



Chickasaw White House windmill and water tank

CHICKASAW WHITE HOUSE



The home of Chickasaw Governor Douglas H. Johnston and family stands on property on the northwest edge of Emet, in Johnston County, fewer than ten miles due east of Tishomingo. The house was built in 1895 in “gingerbread” Victorian style, with fourteen-foot ceilings, gables featuring stained-glass windows, and a distinctive front parlor within a wraparound porch. It was often referred to as a “mansion,” although it comprises only six rooms, one being Johnston’s west-wing bedroom and office, which stands separated by a breezeway from the main body of the house. During and after dissolution of the Chickasaw Nation Legislature—while Johnston continued as governor under federal appointment—and the sale of the Nation’s Capitol building, the home earned the nickname of the “Chickasaw White House” by hosting significant social and political events of early Oklahoma history. Among them was the wedding in 1899 of Oklahoma Governor William H. “Alfalfa Bill” Murray to Johnston’s niece and the birth three years later of the Murrays’ son, Johnston, who would become the state’s fourteenth governor. The home also hosted meetings of the Dawes Commission, which enforced the federal program of enrolling members of Native tribes for the purpose of distribution of parcels of Indian Territory land. The home was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1971.



Chickasaw White House in spring