

families, who were prominent farmers in the early days. This family promoted the building of the first school house in the area which for over a hundred years functioned as the Morris School. After several rebuildings, the school finally became a brick and stone structure in the 1920s, but has been closed and abandoned for several years. To the east of the Mission Church were the homes of early day settlers Redbird Sixkiller and Dull Hoe Crittenden.

At the north edge of Watts about half a mile was the location of the first Ft. Wayne of early Indian Territory days. Company C of the 7th Infantry under Captain John Stuart was sent to that location in October of 1838. Several buildings were erected there, but the building of a fort was curtailed by sickness among the troops who had come down with malaria. Several of the garrison died there, including Captain Stuart. The Washington brass decided it was a bad location for a fort and in April, 1839, the location was abandoned and a new location established some 19 miles to the north.

Mrs. Bagby relates that her father had told that there was a lead mine east of Ballard Creek in the early days. He had also told that during the short existence of the first Ft. Wayne, lead pipe had been used to pipe water from a spring to the Fort. Sometime after the Civil War her father had plowed up around 250 one-pound bars of lead, which was believed to have come from the mine. In this present day no one knows where the mine is located and it is believed it is now under the Lake Francis.

The Old Baptist Mission Church was at one time used to publish the newspaper CHEROKEE MESSENGER. It was also used at various times as a school and a meeting house. It is believed that it was also called Breadtown at one time, as it was a distribution place for food in the immediate period following the arrival of the Indians from the Eastern