

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM

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1. Name of Property

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historic name Tabor House

other names/site number N/A

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2. Location

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street & number 631 W. Lafayette not for publication N/A  
city or town Checotah vicinity N/A  
state Oklahoma code OK county McIntosh code 091  
zip code 74426



5. Classification

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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

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>  1  </u>	<u>  1  </u> buildings
<u>  0  </u>	<u>  0  </u> sites
<u>  0  </u>	<u>  0  </u> structures
<u>  0  </u>	<u>  0  </u> objects
<u>  1  </u>	<u>  1  </u> Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register   N/A  

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

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6. Function or Use

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Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: DOMESTIC Sub: single dwelling  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: DOMESTIC Sub: single dwelling  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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7. Description

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Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Prairie School  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE:Sandstone  
roof WOOD:Shingle  
walls ASBESTOS  
  
other BRICK:Chimney; WOOD:Porch Columns;  
STONE:Sandstone Piers; WOOD:Entablatures

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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8. Statement of Significance

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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 a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Period of Significance

1912

c. 1925

c. 1937

=====  
8. Statement of Significance (Continued)  
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Significant Dates N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)  
N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Architect/Builder Unknown  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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9. Major Bibliographical References  
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(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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 # \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Location of Additional Data

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

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10. Geographical Data  
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Acreage of Property Less than one acre

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	<u>15</u>	<u>270630</u>	<u>3927950</u>	3	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>
2	<u>N/A</u>	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>	4	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>

N/A See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

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11. Form Prepared By  
=====

name/title Nicky L. and Leslie A. Vandiver

organization \_\_\_\_\_ date February 29, 1996

street & number 631 W. Lafayette telephone 918/473-5244

city or town Checotah state OK zip code 74426

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Additional Documentation  
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Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.  
A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage  
or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form  
Tabor House  
McIntosh County, Oklahoma

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=====  
Property Owner  
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(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Nicky L. and Leslie A. Vandiver

street & number 631 W. Lafayette telephone 918/473-5244

city or town Checotah state OK zip code 74426

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county and State

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SUMMARY

The Tabor House is an excellent, two-story, local example of the Prairie School style. It was built in 1912 for the Rubert Hutchinson family. It is a peerless local extant example of the Prairie School style with its projecting and flared eaves, wood shingled hipped roof and porte-cochere/sleeping porch. The interior possesses a high degree of integrity with its simple, yet elegant, use of wood trims, moldings, floorings and balusters. The overall character emanates the stately grace of bygone days. The property is in very good condition. It is located in a residential neighborhood of the small town of Checotah, Oklahoma, among other single dwellings dating from the 1910s and 1920s. The setting is a large, landscaped yard complete with rose garden and older trees. The property is within two blocks of the Methodist Episcopal Church (NR 1984) and the four-block Checotah Business District (NR 1982).

The two-story, Prairie School style Tabor House faces south to West Lafayette Street. The south facade contains a one-story partial wraparound porch with a wood shingled, hipped roof. The porch has its original, slightly tapered, unfluted columns and sandstone piers. The west facade parallels Southwest Fourth Street and is devoid of entryways. It is characterized by windows and a projecting rear mudroom. The north elevation has separate entrances for the basement and mudroom. The most prominent elevation is to the east. It boasts a long bay window extending from the first floor dining room. Directly above is the porte cochere/sleeping porch extending from the second floor master bedroom. A drive-through breezeway and side entrance to the house are underneath. The porte-cochere/sleeping porch was added in the mid-1920s. The fenestration fits perfectly with the already existent horizontal theme. The sandstone piers and wooden columns match those of the original wraparound front porch. A 1928 photograph shows the porte-cochere/sleeping porch which was added in circa 1925. The interior of the porte-cochere/sleeping porch continues the pine flooring and window trim, sills and moldings of the original house.

The house has a sandstone foundation and partial basement. The original exterior siding was weatherboard which was covered by asbestos shingles about 1937 (a 1942 photograph shows the asbestos shingles in place). This resulted in less maintenance and greater energy efficiency which still holds true today. The house has been painted gray with white and blue trim. The hipped roof is covered with

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wood shingles and is characterized by its flared, wide eaves which are boxed without brackets. The house retains its original wood, one-over-one, double hung windows.

