



# Historic Places

By Patti Kincheloe

Haskell County has several listings on the National Register of Historic Places.

They include:

- Mule Creek in the Stigler area was recorded in the register in 1977 and is an ancient site with artifacts of a domestic village dating back to 1500 BC.
- Otter Creek south of Keota was recorded as an archaeological site in 1974. This was dated 300 A.D. to 1600 A.D. Finds included the usual pottery shards, plus evidence of a native settlement and burial site.
- The Cotton Storage House in Kinta was used 1900 to 1924. It was constructed in the shape of an octagon on a rock foundation and covered with corrugated tin. This structure is privately owned.
- The Edmond McCurtain home was located northeast of Kinta in the San Bois County Choctaw Indian Nation town of San Bois where the San Bois cemetery is today.
- The Green McCurtain Home is located northeast of Kinta near the Edmond McCurtain home.
- The Kinta High School Building has served the community in many different purposes over the years, and remains a beautiful building.
- The Scott Store in Kinta was one of the buildings erected by pioneer George Scott. It has served as a gas station/convenience store, being added to and remodeled more than once.
- The Tamaha Jail and Ferry Landing are tucked away in what was once a town housing many residents and businesses before two fires destroyed much of the area. The J.R. Williams was sunk in this area during the Civil War.
- Old Stigler High School gymnasium, located at 4th and E Streets, is an impressive structure considering the construction time frame.
- The Haskell County Courthouse. This was not the county's first courthouse. The first one was across from the post office.

**Editor's Note:** Patti Kincheloe is a regular contributor to the Stigler News-Sentinel. Her column focuses on the history of the area. She is researching the historic places listed and is planning to write related columns.

## What's in the name?

### Stigler

Named for Joseph S. Stigler. It was changed from "Newman" on April 19, 1905 and was settled in 1889.

### Keota

Started out as a tent-town. It was established in 1904. The name of the town either comes from the Choctaw word for "fire goes out," from the Choctaw word for "no kindling wood" or from Jim "Keese" and "Otter" Creek—"KeeOtter."

### Whitefield

Formerly "Oklahoma," but was re-named for Bishop George Whitefield on November, 27, 1888.

### Tamaha

Formerly "Pleasant Bluff" or "Pheasant," but was changed to Tamaha, Choctaw for "town." The town was an early port for steamboat traffic.

### McCurtain

Formerly named "Panther." It was renamed on April 5, 1905, for Green McCurtain.

### Kinta

Choctaw for "beaver."

### Haskell County

Formerly "San Bois County."

Information provided by:  
*the Haskell County Historical Society.*

## Did You Know?

**Haskell County's county seat was established in Stigler July 14, 1908.**

**The city was named after Joseph Simeon Stigler, father of William G. Stigler, a congressman from the 2nd District. Joseph Stigler was named postmaster for six years, and also served five years as a U.S. Deputy Marshal under Judge Isaac Parker.**

**Prior to being named Stigler, the territory was known as King's Prairie and later as Newman. Stigler became an official municipality on April 19, 1905.**