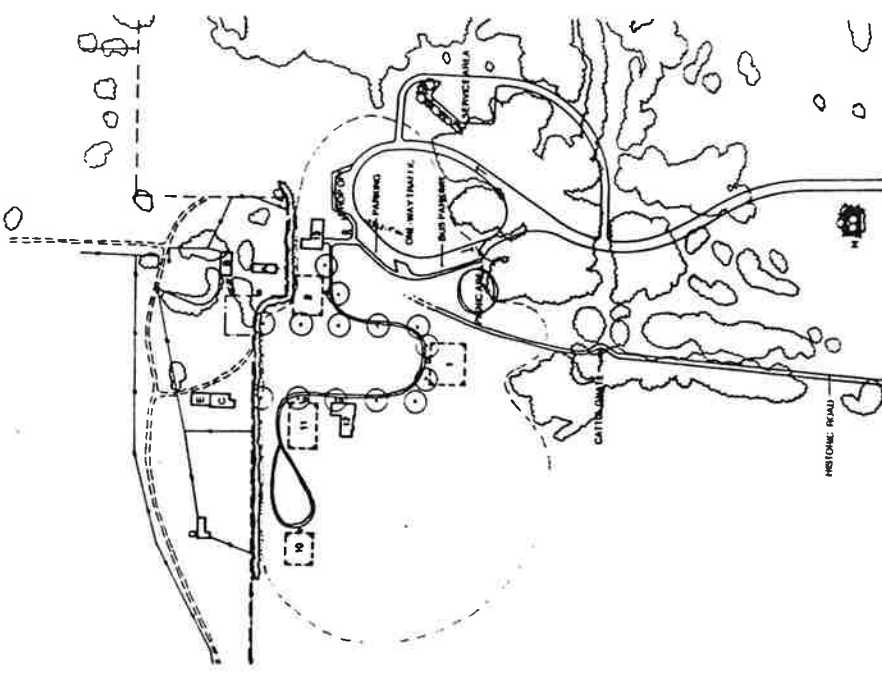
- 1. Historic site property boundaries are shown in the plan.
- 2. The plan shows the location of the proposed parking area.
- 3. The plan shows the location of the proposed structure.
- 4. The plan shows the location of the proposed road.
- 5. The plan shows the location of the proposed utility.
- 6. The plan shows the location of the proposed fence.
- 7. The plan shows the location of the proposed site.
- 8. The plan shows the location of the proposed lot.
- 9. The plan shows the location of the proposed boundary.
- 10. The plan shows the location of the proposed easement.
- 11. The plan shows the location of the proposed right-of-way.

Notes on Modified site

- 1. The plan shows the location of the proposed parking area.
- 2. The plan shows the location of the proposed structure.
- 3. The plan shows the location of the proposed road.
- 4. The plan shows the location of the proposed utility.
- 5. The plan shows the location of the proposed fence.
- 6. The plan shows the location of the proposed site.
- 7. The plan shows the location of the proposed lot.
- 8. The plan shows the location of the proposed boundary.
- 9. The plan shows the location of the proposed easement.
- 10. The plan shows the location of the proposed right-of-way.

Notes on Historic site

- 1. The plan shows the location of the proposed parking area.
- 2. The plan shows the location of the proposed structure.
- 3. The plan shows the location of the proposed road.
- 4. The plan shows the location of the proposed utility.
- 5. The plan shows the location of the proposed fence.
- 6. The plan shows the location of the proposed site.
- 7. The plan shows the location of the proposed lot.
- 8. The plan shows the location of the proposed boundary.
- 9. The plan shows the location of the proposed easement.
- 10. The plan shows the location of the proposed right-of-way.



MODIFIED RESTORATION

All of the markers would be installed with appropriate concrete footings. The current engraved stone marker located in front of the Attendant's house, giving the history of the Mission, would be retained and moved to the proposed Visitors Center and used as an orientation statement along with a new marker, as described in Sign Concept 4, showing the overall layout of the Mission (see sketch on the Signage drawing). It is assumed after a visitor reads the two orientation signs, the visitor would be prepared to undertake the self guided tour of the site.

After reviewing the four concepts, Dr. Lees selected Concept 2, the elevated stone marker proposal.

Cost Estimate

A cost estimate for maximum development as shown in the Greater Historic Area Plan is presented here. The cost estimates for other plans would be less because of their more limited development.