EXTERIOR DESCRIPTION

The south elevation is the front of the house. It features a wraparound porch with slightly tapered columns on sandstone piers. The primary entrance is set-back into the east elevation. The wood paneled door has matching wood and glass sidelights. The fenestration on the south wall consists of two, large, one-over-one windows on the first floor. The second floor has two large, matching windows to the outside and one small, one-over-one window in the center.

The west wall contains only windows although a mudroom on the back of the house creates a small, one-story projection with a hipped roof. There are a total of eight windows in the west wall. One is located in the mudroom. A pair of windows are located south of the mudroom and covered with an awning. Four of the windows are located along the interior stairs. These windows are not equal in size and evenly placed but they create a striking stepped appearance. The remaining window is located immediately above the first floor landing window.

The irregular fenestration matching the other elevations is continued on the rear of the house. There is a single window and triple window on the first floor of the main house. The first floor windows appear to be the same size but are not placed on the same level. The three second story windows are not equal in size, although they are placed along the same top level and are all one-over-one. The north elevation also includes separate entrances for the mudroom and the basement. Additionally, towards the northeast corner of the house, a one-story, hipped roofed addition was constructed in 1973. Consisting of a bedroom and a bathroom, the addition is distinguished from the rest of the house by its steel siding, concrete block foundation and smaller, one-over-one windows.

The east elevation epitomizes the grand style of the Tabor House. Visible on this elevation are the wraparound porch from the south elevation, the hipped roof porte cochere/sleeping porch and a hipped roof bay window. The porte cochere/sleeping porch was constructed in approximately 1925. The porte cochere has tapered wood columns with sandstones piers matching the wraparound porch supports. The

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sleeping porch has one-over-one ribbon windows on all sides. The bay window with three nine-over-nine windows is located partially under the sleeping porch in the porte cochere. Other fenestration on the east elevation include three one-over-one windows on the first floor and four one-over-one windows on the second. Placement of the windows includes the two centermost single windows on each level being parallel to each other with the outer windows randomly positioned.

Just north of the house is what used to be the original carriage house with servants quarters above. A large shed stood beside it to the east. These were wooden structures with weatherboard siding. In 1990, walls were torn out and the roof lines redone to combine these two structures into one. Vinyl siding was added. In 1993, lean-to rooms were added to the north and east elevations of the structure. The structure has a wood shingled roof matching the house.

The remnants of a rock wall dated 2-11-1938 runs from north to south on the eastern edge of the property. It is 110' long, 10" wide and 1' tall. It is believed to have been built by the Works Progress Administration (WPA) as a retaining wall. A huge pond was formerly located northeast of the wall. The WPA built several other buildings in Checotah during the same time period. These include Longfellow Elementary School (1936-1937), the old Gymnasium (1939) and several bridges, roads and drainage ditches.

INTERIOR DESCRIPTION

The interior of the house boasts the warmth of its original wood features. The oak front door has sixteen small beveled glass windows above and oak panels to the sides. It has the original skeleton key lock which is still in operation. The fireplace and chimney are brick with the pine mantle still intact. The magnificent oak staircase leads from the downstairs foyer to the second-story landing both of which are large enough to be rooms in and of themselves. Two oak pocket doors lead into the dining room. The dining room has a ten-foot window seat with three, nine-over-nine glass paned windows. It also has the original plate rail that completely surrounds the room. The downstairs has nine and one-half foot ceilings and the upstairs has eight and one-half foot ceilings. There are several original brass light switch plates in place. The original brass light fixtures with patent date of 1896 remain throughout the house. An original six foot clawfoot bathtub dated 1912 and its plumbing fixture dated 1911 are in an upstairs bathroom. Decorative details include seven inch baseboards throughout

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the house along with pine and oak window and door rim and moldings. Some windows have original wooden window brackets and rods with finials. Most doors are original wood with five panels. A wood molding one and one-half feet below the ceiling encircles all three upstairs bedrooms and the downstairs parlor. The upstairs master bedroom and landing have wooden corner guards. The house is comfortably heated by the original circulating hot water radiators (boiler in the basement).

ALTERATIONS

Alterations to the house have only enhanced the Prairie School style. Minor changes were made in the mid 1920s when a second floor bathroom was added to the northwest corner as well as a small utility porch being enclosed below creating the mudroom. Also in the mid 1920s, the porte cochere/sleeping porch was added on the east elevation. In 1937, asbestos siding was put on the house, obscuring the original weatherboard cladding. All of these modifications occurred prior to 1946 and, as such, do not adversely impact the integrity of the Tabor House.

The only major nonhistoric alteration occurred in about 1973. At that time, a downstairs bedroom and bathroom were added to the northeast corner of the house off the dining room. It has gray steel siding which matches the house in color. There are also three glazed multi-paneled doors that came out of another old Checotah, Oklahoma, house that are used in the Tabor House to replace missing doors.

All of the changes made to the house over the years blend in with the original character and function of the house. The Tabor House continues to maintain its integrity of location, setting, design, workmanship, materials and conveys the feelings of its past environment to an extraordinary degree.

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Tabor House is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C. The Tabor House, which was built in 1912, is significant as the only extant local example of the Prairie School style. Its characteristics hail to the Arts and Crafts Movement with its external simplicity and honesty with an accentuation on functionalism and quality. The Tabor House has two-stories, flared eaves, no dormers, ribbon windows with wood casements, large porch piers and large rooms and closets. It was built at the time this predominantly midwestern design flourished under the influence of Frank Lloyd Wright.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

In 1897, Spaulding and Company built one of Checotah's earliest cotton gins on this site. Some of the rock foundation is still visible in the yard. The cotton gin ceased operation in about 1903. Robert Hutchinson and Raymond Rutherford were two of Checotah's pioneering businessmen. Both were associated with Spaulding-Hutchinson Mercantile Company and later the Rutherford-Hutchinson gin. The Tabor House was built for Mr. Hutchinson in 1912. A wooden packing crate top from the early 1900s adorns the kitchen wall. It was from the business of the original house owner and states "Hutchinson Merc. Co. Checotah OK". It was found on the property in 1989. The Hutchinsons sold the house to the Rutherfords in 1920. In 1925 Britton H. and Bessie Duncan Tabor bought the house. Mr. Tabor was a prominent Checotah attorney.

The Tabors were well known for their extensive worldwide travels and philanthropic nature. The Tabor family donated land for Checotah's city park and library. The Mother's Club named the park after Bessie Tabor. It is located one-half block southwest of the Tabor House. The Jim Lucas Library sits just northeast of the Tabor House on adjoining property. The Tabor family donated the chimes to the Methodist Church which ring daily. The living room is still graced by the presence of the Tabor's baby grand piano. The Tabor family owned the house until 1989 -- a period spanning sixty-four years. Early Checotah newspapers chronicle the Tabor House throughout the years as a mainstay of social graces. The Hutchinson, Rutherford and Tabor families are continually cited on the society pages for hosting meetings of business clubs, bridge clubs, church groups as well as teas and piano recitals.

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ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Prairie School style is one of the few indigenous to America. Its popularity flourished and declined between 1900-1920. It used straight, simple lines in an attempt to honor and intensify the natural beauty of the prairie. New construction techniques created fewer, yet larger rooms. Many rooms were separated by broad openings instead of doors. These spacious rooms were conducive to entertaining and the perpetuation of the social graces of the era. Bedrooms and baths were usually on the second floor. The Tabor House personifies these characteristics.

The Tabor House is an outstanding example of the Prairie School style of domestic architecture. The Tabor House was built in the original townsite of Checotah, Oklahoma. Early 1900 local newspapers show some other Prairie School style houses in Checotah; however, these homes are no longer in existence. A windshield survey of the town reveals that the Tabor House is the only remaining Prairie School style home in Checotah. The Tabor House stands out in our community as the best extant example of the Prairie School design. Its style and grace are an important architectural asset to the community. The interior integrity of the house with its original fixtures, windows, flooring and trim/molding detailing is remarkable.

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BIBLIOGRAPHY

Abstract of Title.

Andre, Mary Elizabeth Tabor, daughter of Britton H. and Bessie Tabor, Honolulu, HI. Letter to Nicky and Leslie Vandiver, 02 October 1994.

\_\_\_\_\_. Letter to Kathy Reynolds, 02 October 1990.

McAlester, Virginia and Lee. A Field Guide to American Houses. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1984.

Sanborn Map Company. 1909 and 1914 Checotah, Oklahoma, Maps.

Whiffen, Marcus. American Architecture Since 1780: A Guide to the Styles. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 1969.