Cost estimates for the improvements are as follows:

Landscaping

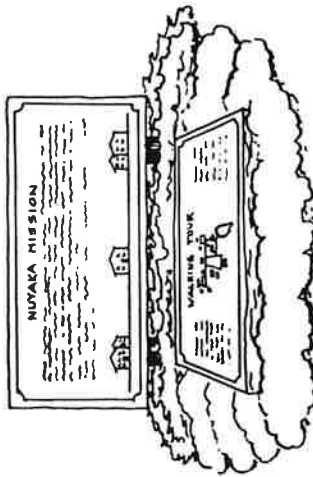
Reestablish the original shade trees on the site
Acer rubum, Red Maple 1" caliber trunk
balled and burlaped:

\$80 a tree x 10 trees =	\$800
\$25 an hour labor x 2 persons x 8 hours =	\$400
\$1 a mile x 60 miles round trip from Tulsa =	\$ 60
Total cost	\$ 1,200

Road and Parking

Construct new 20' wide driveway with.
4" of gravel surface (two 2" applications)

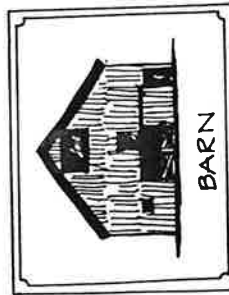
2,500' linear feet road	\$15,000
17,000 sq. ft. parking lot	\$17,000
2,200 sq ft for 10 cars	
2 concrete ADA spaces	\$1,700
2,800 sq. ft. for 2 buses	
1 concrete ADA space	\$1,700
12,000 sq. ft. for service yard	
Total cost	\$ 35,400



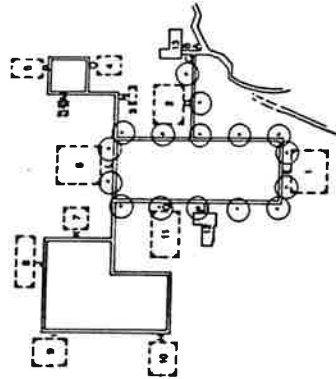
SIGNAGE DETAIL
 PLACEMENT OF SIGNS A AND B



TYPICAL SIGNAGE DETAIL



TYPICAL SIGNAGE DETAIL
 SIGNPOST



SIGN LOCATOR MAP

Typical sign layout for Nuyala, Representative plan. Sign location and placement is for information only. The actual sign placement and design will be determined by the Landscape Architect for the Project.

Legend

- ▭ Existing building site
- ▭ Existing contributing building
- ▭ Proposed structure
- ▭ Proposed sign
- ▭ Historic road

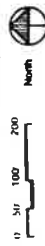
Buildings/Structures

- 1. City cemetery
- 2. Main house
- 3. Barn
- 4. Storage shed/warehouse
- 5. Chicken house
- 6. Garage
- 7. Shop building
- 8. Administration/Postmaster's House
- 9. Laundry
- 10. Wash house
- 11. School building
- 12. Utility building
- 13. Well house
- 14. Water tower
- 15. Kitchen and bathroom
- 16. Dormitory
- 17. Laundry
- 18. Utility building
- 19. Barn
- 20. Storage shed

- A. SITE OBSERVATION
- B. Existing granite sign to be moved to site location.
- C. LAUNDRY BUILDING
- D. GOLF DORMITORY
- E. SCHOOL BUILDING
- F. ADMINISTRATION/POSTMASTER'S HOUSE
- G. BOTTLE DORMITORY
- H. SHOP BUILDING
- I. BARN
- J. CHICKEN HOUSE
- K. STORAGE HOUSE
- L. KITCHEN AND BATHROOM
- M. WATER TOWER
- N. WELL HOUSE
- O. UTILITY BUILDING
- P. BARN

SIGN LOCATOR MAP AND DETAILS

Historic Landscape and Interpretive Plan
 Project Number: Cherokee County, Oklahoma
 Landmark Association
 Planning Consultants
 Savannah, Oklahoma



Trails/Walks

Construct 2,500' linear feet of
new 4' x 4" sidewalk
with 3000# mix @ \$50 cub. yd
covers 80 sq. ft.

Grading	\$2,500
Construction of forms	\$5,000
Poured concrete	\$8,000
Total Cost	\$15,000

Interpretive Signage

10 new granite 12 x 24" markers
engraved and installed on concrete
foundation. \$3,800

1 new granite 30 x40" marker
engraved with site plan and installed
on concrete foundation \$1,400.

Existing granite marker
relocated and installed and
old markers removed \$1,000

Total Cost	\$6,200
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GRAND TOTAL \$ 57,800

Conclusion

The two alternate final plans developed for the historic site as well as State owned land of the Mission site. This approach offers the OHS more flexibility in developing the site depending on future funding and phasing.