Photographs of the Tabor House from 1928 and 1942.

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The west 1/2 of Lots 7 and 8, Block 73.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundaries include all the property historically associated with the Tabor House.



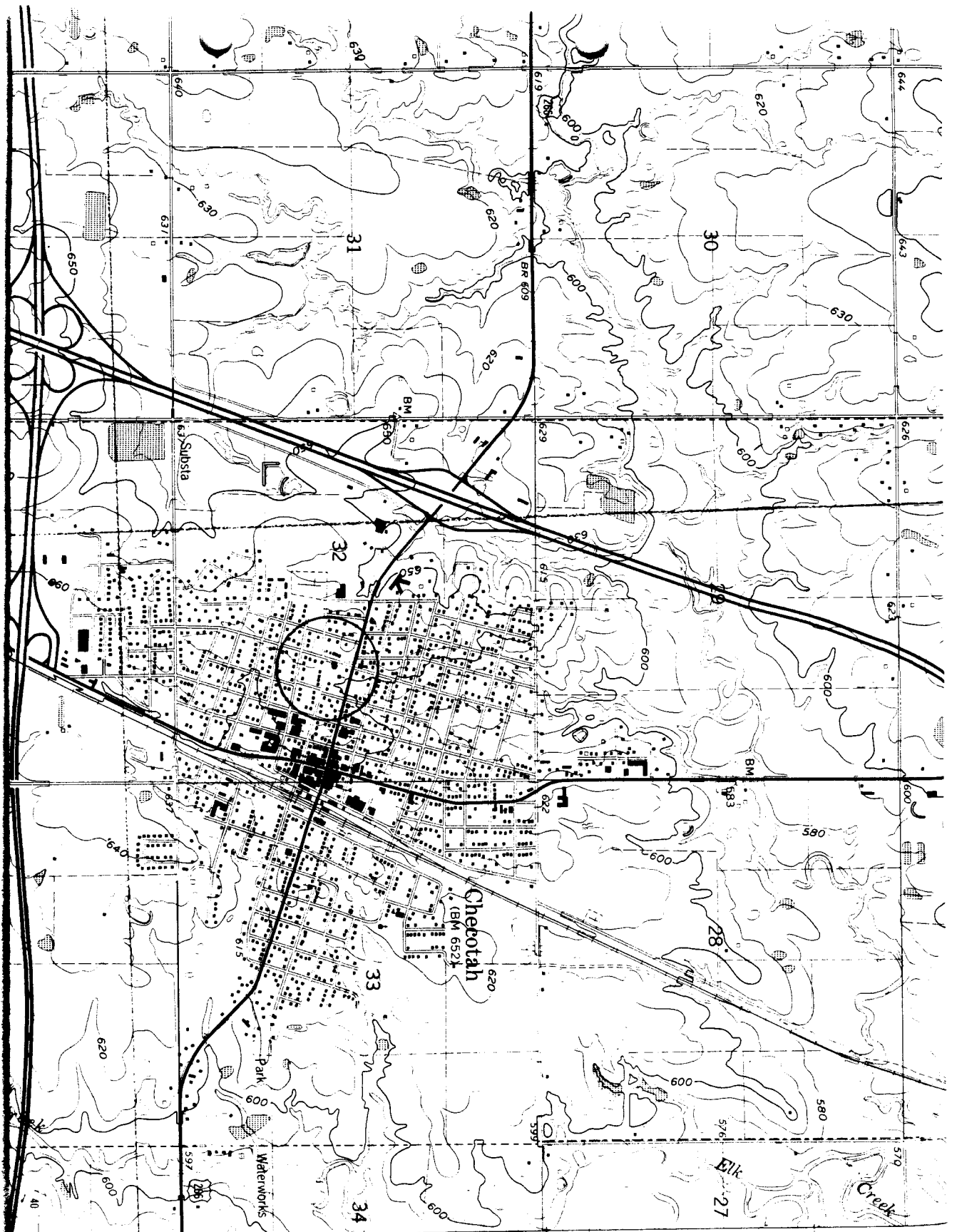
Tabor House





Tabor House





12 MI. TO OKLA. 2  
WARNER (VIA OKLA. 2) 14 MI.

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*Handwritten notes:*  
Tanner  
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2730'  
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3930